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Marc Saumier Cherry Seven

In the summer of 2009, Marc Saumier (saumierguitars.com), a Quebec luthier known for making instruments from local, sustainable tonewoods, was at a party at the Montreal Guitar Show, when suddenly he seized upon an idea: to have a group of luthiers build guitars from the same selection of trees, felled within miles of his Kingsbury workshop, then bucked and quartersawn by Saumier himself.

For the project, which he dubbed the Cherry Seven (after the woods and number of guitars to be made), Saumier distributed blanks from four logs—one red (Adirondack) spruce, two cherry, and one Eastern hop hornbean. Then the luthiers—Jeremy Anderson (legatolutherie.com, small jumbo steel-string), Alan Carruth (alcarruthluthier.com, nylon-string classical), Joseph Hart (hartguitars.ca, 00 steel-string), Joshua House (houseguitars.com, 13-fret 00 steel-string), Randy Muth (rsmuthguitars.com, OM steel-string), and Saumier himself—got to work. Unlike the other builders, who crafted one guitar apiece, Saumier contributed two—a 16-inch archtop and the cutaway nylon-string shown here.



Like all the Cherry Seven instruments, the guitar uses cherry for its back and sides, red spruce for the top, and Eastern hop hornbean for the fretboard and bridge. The guitar is braced with a combination of seven traditional fan braces, a modified A-style reinforcement on the upper bout, and a floating brace, also in the upper bout area, that stabilizes the neck. Saumier chose a multiscale configuration with a 26.2-inch scale on the sixth string and 25.5 inches on the first string, which he paired with a fingerstyle-friendly two-inch nut and string spacing of $2 \frac{5}{16}$ inches at the saddle. A natural waterborne polyurethane finish shows off the handsome reddish woods of the instrument.

By Adam Perlmutter

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