

# The D'Angelico USA Replica

## Second Year

Following the success of the 1991 NAMM Show, the focus was on building guitars, to fill orders and researching an on-going supply of materials.

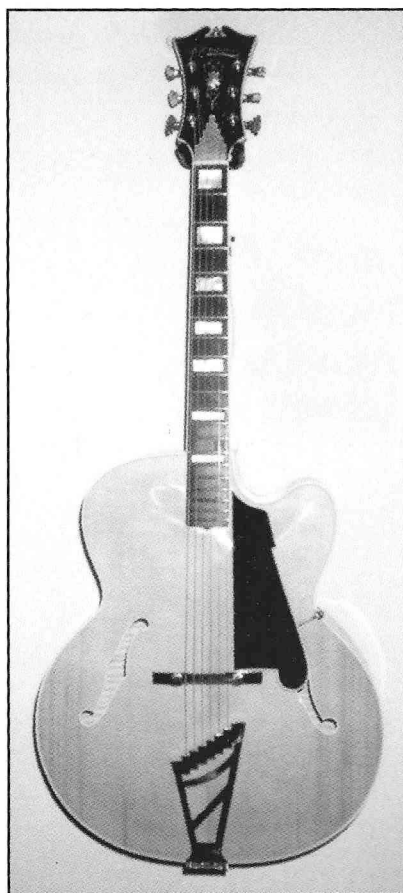
On February 8th, we received confirmation from Artie Niesen of Front Porch Music in Bakersfield, California, to proceed with his order for a blonde Excel and a week later, word came that a \$1,000 deposit was on the way from Dino Olar in Switzerland.

Progress was very slow. Personnel changes in Art's shop and discovery of hidden knots exposed during the carving of the backs caused Art to wonder if Fate and Mother Nature were both against him.

Finally, a maple wedge proved 'true' and the back for Artie's guitar produced an excellent flame. On May 28th I picked up the finished instrument, serial #12-003. The following day, I drove to Folk Music in Claremont, for Ben Harper and his grandparents, Charlie and Dorothy Chase to see the first natural finish D'Angelico Replica. They were impressed and Ben had nothing but good to say about the project.

The next morning, I made the two hour drive north to Bakersfield. When I walked in the door of Front Porch Music, I was immediately surrounded by a group of eager guitar fanatics. The usual 'oohh's' and 'aahhh's' accompanied the ceremonial opening of the case and the facial expressions of the players, as their turn came around, tells the story. (see pictures)

A creator of ingenious displays, Artie took an old harmonica floor stand and removed the interior shelving. Placing the guitar inside, he gave it the appearance of a sealed, transparent time capsule to be opened well into the next century, predicting an astronomical value upon its recovery by a new generation.



Back at the Valdez Luthierie, more delays occurred. Necessary building renovations and more personnel exasperation's brought the assembly of Dino Olar's instrument to a halt. Completion was finalized on the last day of October and #12-007 left for D'Angelico Headquarters in Michigan to be shipped with the next string order to Switzerland.