

PHILZ 1 “Elation”:

When the idea of naming each model was proposed, the rush of delight I felt upon hearing its first sounds made ‘Elation’ feel like the ideal name for what was my first build.

Materials Used

Soundboard

Material: AAA Grade Alaskan Sitka Spruce (Bearclaw Figure)

Reason:

- Slow-grown in Alaskan climate for tightly packed growth rings
- Produces crisp tones and excellent sustain
- Bearclaw striations add unique visual variation

Back and Sides

Material: AAA Grade, Book-matched Indian Rosewood

Reason:

- Exceptional tonewood with deep, warm colour
- Richly figured grain enhances aesthetics
- Book-matching ensures symmetrical appearance

Neck

Material: Maple, laminated with Indian Rosewood mid-layer, shaped using hand-tools

Reason:

- Maple provides added crispness of sound
- Heavier than mahogany but tonally articulate
- Rosewood layer adds aesthetic contrast

Fretboard

Material: High-grade Ebony

Reason:

- Top-grade material for strength, hardness, and playability
- Preferred choice for its sleek feel and tonal clarity

Headstock Faceplate

Material: High-grade Ebony inlaid with “Mother of pearl” insignia and “abalone” decal.

Reason:

- Chosen to match the Fretboard

Bridge

Material: High-grade Ebony

Reason:

- Top-grade material for strength,
- Colour matches the fretboard

Strings

Type: Elixir, Phosphor Bronze, 13/56 Gauge

Reason:

- Known for long-lasting tone and smooth feel
- Excellent reliability and balanced projection

Tuning Machines

Material: High-quality gold-plated “Grover” hardware

Reason:

- Offers consistent tuning stability
- Adds refined visual elegance

Nut & Saddle

Material: Bone

Reason:

- Excellent tonal transmission
- Strong, wear-resistant material for lasting performance

Edge Banding

Material: Curly Maple

Reason:

- Striking figure valued for aesthetic appeal
- Challenging to work with, but worth it for visual impact

Rosette

Material: Custom-made from Indian Rosewood

Reason:

- Matches the back and sides for visual consistency
- Handcrafted detail adds unique character