

## PHILZ 3 – “Kiyo”:

The name of this, the third build, “Kiyo” was chosen by its new owner and means clear; pure; clean, descriptors which, in his view, befit its tonal qualities.

### Materials Used

#### Soundboard

**Material:** AAA Grade Alaskan Adirondack Spruce

**Reason:**

- Slow-grown in Alaskan climate for tightly packed growth rings
- Highly valued for its rich tonal range and excellent sustain

#### 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:** CNC shaped Curly Maple with Indian Rosewood inlay.

**Reason:**

- Maple provides added crispness of sound
- Striking figure valued for aesthetic appeal
- Rosewood inlay adds aesthetic contrast

#### Fretboard

**Material:** Indian Rosewood

**Reason:**

- An alternative to the choice of ebony used on previous models
- Top-grade material for strength, durability, and playability
- Slightly lighter than ebony,
- Presents rich grain figure

#### Headstock Faceplate

**Material:** High-grade Brazilian Rosewood

- Prized for its highly decorative grain figure and richness of colour
- Alternative feature to previous model

## Bridge

**Material:** High-grade Brazilian Rosewood

- Prized for its highly decorative grain figure and richness of colour
- Alternative feature to previous model
- Matches headstock faceplate

## 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, locking Grover machine heads

**Reason:**

- No string slippage
- 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 with Abalone inlay

**Reason:**

- Matches the back and sides for visual consistency
- Handcrafted detail adds unique character
- Abalone inlay is a visual enhancement to the previous model