

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 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