

PHILZ 4 – “D Ó Colla”:

The name for this build was personal to, and ascribed by its intended purchasers.

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 Padauk

Reason:

- Drawn by the rich red colour and warm tone of Padauk—recognized as a worthy alternative to high-grade rosewood—I felt a strong urge to experiment with this distinctive choice.
- Book-matching ensures symmetrical appearance

Neck

Material: CNC shaped Curly Maple with Padauk inlay.

Reason:

- Maple provides added crispness of sound
- Striking figure valued for aesthetic appeal
- Complementing the body while offering a striking contrast to the maple neck, the Padauk neck inlay was chosen to bring a sense of visual completeness

Fretboard

Material: Indian Rosewood

Reason:

- Top-grade material for strength, durability, and playability
- Slightly lighter than ebony,
- Presents rich grain figure
- Colour complements that of the padauk body

Headstock Faceplate

Material: High-grade Brazilian Rosewood

- Prized for its highly decorative grain figure and richness of colour

Bridge

Material: High-grade Brazilian Rosewood

- Prized for its highly decorative grain figure and richness of colour
- 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 (Body)

Material: Curly Maple

Reason:

- Striking figure valued for aesthetic appeal
- Challenging to work with, but worth it for visual impact
- Colour provides excellent contrast with the Padauk body

Rosette

Material: Custom-made from Padauk with Abalone inlay

Reason:

- Matches the back and sides for visual consistency
- Handcrafted detail adds unique character
- Abalone inlay was a visual enhancement already used on the previous model