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MONTELEONE  
INSTRUMENTS

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A  
PORTFOLIO

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The  
Grand  
Artist





The  
Grand Artist  
Mandola





The  
Grand Artist  
Mandocello







Style "A"  
Mandolin





Style "B"  
Mandolin





## Foreword

As you look through this catalog, you will see before you a representation of my life's works. Each of these instruments has grown out of an evolutionary process of experience, evaluation, time, and patience. The challenge of converting a tree into a musical art form of peak efficiency remains the most rewarding experience for me. There are many advantages to having my own small shop. The ability to maintain total control of my materials from start to finish is a prime necessity. I hand select, stock and season some of the world's finest tone-woods to make my instruments. These woods are aged naturally for several years before they are chosen to make a guitar or mandolin. This vital process permits the air-dried wood to slowly relieve itself of unwanted stress and tension. Only the best tone-woods are finally brought together and transformed into that special combination; a beautiful and highly resonant instrument with exceptional tonal characteristics.



Monteleone mandolins and guitars are seldom to be found on the used market. This is a positive sign which indicates to me that the owners of these instruments are reluctant to part with them.



John Monteleone



## Some of the Outstanding Features of Monteleone Instruments:

- The fretslots in the fretboards are beveled at their tops so that when it comes time to refret, there is minimal chip-out along the groove, making a neater appearance.
- Shellac is used as a sealer prior to additional applications of stain to create the sunburst. This rarely used method provides a lightweight barrier between the wood and the finish, preventing absorption into the wood. The result of this "old world" method of finishing is a beautifully rich and transparent shading which allows the depth of the grain to stand out.
- The contour of the truss rod was determined after testing for maximum adjustment under minimum tension. Should the truss rod ever break, it can simply be withdrawn from the neck and a new rod fitted.
- All interior surfaces are finely sanded to help eliminate the collection of moisture inside the instrument. This minimizes the possibility of cracking. Also, a smoother surface is a better reflector of sound.
- The bridge adjusters on my mandolins are made of stainless steel. Since they are smaller than guitar adjusters, they would normally wear faster if made of brass. The stainless steel does not require plating and it will continue to look clean.
- The side dot position markers are actually turned from small pieces of ebony. While this is not really necessary, it conforms to the overall theme and character of the instrument.
- Each neck is shaped by hand after it is mounted to the body. This process is more laborious, however, the shape and balance of the entire instrument can be controlled, resulting in a guitar or mandolin that feels right in every sense.







## Price List

### Mandolins

GRAND ARTIST .....	\$3,000.00
BABY GRAND .....	2,250.00
STYLE B .....	1,850.00
STYLE A .....	1,450.00
GRAND ARTIST mandola .....	3,600.00
GRAND ARTIST mandocello .....	4,500.00

All models are available with standard F-holes or can be specially ordered with oval sound-hole. Also, sunburst or natural finish at no extra cost. Please specify when ordering. Custom services are optional.

### Mandolin Cases

Harptone; hard-shell, shaped A or F style .....	\$ 95.00
Saga; oblong hard-shell F style .....	129.00
Buck "Ruff Rider"; A or F style, heavy duty .....	175.00
Mandola case, custom-made .....	250.00
Mandocello case .....	149.00

### Guitars

ECLIPSE arched-top .....	\$4,200.00
THE HOT CLUB Model "A" .....	3,900.00
THE HOT CLUB Model "F" .....	2,900.00
HEXAPHONE .....	2,900.00
DREADNOUGHT .....	2,900.00

All models are available as cutaway or non-cutaway. Items such as pickups, and electronics, and any other custom services are optional. Information is available on request.

### Guitar Cases

All guitar cases are Harptone hard-shell .....	\$120.00
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### Shipping

Mandolin & Mandola:	United Parcel Service .....	\$35.00
	Air freight (U.S.A.) .....	85.00
Guitar & Mandocello:	United Parcel Service .....	45.00
	Air freight .....	95.00

Instruments are usually shipped U.P.S. and insured in the United States. It is possible to ship fully insured air-freight to your closest major airport where you can pick it up, so that delivery is overnight and passes through fewer hands. However, I have had good success with U.P.S.

For foreign shipping rates please inquire.



## The Grand Artist

The GRAND ARTIST mandolin was originally inspired by the finer examples of the renowned F-5 mandolins made in the mid to late 1920's. My intent was to further develop the instrument to meet the modern professional's playing needs by taking a fresh and modern approach to tone quality and performance. Each GRAND ARTIST mandolin is hand carved from the finest tone woods specially selected for maximum response and natural beauty. The very best grades of spruce and figured maple are carved and graduated to exacting dimensions. In response to feedback from mandolinists, I have modified a number of otherwise traditional features. These changes have been enthusiastically received. One such important improvement is the abbreviated ebony pickguard. This design does not obscure the treble soundhole and there are no brackets or screws to vibrate loose or get in the way. The arched fretboard greatly increases left hand playing comfort and helps the player fight fatigue. The gold plated and hand engraved tailpiece is a unique and distinct Monteleone trademark. Its design allows a more uniform string tension, and string changing is fast and easy.

The GRAND ARTIST is a finely tuned instrument which is very carefully carved and graduated to give you the kind of performance that you would expect from the finest of mandolins. The tonal balance is pure and bell-like, with exceptional power and positive response in all registers, and in all notes. The tone bars and bridge are given special attention to increase the sustain and give a boost to the overall character of sound of the GRAND ARTIST. This mandolin can tackle any style of music, from Bach to Bluegrass, with ease. The GRAND ARTIST has proven itself to be the mandolin of choice among discriminating mandolinists who have brought the instrument to new heights. The GRAND ARTIST offers the musician new possibilities for tonal exploration.

### Features:

Soundboard .....	Premium Grade Spruce
Back/Sides/Neck .....	Curly Maple, Finest Figure
Fretboard .....	Finest Gaboon, Ceylon and Maccassar Ebonies
Frets .....	24, Nickel-Silver
Position Markers .....	Mother of Pearl & Ebony Side Markers
Scale Length .....	13 $\frac{3}{8}$ "
Bridge .....	Ebony, Two-Piece
Bridge Adjusters .....	Stainless Steel, Knurled
Pickguard .....	Ebony/Bound Ivoroid, Black, White
Peghead Veneer .....	Ebony/Bound Ivoroid, Black, White
Tuning Machines .....	Gold
Tuning Buttons .....	Mother of Pearl
Nut .....	Mother of Pearl
Tailpiece .....	Cast Brass - Hand Eng. Gold Plate
Endpin .....	Ebony
Binding (body) .....	Ivoroid, Black, White
Finish .....	Sunburst, Nitro-Cellulose Lacquer