

As part of the Event



CremonaFiere, in collaboration with the
Cultural Association "Armadillo" APS,
organizes a

Masterclass of Lutherie for acoustic guitar

2nd – 3rd - 4th October, 2026

Teachers:

DOUG PROPER (US) – SHARON PROPER (US) – IAN DAVLIN (US)

Italian translation and assistance by Max Monterosso, Mirko Borghino

The places are limited

In order to work interactively, participants will be asked to bring their own materials and equipment (e.g., laptop) for the masterclasses. A list of necessary materials will be provided after registration

Application deadline: 10th September 2026

CREMONAFIERE

P.zza Zelioli Lanzini, 1 26100 Cremona

Tel.0372.598011 | info@cremonamondomusica.it

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Participants:

Luthiers, guitar makers, (amateur and professional), guitar fans

Working methods:

Collective theoretical lectures

Venue

The Masterclass Hall 1 is at CremonaFiere's offices

Teachers & Programme

Master luthiers DOUG PROPER and SHARON PROPER

Doug and Sharon Proper are the owners and operators of The Guitar Specialist, Inc., a renowned repair and restoration shop in Westchester County, New York. Since 1985, they have been professionally restoring and repairing fretted instruments, earning a reputation among their peers as two of the finest craftspeople in the field.

Over the decades, their bench has welcomed instruments from an impressive roster of artists, including Paul Simon, John Scofield, Glen Hansard, Rob Thomas, John Abercrombie, Joe Beck, Chris Brubeck, Jerry Silverman, Tisziji Muñoz, Andy Powell (Wishbone Ash), Chris Jasper (The Isley Brothers), Dave Fisher (The Highwaymen), and Andrew Gold, among many others. Among their recent honors was the restoration of Elvis Presley's 1964 Gretsch Country Gentleman, famously played during his 1969 comeback tour at the International Hotel in Las Vegas. Another standout project was the rescue and restoration of Styx bassist Chuck Panozzo's first guitar, a Gibson ES-125.

Their work and shop have been featured in *Vintage Guitar Magazine*, *American Lutherie*, and *Guitarmaker Magazine*. Doug has also appeared on Michael Bashkin's *Luthier on Luthier* podcast. Together, Doug and Sharon have served as masterclass clinicians for the Luthiers Interactive of North Texas (LINT) and have presented at the Northwoods Seminars, where they taught advanced French-polishing techniques for repair and restoration.

The Guitar Specialist has served as an authorized warranty center for many major manufacturers, including Gibson, Fender, Taylor, Guild, C.F. Martin, Gretsch, American Archtop, Jackson/Charvel, Santa Cruz Guitar Company, Epiphone, Ovation, Takamine, Hamer, and Tacoma Guitars.

Doug is also well known as a tool designer for Total Vise who manufactures Doug's innovative "Proper's Guitar Workstation" and in recent years he has collaborated with StewMac to develop specialized tools for the repair and restoration trade.

<https://www.guitarspecialist.com/>

Program:

Friday 2nd October, from 10am to 1pm:

Fingerboard Prep.

Working from the principle that fretwork is only as good as the fingerboard preparation done before fretting, we'll be walking through our process for profiling and preparing the fingerboard for frets. This includes Propers' geometric sanding approach for controlling relief and the fingerboard radius; the differences between compound and cylindrical radii; fret-slot preparation; and anticipating the effects of fret-tang compression and string tension on the fingerboard during a refret.

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Saturday 3rd October, from 10am to 1pm:

Fret Installation

Continuing from the fingerboard-prep stage on day one, we'll move on to fret installation, focusing on Propers' signature "Two-Hammer" technique and on matching the fret-tang size to the fret slot. Working from the belief that every refret is a compression refret, we will demonstrate his fret-installation method, along with his process for controlling fret compression and manipulating fingerboard relief throughout the procedure.

Sunday 4th October, from 10am to 1pm:

The Fret Level and Crown

On day three, we'll move on to the all-critical fret-leveling and crowning process. While there are countless tools and methods available for fret crowning, we will unpack and demonstrate his approach to leveling and crowning frets, favoring his unique take on the traditional triangle file. We'll discuss the geometry of fingerboards, frets, and the file, while uncovering the often-overlooked insights that make this his preferred method for bringing every refret to a perfect finish.

Questions & Answers

Master luthier IAN DAVLIN

Ian Davlin is the founder of **The Looth Group**, an online community and educational platform for guitar builders, repair professionals, and toolmakers. Known online as **@ianhatesguitars**, he produces instructional content, hosts discussions with industry experts, and organizes workshops and live events focused on the craft, design, and business of guitar making.

Davlin began working in guitar repair in **1993 as an apprentice to Ken Cartwright** and has since worked with respected companies including **Gruhn Guitars** and the **Breedlove Guitar Company**. Through The Looth Group's programs, videos, and member events, he focuses on connecting experienced professionals with emerging builders and sharing practical knowledge across the lutherie community.

<https://www.instagram.com/ianhatesguitars/>

Program:

Friday 2nd October, from 2pm to 5pm:

Introduction to 3D printing, hardware and software

- Why 3D printing used to be frustrating
- What actually changed (the appliance shift)
- Basic filaments (what is at stake)
- Ventilation and exhaust (safety and quality)
- Why enclosures matter
- Bambu printers as a system, not a kit
- Ownership is optional (including print services)

Saturday 3rd October, from 2pm to 5pm:

Introduction to 3D modelling

- The Modelling software
- Working in a 3d space, XYZ coordinates and planes
- Autodesk Fusion setup
- Sketches, constraints, dimensioning, parameters
- Creating solids, extrusions, revolve, loft

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Sunday 4th October, from 2pm to 5pm:

Repositories, slicer and practical uses

- 3D model repositories and sourcing files
 - Spatial navigation (no printing yet)
 - Transform tools (still no slicing)
 - Object logic (split / merge)
 - First slice (intentionally wrong)
 - Grain orientation and failure
 - Correct orientation and layer preview
 - Speed vs strength: high-leverage settings
 - Supports (when they are actually needed)
 - Final plate setup (proof by comparison)
- Questions & Answers

Admission

The Masterclass must be paid for and has a limited enrolment number

Admission to the Masterclass will take place, presenting simultaneously the **Application Form** with the payment for the participation fee by **the 10th of September 2026**.

Sending the application without the concomitant payment will not be considered valid.

Participation Fee

Price per person: **€. 280.00** (VAT included)

- The registration fee must be paid in full.
- The registration fee is not refundable in case of withdrawal or missed MasterClass.
- The registration fee includes free pass to Cremona Musica-Acoustic Guitar Village ticket.

Application Procedure

The Application Form must be sent **by the 10th of September 2026**. In alternative, it must be sent by:

- fax +39 0372 598222
- mail: ilaria.seghizzi@cremonafiere.it and info@armadilloclub.org

together with a copy of the participation fee payment, by electronic bank transfer in favour of CremonaFiere spa (purpose of payment: *Lutherie masterclass 2026*) on the following bank account:

BANCA POPOLARE DI SONDRIO branch of Cremona Via Dante IBAN IT49S0569611400000003630X76 BIC POSOIT22
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Information

For any information regarding the contents of the masterclass, please contact:

Cultural Association "Armadillo" APS

Alessio Ambrosi

Email: info@armadilloclub.org Tel: + 39 (0)187 626993

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Application Form

Masterclass of Lutherie for acoustic guitar
2nd - 3rd - 4th October, 2026

Teachers:
DOUG PROPER (US) – SHARON PROPER (US) – IAN DAVLIN (US)

(Fill in Capital Letters)

The undersigned:

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TOWN _____

PROVINCE _____ Landline/mobile: _____

E-MAIL _____

I'm a natural person freelancer

Personal Identification number _____

(e.g. National Insurance Number, Identifikationsnummer, numéro de sécuritésociale, Número de Identificación Fiscal, etc...)

Tax/v.a.t. (Value Added Tax) number _____

(only for companies or freelancers)

DATE OF BIRTH _____ IN _____

Asks for admission to the Masterclass of Lutherie for acoustic guitar 2026 at CremonaFiere and claims to have read and accepted the Masterclass Rules

➔ Date _____ Signature _____

Privacy

Personal data indicated in this registration form, collected for organizational purposes, will be treated in full compliance with the provisions of the Legislative Decree, 196/2003 and subsequent amendments or modifications. Any form of distribution/transfer of these data to third parties is excluded. You can request, at any time, the modification or removal, and exercise your rights towards the data controller, by sending an email to info@cremonafiere.it or a fax to n. 0372 598222. The regulation is available at <http://www.cremonafiere.it/trattamento-dati/>. I acknowledge the terms and conditions and expressly consent the handling of my personal data. I acknowledge the terms and conditions, and consent the handling of my personal data.

➔ Date _____ Signature _____

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