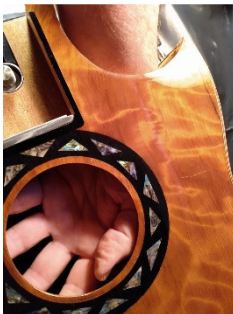


*Refinish of my Journey Instruments FC522LTD*  
*J.K. Davis (Summer 2025)*

1.Spring '25, I noticed that a few of this beautiful instrument's against-the-grain finish creases had cracked all the way through the finish and could now be felt on the top and inside the body too.



2.First repair (after looking at what seemed like 1,000 videos) was pushing glue into cracks from underneath, and coating all the dark regions of the top with a thin under-layer of wood glue inside the body. (My "homemade cut-away" from 2019 allowed great inside access!)

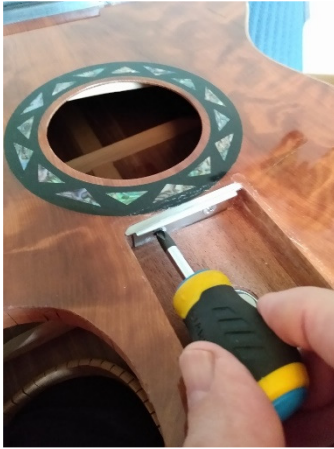


Then I touched in a long wood-less "all glue cleat" across each crack center.





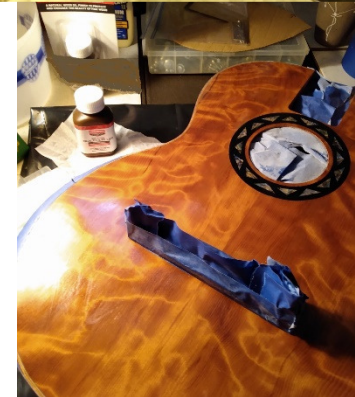
3. Watched more videos, then proceeded to prep the guitar top for finish removal,



sanded the top,



and applied  
2 coats of  
wood grain  
sealer/filler.





4. Then I hit a wall, realizing that no amount of luthier and cabinet maker videos could provide me with the skills to restore the original finish to the top. After many flops and re-sanding cycles,

I settled on semi-gloss polyurethane and tried several coats which all came out cloudy, lumpy, and uneven in thickness. My poly finishes were so bad that sanding them back made it look better somehow! So, after making a final ugly coating, I carefully used “000” steel wool and glass cleaner to rub the poly back to a thinner, fairly even, satin finish.

The cracks all appear to be sealed from underneath and on top. Only time will tell on that. Truest test will be out on the road, of course. This unique and amazing instrument still looks and sounds cool to me, a little darker in appearance and maybe sound too. So glad that my “Journey” continues...

