

The Bacon

Banjos and Mandolins
of Quality

THE BACON BANJO CO., INC.
GROTON, CONN.





FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND DATING
OF
VINTAGE GUITARS, MANDOLINS AND BANJOS
CATALOGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF GEORGE YOUNGBLOOD

These are scans of catalogs originally distributed to the public to describe the manufacturer's products available for sale at one point in time.

The intended use for these catalogs is historical research: vintage instrument identification and dating.

These catalogs are not offered here for sale or re-sale – They are only for the academic purpose of instrument identification, research and historical context. Please respect their use and do not reproduce, copy or distribute this information for any other purpose.

It is important to note that instrument catalogs are not always accurate in their descriptions of instrument specifications or the images used. While product improvements were constantly being made; catalogs often used older existing drawings, etchings or photographs. In some cases instruments were offered in catalogs that had been discontinued for years. For these reasons, catalogs can only be used as general guides for the dating and identification of vintage instruments.

If you are having trouble with some of the instruments details, we may be able to help. Feel free to contact us at:

ACOUSTICMUSIC.ORG:

<http://www.AcousticMusic.Org>



FOREWORD

THE Bacon Banjo Company Incorporated takes pleasure in presenting its 1924 catalogue to discriminating soloists and teachers. Having every facility for the production of banjos and mandolins of the highest grade and at the lowest possible price consistent with the superb workmanship, we feel confident that our new instruments will fill the long-felt demand for greater volume, sonority and ease of action.

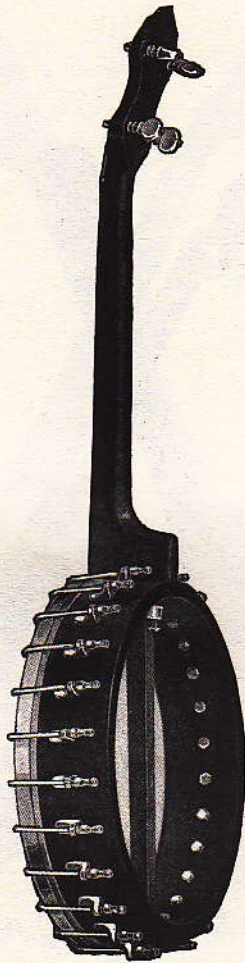
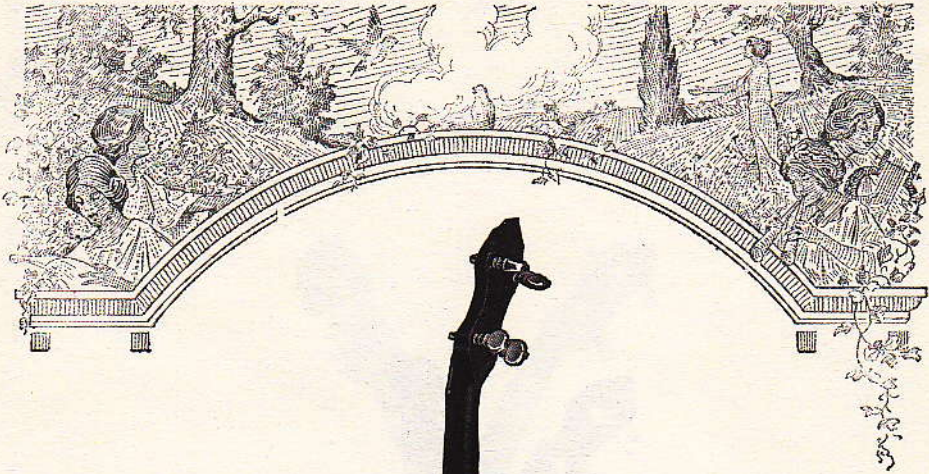
Our mechanics, wood workers and acousticians are the most skilled men in their respective lines and every minute detail receives the attention of an expert.

Bacon instruments are guaranteed in every detail and should an instrument be found defective due to any fault in manufacture we will gladly repair or replace it without cost to the purchaser.

THE BACON BANJO CO., INC.

Sept. 1, 1923

Groton, Connecticut



BACON STYLE "C" TENOR-BANJO

Mahogany neck, black veneer fingerboard, 17 frets, pearl position marks. Heavy maple 11" rim, outside and inside mahogany veneers, bottom edge solid genuine black veneer, 24 nickel-plated brackets, heavy grooved top hoop. Patent keys, patent pressure tailpiece. Rogers head, fitted with square brass flesh wire to prevent slipping. French polished.

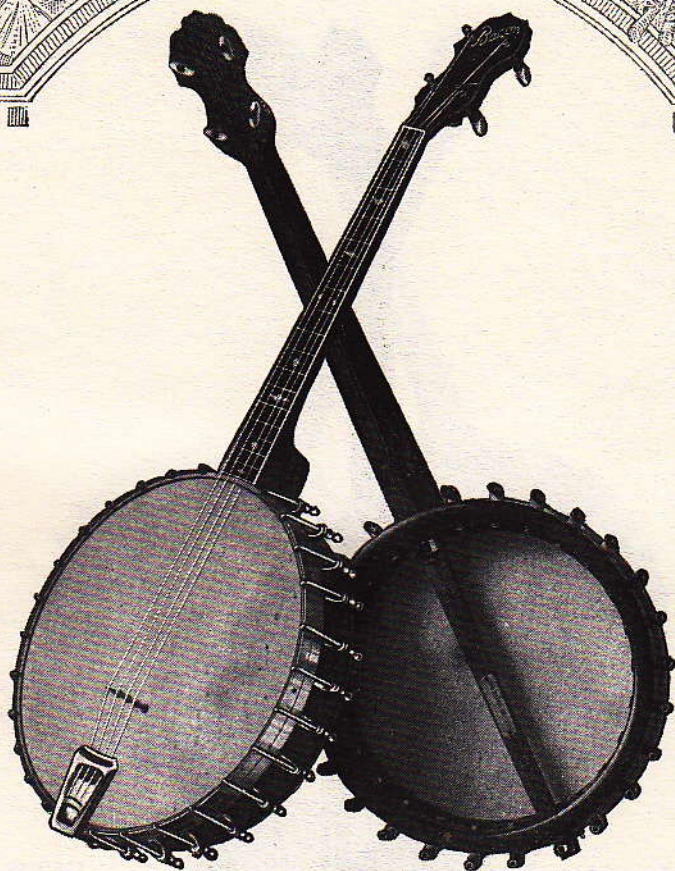
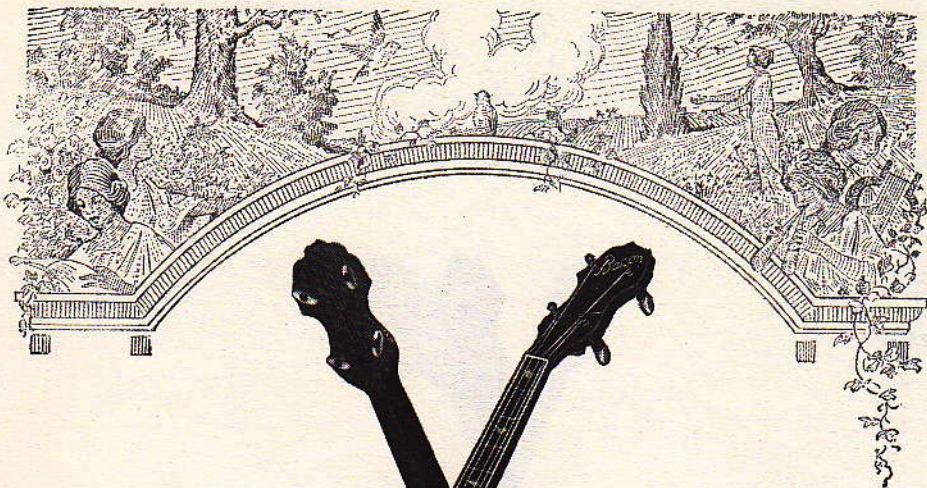




BACON "PEERLESS" TENOR-BANJO

Selected white maple neck with center black veneer, black veneer finger-board, 17 frets, pearl position marks. Heavy maple 11" rim with spun nickel plated metal top over large steel wire, solid black bottom edge veneer, 24 nickel-plated brackets, heavy grooved top hoop, patent keys, patent pressure tail piece. Rogers head, fitted with square brass flesh wire. All wood parts French polished.



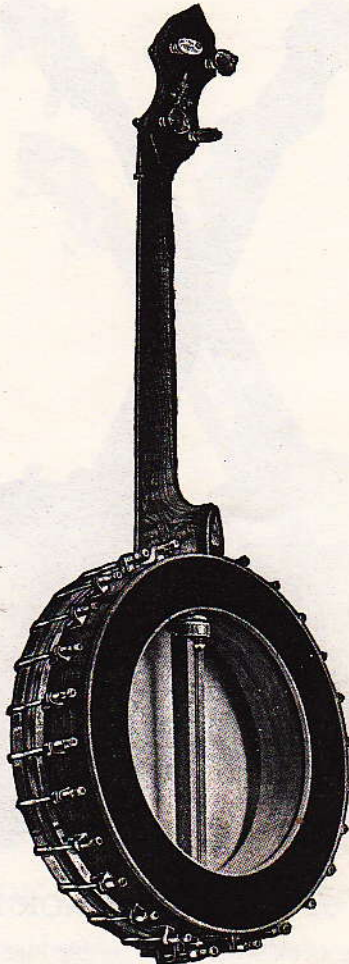
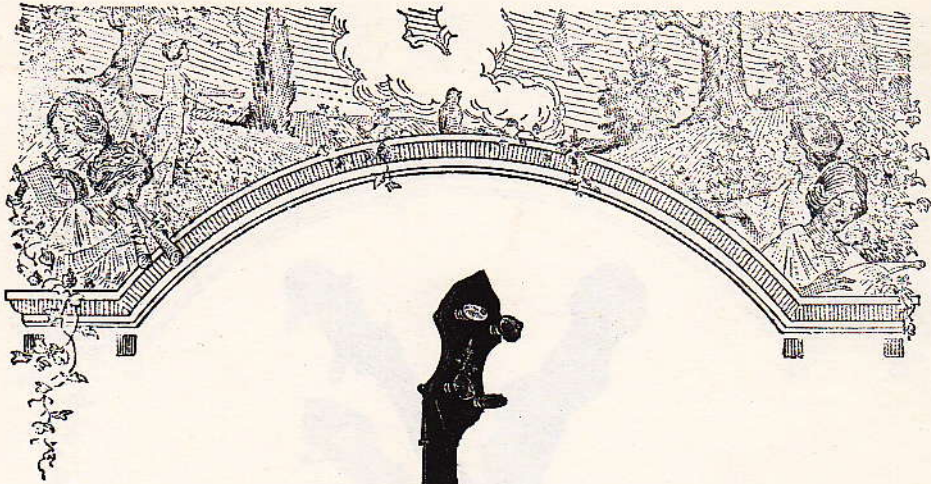


BACON STYLE "B" TENOR-BANJO

Selected white maple neck with three center black and white veneers, black veneered finger board, 17 frets, fancy pearl position marks, heavy maple 11" rim with spun nickel plated metal top over large steel wire. Solid black veneers on bottom edge with black and white veneers underneath.

Twenty-four nickel plated brackets, heavy notched top hoop, patent keys and patent pressure tailpiece, Rogers head fitted with square brass flesh wire. All wood parts French polished. Tone is loud and clear.

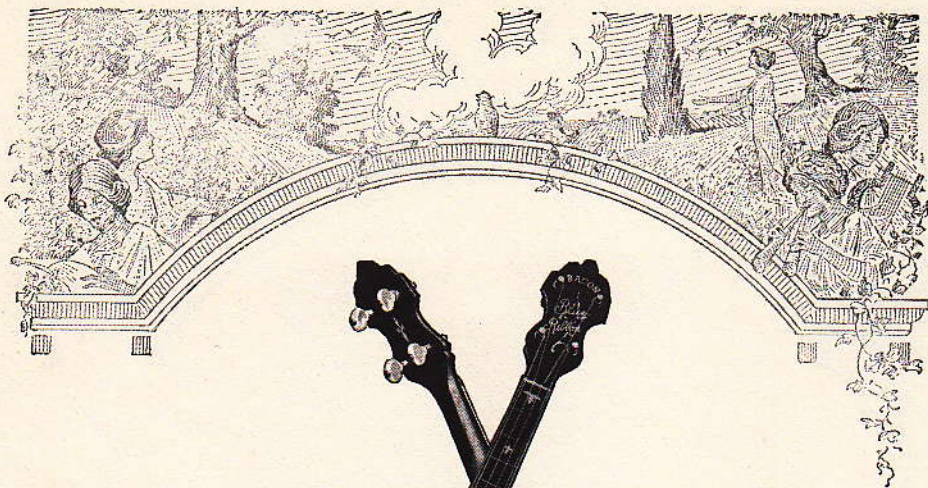




STYLE No. 3 PROFESSIONAL TENOR-BANJO

Selected curly maple neck with center black veneer, heavy curly maple rim, 11", with spun nickel-plated top over large steel wire, solid black veneer bottom edge, inside and outside edges black and white celluloid bound. Inlaid ebony fingerboard, peg head and back underlaid with fancy veneers, inlaid with fancy pearl designs. Twenty-four nickel-plated brackets, notched top hoop, patent keys, patent pressure tailpiece, selected Rogers head with brass flesh wire. All wood parts handsomely French polished.





Patent Pending

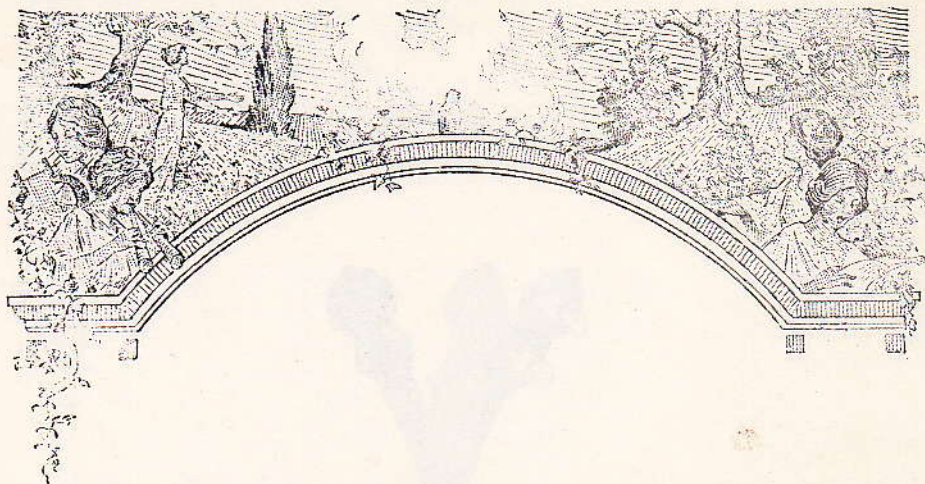
STYLE "A" BLUE BELL TENOR-BANJO

This model with Amplifier Back and holes through the spun metal top flange through which the sound is forced is a distinct advance in banjo construction.

Selected curly maple neck with three ply centre black and white veneers, inlaid ebony fingerboard celluloid bound, pearl positions, back and front of peg head underlaid with fancy veneers, inlaid with pearl designs. Heavy sectional maple rim with deep spun metal flange top over large steel-wire, solid black veneer bottom edge, black and white celluloid bound, 28 nickel plated brackets, notched top hoop, Grover patent keys, patent pressure tail piece, selected Rogers head, brass flesh wire, Bacon Webfoot ebony top bridge. Special own make strings. All wood parts French polished.

Sizes 11 or 11½" rims. Eleven inch sent unless otherwise specified. Long scale.





A FEW OF THE SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE B & D SUPER BANJOS

Entirely new principles in banjo construction. Closed Amplifier Back, with additional Sound Chamber inside metal top flange which rests on a steel ring. Holes are made through this top flange from inside to outside for tone escapement and in this way a constant vibration is obtained when the instrument is played upon.

This is an exclusive and patented feature of the new B&D Super banjo.

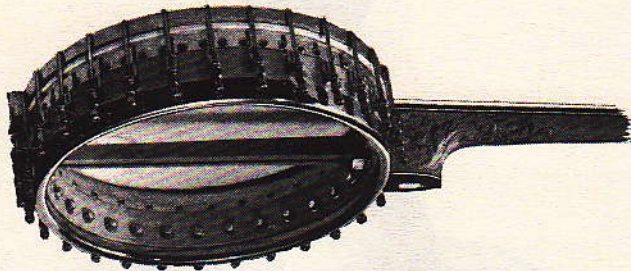
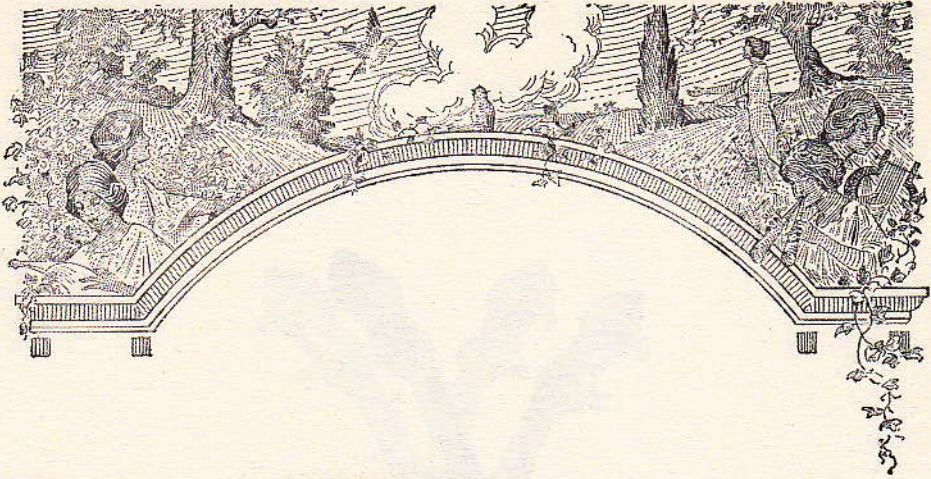
The tone is loud and penetrating, particularly adapted to orchestra work.

Designed and originated by F. J. Bacon and D. L. Day, whose combined knowledge of banjos and banjo making is probably unequalled in any Banjo factory today. They have devoted a lifetime to this instrument and it is an easy matter to insure your future banjo welfare — own a B&D Super Banjo.

Every instrument tested by Fred J. Bacon, whose fame as a banjo soloist is recognized from coast to coast.

Lists giving complete details of all styles and prices are enclosed in each catalogue and may be had from our representatives or direct from maker.





Patent Pending

The above cut of Style "AI" shows the Rim construction of the B&D SUPER BANJO, without the Amplifier Back attached.

The deep spun metal flange top rests on a large steel wire which rests on the top of the wood rim. In back of the holes shown on the inside of the rim is an auxiliary tone chamber through which the tones must pass before emerging through the outer holes.

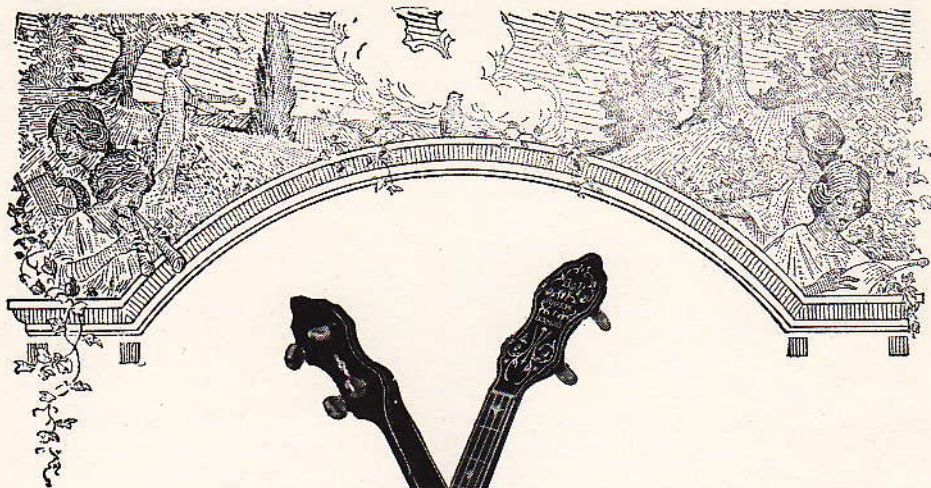
In this construction, with the Amplifier Back attached, a constant and prolonged vibration takes place, greatly adding to the solidity and increasing the tone quality and carrying power of the instrument.

The cuts of the various styles shown on the following pages of the B&D SUPER BANJOS only give a faint idea of the beautiful design of these wonderful instruments.

The highest skill and craftsmanship of the banjo making expert and designer is at your service.

The amplifier backs can be easily taken off and put on. They should always be kept on the instrument unless it is necessary to adjust a new head or some other important reason.





Patent Pending

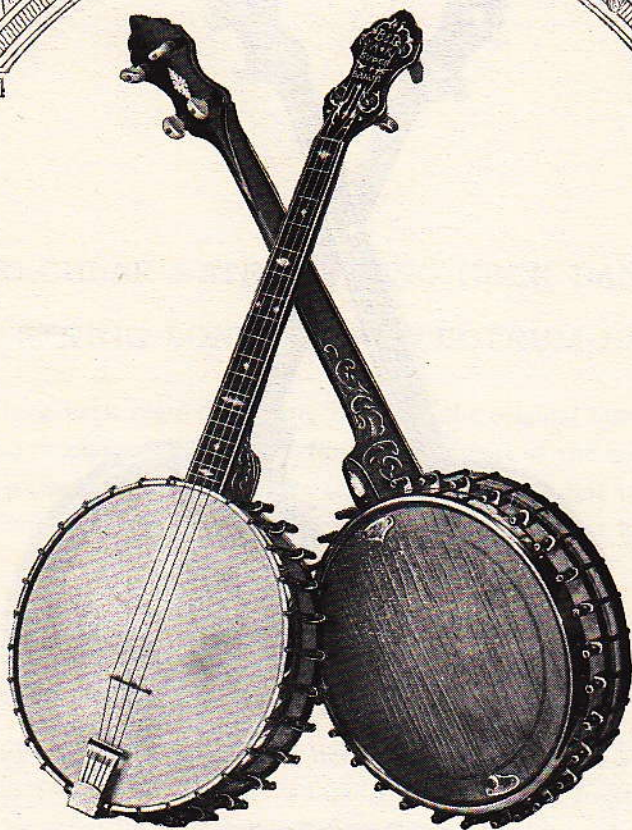
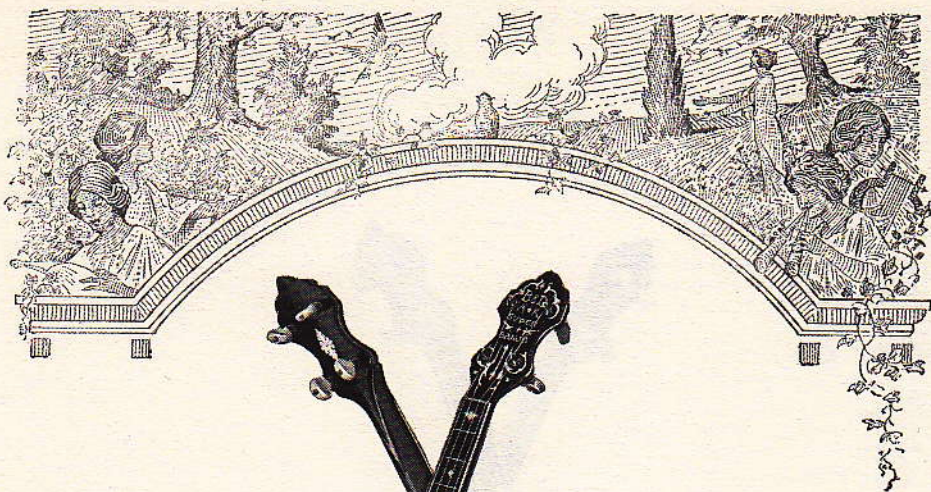
STYLE "A" B&D SUPER TENOR-BANJO

Curly maple neck, three ply center veneers, pearl inlaid fingerboard, fancy pearl inlaid peg head, fancy veneers under fingerboard, peg head and back of peg head.

Curly maple rim, with patent auxiliary tone chamber and Amplifier Back, half round spun metal bottom edge, notched top hoop, 28 brackets, Grover patent keys, patent pressure tail piece, selected Rogers head, Bacon Webfoot ebony top bridge.

Special own make strings, dark antique finished wood parts, French polished. All metal parts nickle plated. Sizes 11 and 11½" rims. (11" size sent unless otherwise stated) Long scale.





Patent Pending

STYLE "A I" B&D SUPER TENOR-BANJO

White holly neck, elegantly hand carved.

White holly rim.

All metal parts quadruple silver plated, hand burnished.

The combination of silver plated metal parts and white holly wood work, produces a beauty of finish and elegance of design which is unequalled, making this style truly a work of art.

Details of the construction and trimmings of the Style "AI" B & D SUPER TENOR-BANJO are the same as the Style "A" B&D SUPER TENOR-BANJO except as mentioned above.





Patent Pending

STYLE "DE LUXE" B&D SUPER TENOR-BANJO

Handsome grained curly maple neck, elegantly hand carved.

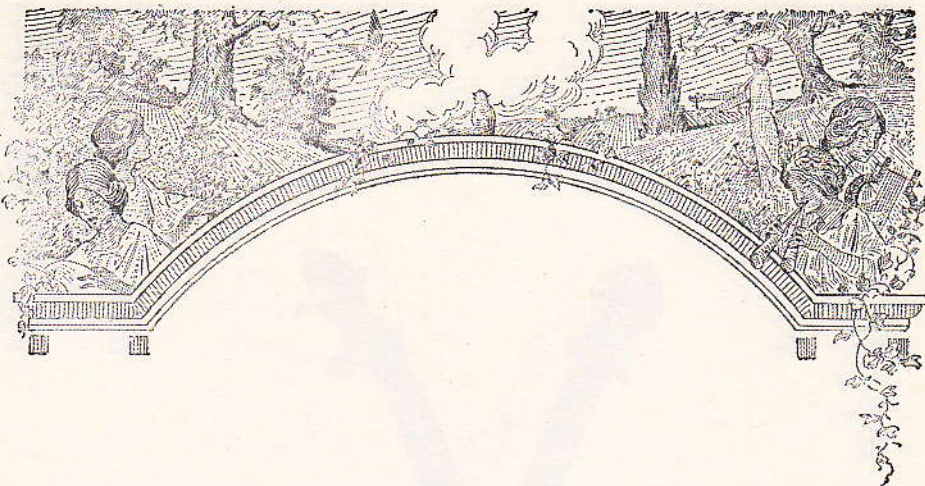
Curly maple rim.

All metal parts, best quality gold plate, hand burnished.

The richness of gold plating and antique finish of the "DE LUXE" B&D SUPER TENOR-BANJO gives a combination that is a revelation of beauty to the connoisseur.

Details of the construction and trimmings of the "DE LUXE" B&D SUPER TENOR BANJO are the same as the Style "AI" B&D SUPER TENOR BANJO except as to curly maple neck and rim and gold plating mentioned above.





REGULAR 5-STRING LONG NECK BANJO

4-STRING LONG NECK PLECTRUM BANJO

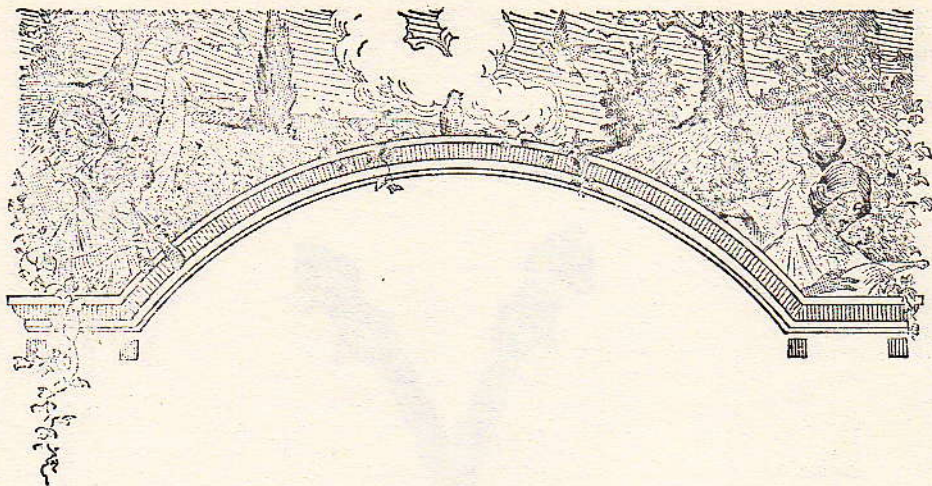
The long neck regular 5-string Banjo is the original Standard Banjo, and was so recognized for years. Since the advent of the modern metropolitan recording and dance orchestras, where the banjo has taken in these organizations such an important position, the Tenor-banjo has taken the lead.

The 5-string Banjo is unequalled as a solo instrument in the beautiful effects of harmony and chords produced in finger playing in the hands of the expert.

The Plectrum or 4-string long neck banjo, which is the 5-string banjo without the 5th peg on the side, is rapidly coming to the front in orchestra use. Its longer string length gives it a greater carrying and a more penetrating power of tone quality. In fact, for recording, the long neck banjos are unequalled, whether played with the fingers or with plectrum.

The long neck regular banjo, the 5-string, and the plectrum banjo, 4-string, are both tuned the same, their system of tuning is different from the tenor-banjo so that it is a more difficult instrument to learn, but when mastered the better results obtained will repay the artist for his efforts.





On the two following pages are pictured two styles of regular 5-string and plectrum 4-string banjos.

All styles of Bacon Tenor-banjos are made in the regular 5-string and Plectrum banjos.

You will note the instruments are just the same except the 4-string banjo has a narrower neck on account of the fifth string of the 5-string banjo being left off. The details of these banjos in construction and trimmings are just the same as the Tenor-banjos, except as to length of neck, and stringing and tuning as the long neck banjos which are entirely different.

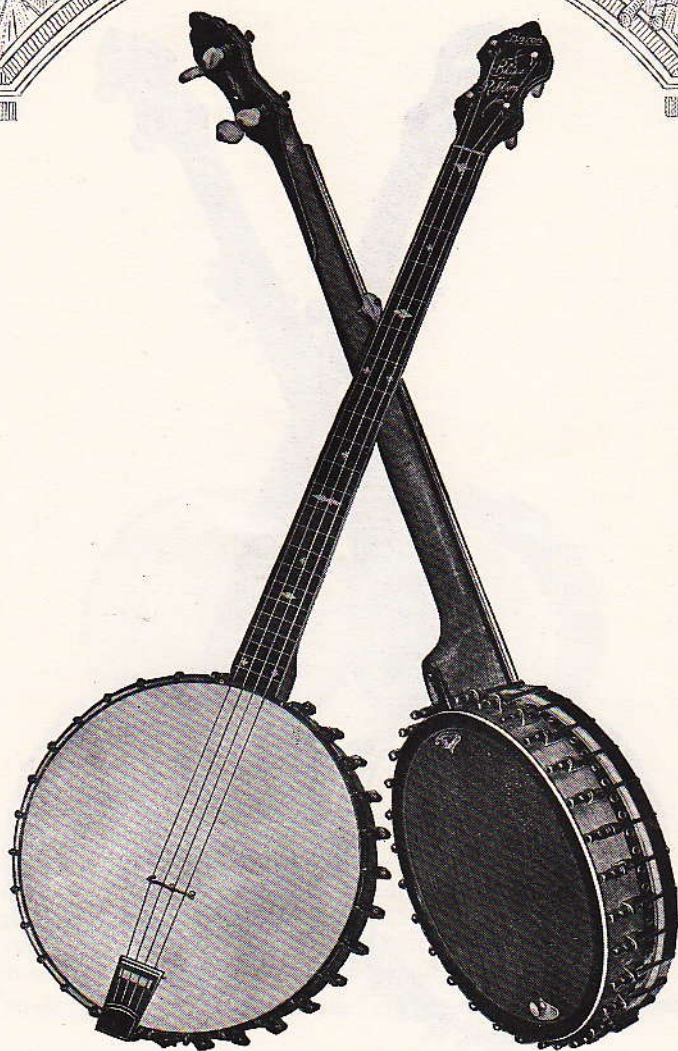
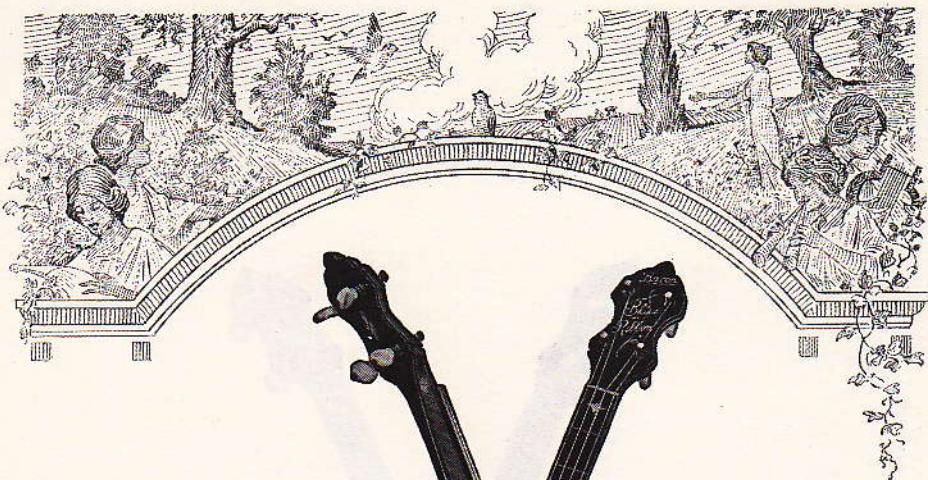
The Plectrum banjo is played with the pick and the Regular banjo with the fingers.

Be sure to specify which kind when ordering.

11" Rims, 22 Frets, 3 Octaves, 26" length of scale.

Lists giving complete details of all styles and prices are enclosed in each catalogue and may be had from our representatives or direct from maker.





Patent Pending

STYLE "A" BLUE BELL BANJO

Regular, 5-string and Plectrum, 4-string.





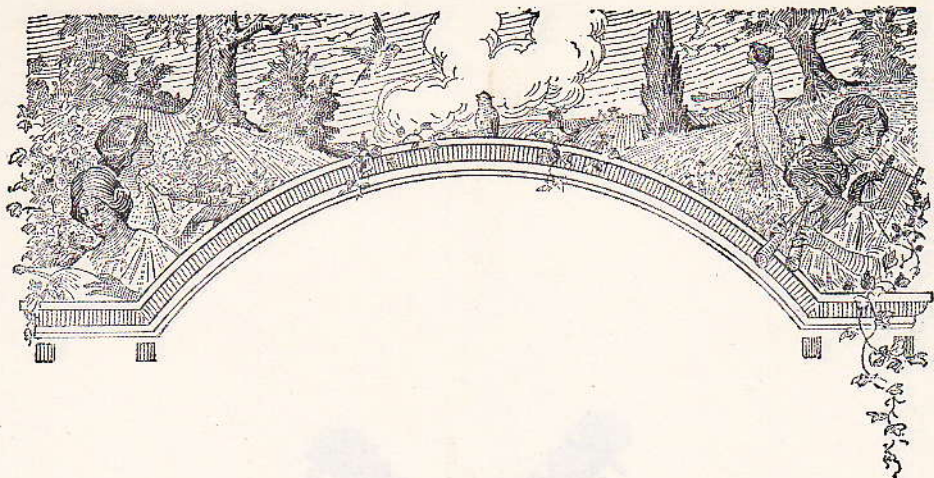
Patent Pending

"DE LUXE" (GOLD PLATED) B&D SUPER BANJOS



Regular, 5-string and Plectrum, 4-string.



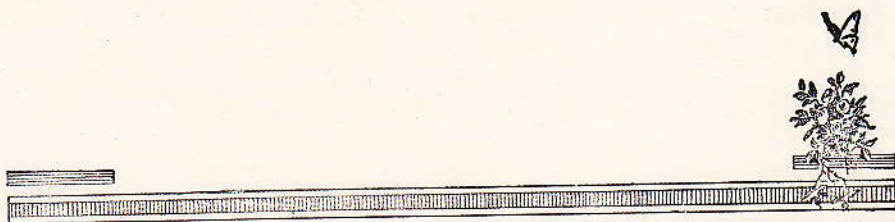


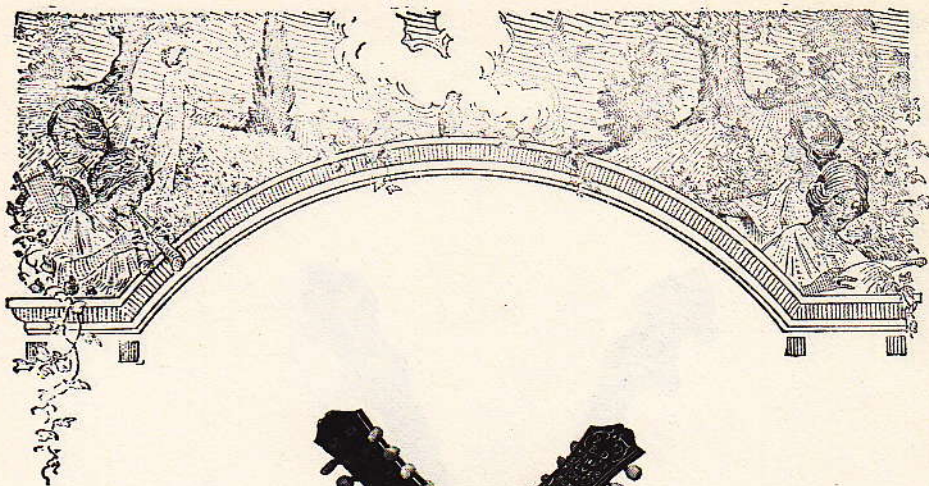
STYLE "C" MANDOLIN-BANJO

The details of the Style "C" Mandolin-banjo as to trimmings and construction follow the description of Style "C" Tenor-banjo except as to size, length of neck, machine head, etc. The same workmanship and materials are used in these instruments as in Tenor and Regular banjos.

10" Rim, 19 Frets, 20 Brackets, compensating Bridge, set of true strings.

See price lists for other styles not illustrated in the catalogue.





Patent Pending

STYLE "A" BLUE BELL

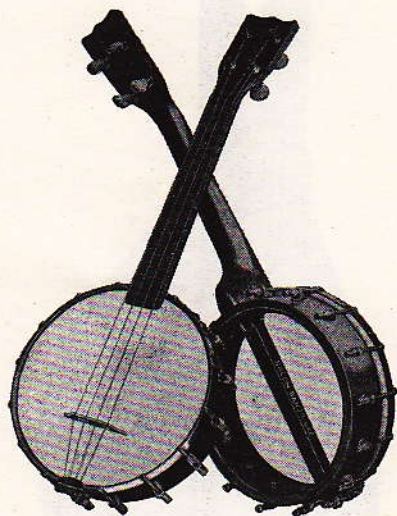
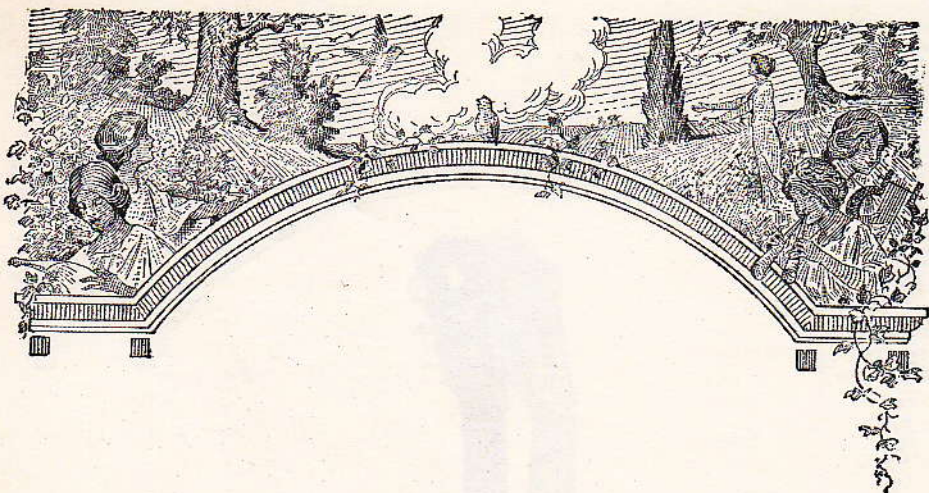
Mandolin-Banjo

The general details of construction and material of the Style "A" Blue Bell Mandolin-banjo follow those of the Style "A" Blue Bell Tenor-banjo. The size, stringing, etc., follow the regular Mandolin-banjo construction.

These splendid instruments are in large demand by teachers and players as they are easy to learn and you obtain the banjo tone.

The splendid B&D Super Mandolin-banjos listed in our price list are unequalled as to quality, power of tone and beauty of design. Be assured of banjo satisfaction, others have, who own Bacon instruments.





Style No. 1

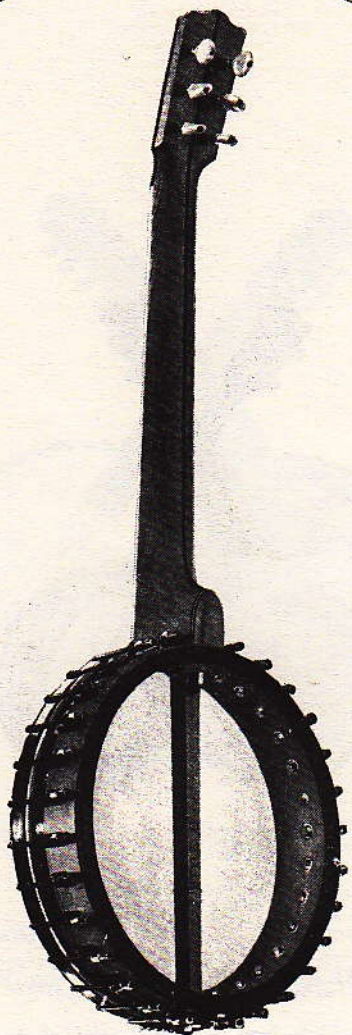
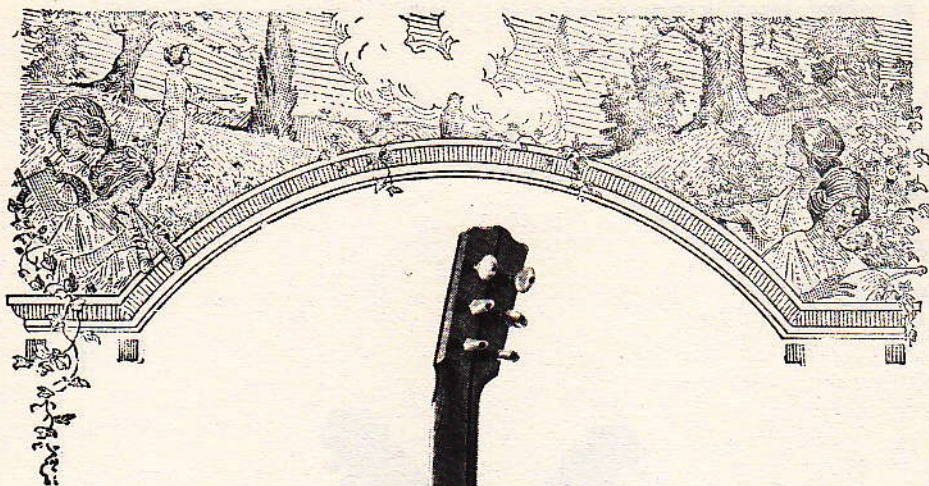
BANJO-UKULELE

Tuned and strung like a Ukulele, having the banjo construction, it has the banjo tone.

The Bacon Banjo-ukulele has met the critical demands and instantaneous approval of the players.

Its solid construction and high grade workmanship will appeal to all who want a quality instrument.





STYLE "B" BACON GUITAR-BANJO

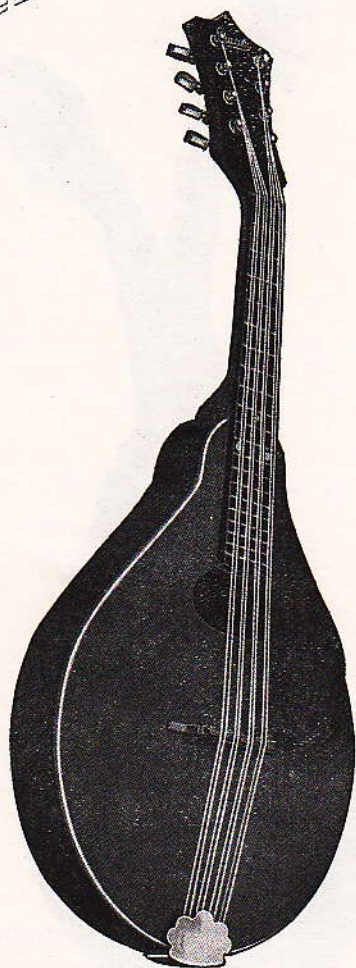
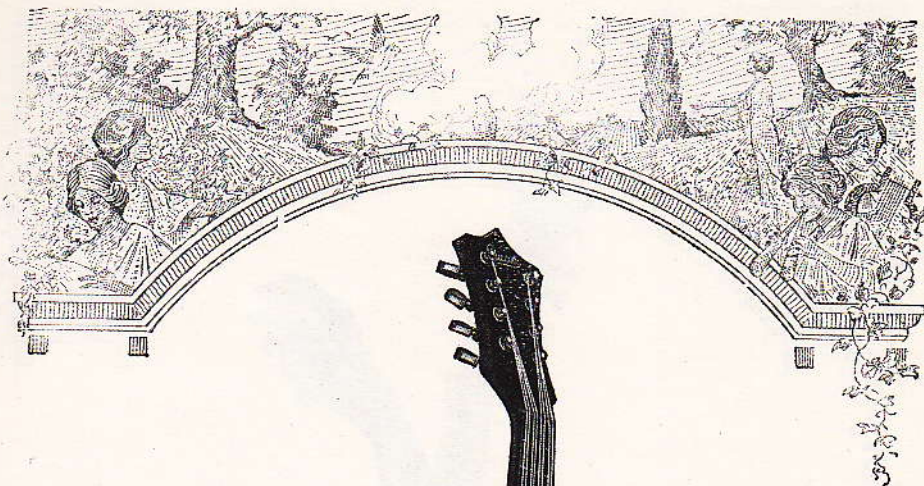
The Guitar-banjo is strung and played like a guitar, only having a banjo head you get the banjo tone.

A powerful instrument in the hands of a good performer, when played with the pick.

Made in the Peerless, Style "B", Style "A" Blue Bell and Style "A" B&D Super.

Other styles can be made to order. See price list enclosed.

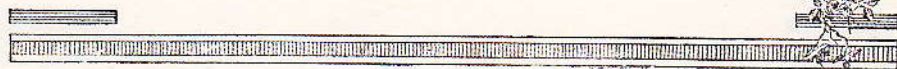


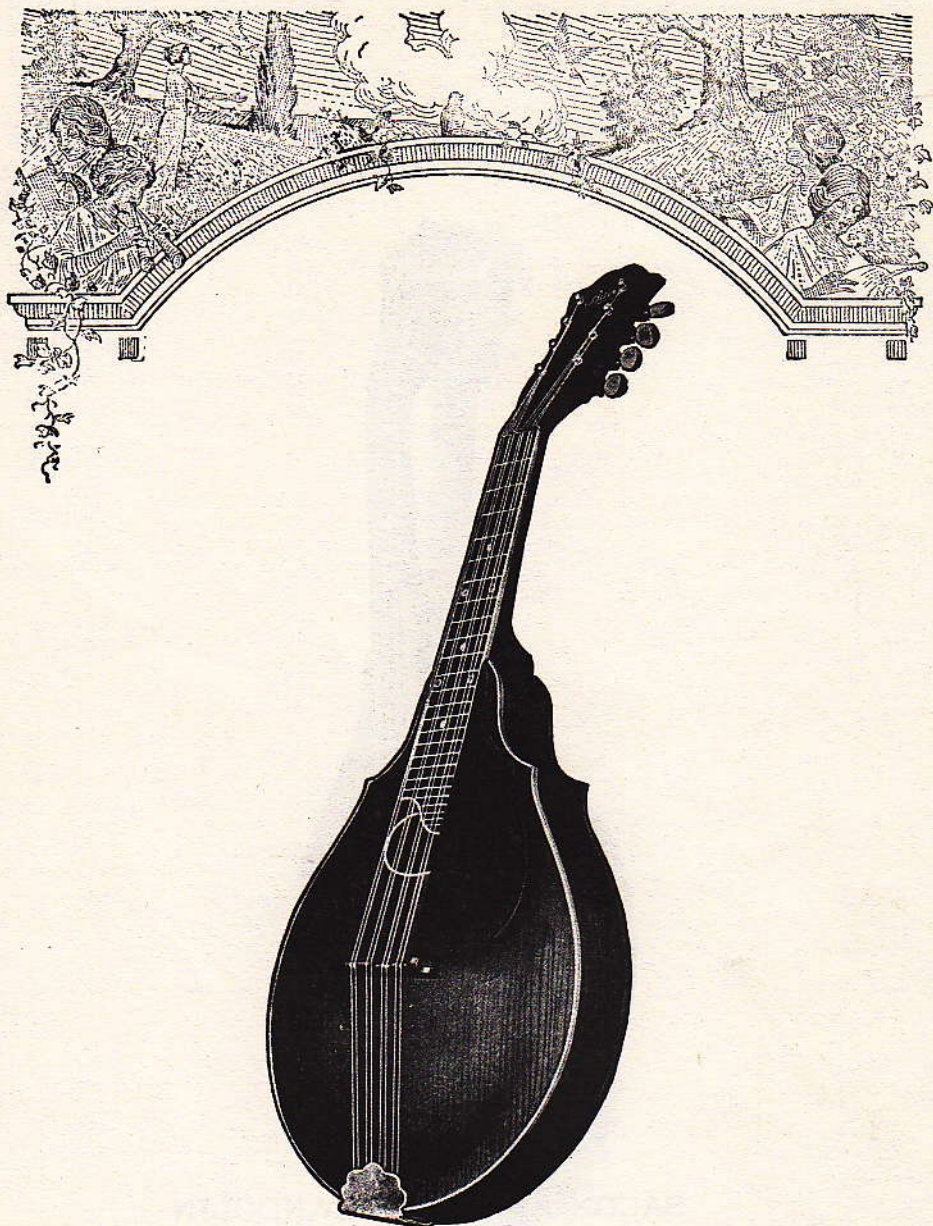


BACON AMATEUR MANDOLIN

(Good Full Round Tone)

The top is of straight-grain spruce slightly crowned and bound with white celluloid. Back and sides of best quality birch. The back is carved and arched the same as the professional and artist models. Finished in old mahogany.





PROFESSIONAL MODEL

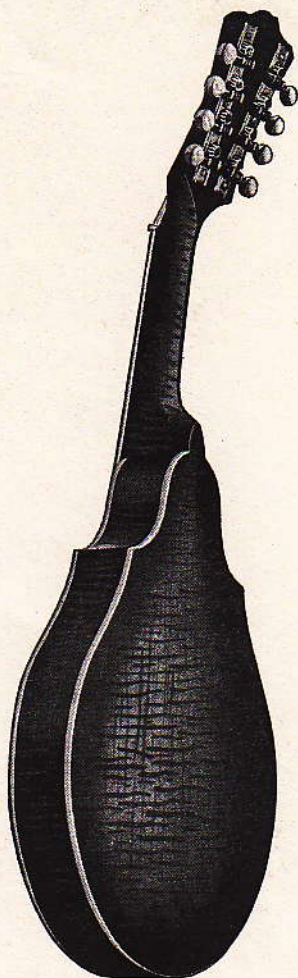
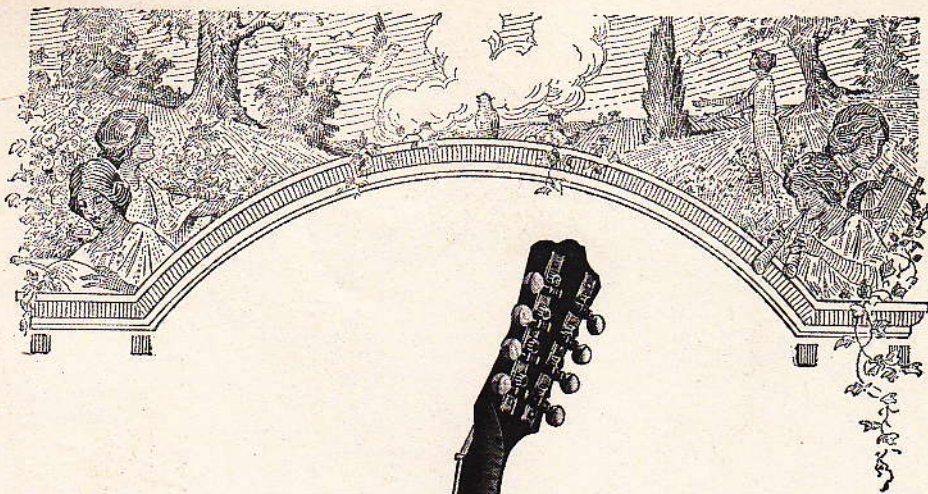
The top is of selected straight-grained spruce, carefully graduated.
The back and sides are of maple, finished in a rich dark mahogany.
The top, back and finger-board are bound with white ivoroid.



The finger-board, which is of solid ebony, is ornamented with neat position dots.

The tone is resonant and powerful.





PROFESSIONAL ARTIST MODEL

The top is of thoroughly air-seasoned, straight-grained spruce, cut and prepared especially for high grade violins.

The back is of beautiful curly maple thoroughly aged and seasoned.

The sides are curly maple.

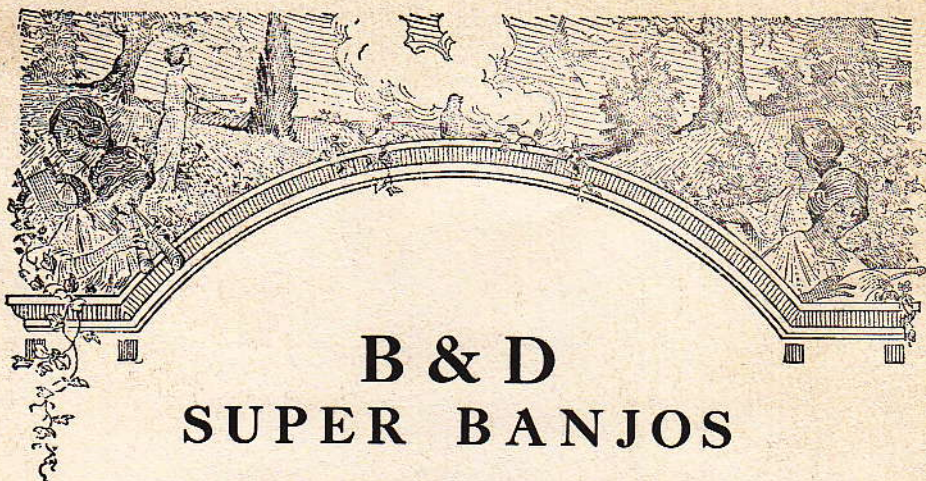
The neck is figured maple smoothly finished and colored similarly to an old violin.

The finger-board is of solid ebony with twenty-four hand-finished nickeled silver frets. Pearl position dots.

The top and back are finished in a rich sunburst shading of rich red and burnt orange and are bound with white ivoroid.

For the player, soloist, teacher or virtuoso the Artist model will prove to be an instrument that will be the companion of a lifetime.





B & D SUPER BANJOS

Why so Popular! There's a Reason!!

The Isham Jones Orchestra of Chicago, Ill., is known from coast to coast as one of the best modern dance organizations. Their records are in great demand by all music lovers. Our Mr. Day had the opportunity of hearing this splendid organization at the College Inn last season and it was a treat long to be remembered. This past Spring and Summer they have been making a tour of the large cities throughout the country where their appearance has been a continuous ovation. Charles McNeill, the Banjoist of this organization, has one of the new Bacon "B&D DeLuxe" Super Tenor-banjos and is most enthusiastic over its splendid qualities.

In writing us he says, "I am going to let five or six of the leading players of this city try out the new instrument. Am talking your new 'B&D Super' banjo to all the professionals that I come in contact with and have promised to let each one take my new instrument to try for one night. In the new 'B&D Super' Tenor-banjo you have an instrument that is superior to any that I have ever used."

M. J. Scheidlmeier of Pittsburg, Penn., is recognized as the leading Tenor-banjo Soloist of the country and has been instrumental in the sales of a large number of Bacon instruments in his vicinity.

Commenting on the two last instruments received, he says, "Received the two Bacon banjos today. The style 'A1' Silver Plated B&D Super banjo is the handsomest musical instrument and has the best quality of tone that I have ever heard. The new model Silver Bell is a wonder. It is the loudest banjo I ever played on and has the snap. It is just the banjo for those who are interested in the extended back instrument."

Can you picture to yourself the extreme pleasure and great benefit you would derive by owning an "A1" B&D Super banjo, all metal parts handsomely silver plated with neck and rim, white holly, giving a matchless combination of beauty and artistic harmony of colors.

If you prefer richness and elegance, then we submit for your approval the DeLuxe B&D Super banjo. This wonderful instrument with heavy gold plated metal parts, hand burnished, dark antique curly maple finish of neck and rim, appeals to those who appreciate the highest ideals of the Banjo maker's art.

These instruments may be had in the Regular, Plectrum, Tenor and Guitar Banjo styles.