



wood, but the tone and projection is stunning, especially with the cedar top.

The fingerboard is really wide, more akin to a classical acoustic. I have this little technique, where I bend the strings behind the nut, just now and again, and Roger actually built a scalloped truss rod cover, allowing more depth to the bend. I use a Roger Williams acoustic, which I also use when I play with Ray Burly,



scalloped truss rod cover

he's made his name building classical guitars but wanted to make me a steel strung model.

The Rob Armstrong model, is beautiful, wonderful to play, and a great live sound, the fourth is by Dave Hodson, it's basically a Maccaferri body, but with a pin bridge, a lot of top players are now using his guitars. We're very fortunate with these British makers, superb craftsmanship."

Gordon has an uncanny eye for old or unusual guitars, usually with a manic desire to inflict his victims with what at first seem eccentric modifications. Whilst high end models dominate his choice for live work, one of the oddities takes on a major roll, as he proudly explains,

"The old car boot model as I call it. It only cost me a few pounds, but it was a bit of a mess, so I had all the brass frets replaced, re-shaped the fingerboard and fitted a decent set of tuners. The lower four strings are in octaves, rather like a 12 string with lower octaves taken

away, giving a really high sound. I had a problem permanently holding down the 1st string on the 10th fret, and decided this was the guitar to approach with one of my



ideas.

I drilled a hole in the tenth fret and fitted a small brass screw. The string hooks under the screw head, it works perfectly, although I did destroy several capo's before I had the idea. I also fitted a cut down Dobro tail piece to help with the string tension. It's been fitted with a Seymour Duncan 'Woody' pickup, but I installed a Lace Sensor California Bronze soundhole model which I like for its tone and low noise operation."

But a tatty old violin, surely has to be the car boot find of a life time.

"Yeah, it was the nice old case that caught my attention, I looked inside and this tatty old violin seemed so sad, but it had such a vibe about it, he wanted £25 so I got it for £20, turns out it was a Guisepepe Pedrazzini worth £30,000

It's gained a lot of history since I've owned it. It was also used on my Drifter album and Andrew Bernard used it on the new DVD.

At the moment it's on loan to a classical student called Rhona from Romania, she used it for various auditions. I feel I've been blessed with a talent in my own right, and when I heard the news she'd been accepted in the Royal Academy, it felt good to think I'd given someone else a chance in life.

It great to look toward the future, I never look back, you stand or fall on your last gig or album, which has to be the last one, when I walk out on stage I take that with me. I love my job."



a beautiful pair of Armstrong guitars

www.giltrap.co.uk
Latest DVD Gordon Giltrap and Friends-
The Symphony Hall Birmingham.

Lars Mullen



Amazing Nails 4 Guitarists

Want to know what costs just £8.00 - but can make or break a guitarist's career? And would you love to discover just who, is the backstage secret behind the UK's biggest gigs? Then you need to talk to Midge Killen.



Nails by Midge

playing. Paul Simon called on her for nail rebalancing and shaping for his first London concert in 22 years when he played Hyde Park in 2004, and Midge is the only manicurist trusted by Hugh Burns of Acoustic Masters fame. Now no longer just a backstage secret for



Midge applying organic oil drops treatment



Midge using a 3 way slide bar file

those in the know, Midge has set up a London-based guitarists nail clinic - the first of its kind in the UK - so her talents are available to all. Based at the renowned Latin Quarter studio in London's Hampstead Road, Midge offers personalised one-to-one consultations for guitarists of all genres.

Using the finest, most hard-wearing ingredients, Midge will custom make a nail shape to suit your individual playing style - and even supply hand-blended oils to maintain your optimum playing performance. With prices from just £8.00 for a single nail - it is one piece of equipment a guitarist can't afford to be without.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Midge Killen on 07775 780744. Email, midgekillen@yahoo.co.uk www.amazingnails4guitarists.com