

Make Your Own Christmas Music With Small Instruments

When you look at David Taylor's creations, your eyes may fool you. But your ears won't.

Taylor, a craftsman from Gatlinburg, Tenn., makes small musical string instruments—dulcimers, ukeles, guitars, banjos and mandolins. When people first see them they think they are toys, but they aren't.

"People just can't believe the sound that comes from them," Taylor said.

Taylor will have a variety of his musical instruments at the SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS SHOW, running November 15-23 at the Merchandise Mart here.

These small instruments, each

constructed from a single piece of wood, are played just like their bigger counterparts. The fret placements on the fingerboards are accurate and the instruments tune accurately. Each comes with an instruction book and a pick. Additional music is also available.

Taylor has been making musical instruments for seven years. Although he has never taken music lessons, he got interested in instruments and wood-working from being around his dad, "Tut" Taylor, who has played, traded and repaired instruments for more than 30 years. Once David's interest was kindled, he studied instrument making under Bob Givens, a mandolin maker and a

friend of the elder Taylor.

David has a patent on his little instruments, since they use a new sound principle, somewhat different from that of the usual acoustical instrument.

In addition to the small instruments, he also makes a large dulcimer that has a deeper body than the standard sized dulcimer and a "dobro," a type of acoustical steel guitar used in country music.

In addition to Taylor and his small instruments, the SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS SHOW features more than 200 other crafts people who will be making and selling pottery, woodwork, woven items, hand blown glass, rosemauling, leather goods and much more.

The Olde Towne section of the show, a nostalgic village, will have an old timey country store, an apothecary shop, an old timey repair garage, the Village Church and Christmas Tree Lane and a variety of special features.

There will also be decorating and cooking clinics, as well as gifts, accessories, ornaments, holiday foods and much more.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Admission is \$3. at the door for adults, \$2.50 in advance; \$1.50 for youths ages 10-18. Children under 10, excluding groups, admitted free with an adult. Group rates for 30 or more adults are available.

For more information, write SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS SHOW, 1945 Randolph Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28207; or telephone 704-376-6594.

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—Clive Barnes, New York Times

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—Ted Karem, Time Magazine

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