

Dear Epoxyworks,

I wanted to share with you some photos of the electric violins I have made using WEST SYSTEM® materials. It's been a very rewarding personal project that's brought together my four decades' love of the violin and my past "day job" working in biotech in new product development.

The instruments (which I build for my own enjoyment—I've changed careers and now am a college physics professor) are built using a body molded of carbon composite, fitted with a traditional hand-carved maple neck and fingerboard. The composite makes for a very light instrument that stays in tune well despite changes in temperature or humidity. WEST SYSTEM resins, hardeners, fillers and carbon powder all were used in fabricating the original plug, the molds, and the actual instruments.

I hand-wind the magnetic pickup units myself and pot these in WEST SYSTEM epoxy.

The finish is lacquer, either opaque color or clear to let the cloth show. The results are eye catching on stage. The techniques are fairly routine: female mold, hand lay-up, etc. Still, it's an attention getting and successful application of the WEST SYSTEM materials—that sounds great, as several CDs will attest. Prior to this project, I'd built electronics and done woodworking, but I was worried about attempting composite building. However, the WEST SYSTEM performed beautifully throughout making of the tooling as well as the instruments.

Thanks for making the technology behind my project!

Sincerely,

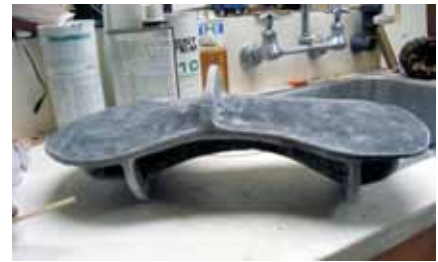
John Silzel

Atwood, California

To get in touch with Jon Silzel or find out more about his violins and his music, visit www.silzel.com.



Dear Epoxyworks



The mold (above) is epoxy/fiberglass with an epoxy/graphite mold surface. the violin body (left) is 2 outer layers of 3 oz bi-directional carbon fiber with a single inner layer of 6 oz fiberglass. Silzel demonstrates the qualities of his violin at a Christmas concert in Irvine, California (below).

