

Raimundo**Raimundo****Aparacio****Aparacio****Almansa****Almansa**

Makers' Workshops

Esteve works closely with the Juan Hernández company in the same way Alhambra and Almansa work together for purchasing larger quantities of woods. Hernández make all solid bodied guitars and only the very cheapest are laminated. But the Hernández company is a smaller venture than Esteve, (only 800-1000 guitars/year) doesn't sell to dealers and produces higher quality instruments using African Mahogany, Indian Rosewood and cypress for their flamenco models. These guitars therefore sell at higher prices: from a smug 600 Euros to 10,000 Euros.

Like Esteve, Hernández also produces prototypes. One such prototype, which doesn't have a name, has two carbon fibre bars on the underside of the top and either side of the sound hole. These bars don't touch the bracing and are fixed at both ends of the instrument. They are there to maintain the tension of the guitar, so it won't be affected by weather conditions around the world. These bars also enhance the harmonics of the guitar.

Franciso Bros works on a similarly small scale production producing 1,500 guitars a year. With only three employees it's a mighty