



# LIMITED EDITION HOLDEN VILLAGE TAYLOR GS MINI

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## Songs for Clean Water

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More information on all of these fascinating stories can be found via the links below.

Holden Village: [Holdenvillage.org](http://Holdenvillage.org)

Living Waters for the World: [Livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://Livingwatersfortheworld.org)

El Porvenir: [Elporvenir.org](http://Elporvenir.org)

Whatcom Community Foundation: [Whatcomcf.org](http://Whatcomcf.org)

Pacific Rim Tonewoods: [Pacificrimtonewoods.com](http://Pacificrimtonewoods.com)

To register your guitar, visit [Taylorguitars.com/support/owners-registration](http://Taylorguitars.com/support/owners-registration)

Thank you for your purchase, and congratulations! You have in your possession something truly unique. The Limited Edition Holden Village GS Mini represents an unprecedented collaboration between guitar makers and non-profits to create a beautiful instrument that honors nature and helps to bring clean drinking water to those in need. This collaboration developed at the intersection of several stories. It is the story of an old copper mine high in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State and the effort to rehabilitate a damaged ecosystem. It is the story of the identification and preservation of irreplaceable old-growth tonewood. And it is the story of human commitment to sustainably provide for our future needs, while giving back to the global community.

## **Engelmann Spruce:**

### **A Prized But Dwindling Tonewood**

Many things contribute to the sound of a guitar, but the centerpiece of that sound is the top, or soundboard. Spruce has been prized for centuries as an ideal soundboard wood for stringed instruments. The western United States is blessed with large tracts of spruce forests, and the best spruce for guitars is found in old-growth forests. These forests are rapidly disappearing. As Taylor Guitars co-founder and president Bob Taylor has noted, we can almost count the number of old-growth spruce trees left. This is particularly true of Engelmann spruce. Engelmann is valued as a premium tonewood for its warm tone and quick response to a light touch. Engelmann spruce trees are particularly sensitive to fire, disturbance, and disease, all of which are becoming more common with global climate change. Even in the best of circumstances, it is difficult to find truly ideal specimens for guitar making, as the trees tend to yield relatively little clear, straight wood.

### **Holden Village and Railroad Creek Remediation**

Engelmann spruce trees grow best in cool alpine valleys with rich soil and plenty of moisture, and the eastern Cascade Mountains of Washington State are an ideal environment. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the world's largest Engelmann trees grow in this region. In one of these cool, deep Cascade valleys flows Railroad Creek, and it is along Railroad Creek that Holden Village is

located. Holden Village was founded in the late 1930s as a remote copper mine, providing most of this nation's copper supply during World War II and the rebuilding thereafter. The mine closed in 1957, and the property and buildings were donated to the Lutheran Church, which converted the village into a retreat center serving thousands of guests per year. Unfortunately, across Railroad Creek from the Village sat 120 acres of mine waste, or tailings. Over the years these tailings have severely contaminated the creek, making for a paradoxical "Superfund" site in the midst of an otherwise pristine paradise. The ecosystem is finally undergoing remediation spearheaded by the Rio Tinto mining company, Holden Village, and several governmental agencies. One aspect of the cleanup plan involves rerouting a section of Railroad Creek around the mine tailings so that the runoff no longer pollutes the creek.

### **A Plan for Rerouting and Rescuing**

Just downstream from Holden Village is a true old-growth Engelmann spruce forest, with massive trees that took root at the time of Bach and Mozart. These trees had been growing quietly long before miners and machinery populated the valley, but the rerouting of Railroad Creek required that a 50-yard swath be cut through this forest, with every tree taken down regardless of size or age. The trees were destined to be mulched or turned into firewood until a Holden Village guest recognized their potential value. He contacted Pacific Rim Tonewoods (PRT), a Washington-based

sawmill that produces most of the guitar tops for the acoustic guitar industry in America. Experts from PRT surveyed the logs, and out of hundreds of trees cut for the reroute, several were deemed ideal for tonewood. Holden Village donated the logs, and a plan was hatched to allow this beautiful forest to be transformed. The soul of your guitar, the soundboard, is made of this "rescued" old-growth Engelmann spruce.

### **Beautiful Big Leaf Maple**

The back and sides of this guitar are constructed of a striking veneer made from a single maple tree from the Puget Sound coast, about 90 miles west of Holden Village. A small fraction of the trees from this species, Big Leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), carry the genetic code to produce a beautiful pattern known since the days of Stradivari as "fiddleback maple." This particular tree has a particularly intense pattern, uniquely present throughout the entire tree trunk. Expert botanists working with Pacific Rim Tonewoods have taken cuttings from this maple and other similarly patterned specimens and are attempting to cultivate these for the next generation of tonewood. Harvesting in a sustainable way will ensure our supply into the future. This tree and this wood represent the beginning of that effort.

### **Supporting Other Clean Water Initiatives**

The effort to clean up Holden Village is essentially a water pollution remediation,

and it is funded by the mining company that inherited the liabilities of the original mine when it closed. Through this mandated effort, this water will soon flow clean again. Large parts of the developing world are not so fortunate. United Nations statistics tell us that over one-third of the world's population, some 2.5 billion people, lack access to clean water. Water-borne diseases are a major cause of illness and mortality in these areas, and some of the hardest hit are in our own hemisphere.

Taylor Guitars is working to address these issues in cooperation with two non-governmental organizations, Living Waters for the World, and El Porvenir. By a unique arrangement, a significant portion of the proceeds from the sale of this instrument will go to these organizations and Holden Village. All of the wood for the Holden Village GS Mini, and all of the effort to transport and mill this wood, have been donated to the cause.

So, these stories are told. Hundreds of trees in that valley forest are now gone, and a new river runs through it. A fraction of a percent of that wood, only the best, was harvested for this project. Thanks to the skill and ingenuity of the organizations involved, this forest will sing again, through your hands. Know also that those hands have joined together with others in our global community, inviting participation in an effort greater than any of us individually.