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Contacts: Vesna Tomic (Domestic Sales Manager), Dondon (International Sales Manager)

All Kentucky Mandolins Have A Nitrocellulose Lacquer Finish!

San Francisco, CA/May 5, 2004 – SAGA offers the classic Nitrocellulose finish that has graced the finest fretted instruments since the late 1920's as a standard feature on every Kentucky acoustic mandolin—from our lowest-priced student A-model to our top-line F-model masterpieces!

The “Nitro” finish came into general use in the fretted instrument industry in the late 1920's, replacing the labor-intensive and extremely fragile French-polished shellac finish, which had been in use for at least 400 years. The advantages of using Nitrocellulose lacquer are numerous, but its main advantage is tone. Modern Polyester and Acrylic finishes, normally found on mandolins in a similar price range, are characteristically much thicker, glossier and far more cost-effective to apply. The down side to this method of finishing is that the tone suffers. From years of experience, it is clear that the only true way to recreate the tone of the old, classic mandolins can only be accomplished using the proper lacquer finish, applied in many thin coats, with laborious hand-sanding between each successive layer. This, combined with properly designed tone chambers of expertly graduated solid tonewoods, is what has given Kentucky mandolins their worldwide reputation for quality and performance. Even though many of the methods we use to produce our instruments are far more costly and often times more difficult to carryout in a production setting, we at SAGA feel that our customers deserve nothing less than the best when it comes to the quality of our musical instruments.

So if you are looking for a mandolin that's different from all the rest...look to Kentucky—America's Favorite Mandolin.

Available Models

A-Model Mandolins	F-Model Mandolins
<i>Standard Series</i> KM-140 KM-140S KM-150S KM-250S	<i>Standard Series</i> KM-620 KM-620B KM-630
<i>Artist Series</i> KM-250S KM-340S KM-2350S KM-380S	<i>Artist Series</i> KM-675 KM-700 KM-750