

ome
BANJOS
Since 1960





In this catalogue is presented the OME line of Open-Back, Bluegrass, and Jazz banjos. These instruments have evolved since 1960 and are the result of many years of dedicated effort towards creating exceptional banjos that meet the needs of the most demanding and sophisticated musicians. They embody superior tone, superb playability, unfailing quality, and flawless beauty.

At OME we combine time-proven features of vintage instruments with modern refinements in technology and design. We use the finest materials, custom-make our own metal and wood components, and take whatever time is necessary to do the job right. Most importantly, we maintain a team of talented and dedicated people who take great pride in building the very best.



Over the years, the OME line has grown into a wide variety of Models and Styles which are described in detail in this catalogue. It is my hope that with the comprehensive selection we now offer, we can provide you with the banjo of your dreams, and that you will enjoy playing and owning these instruments as much as we have enjoyed designing and building them.

Charles Ogsbury
President & Founder

OME BANJO CONSTRUCTION

The woods used in OME banjos are carefully selected, thoroughly air-dried, and skillfully matched. Vibrant curly maple chosen for its superior tone, flexible strength, and unusual beauty form the neck, rim, and resonator of most models. South American mahogany is also offered on **Vintage** and **Professional Series** instruments, while North American walnut is available on a special order basis.

The OME fingerboard, peghead overlay, and heel cap are made of durable African ebony or striking Brazilian rosewood and are artistically inlaid with colorful abalone and iridescent mother-of-pearl. The fingerboard, rim, and resonator are bound with traditional grained ivoroid or simulated tortoise on most models.

Front Cover (L to R): Monarch and Juniper Megatones. Back Cover (L to R): Primrose Megatone, Renaissance Classic Jazz, Deluxe Juniper Old-Time, and Grand Artist Mogul tenor.
Copyright 2003 The OME Company.

Photography by Larry Shirkey. Special contributors: Ed Britt, Tanya Ogsbury, Richard Sharples, Gustavo Silva, Scott Murphy and Whirlwind Graphics.



OME necks are gracefully hand-shaped for optimum comfort and playability. They are fitted with our lightweight two-way adjustable neck rod, and are precisely fretted with specially alloyed nickel-silver frets. We normally use the OME Artist peghead shape on 4-string styles, the OME Double-Cut peghead on Bluegrass styles, and the Victorian, Scroll, or Double-Cut peghead on 5-string Open-Back styles.

Light-fast, grain-enhancing stains are used to bring out the full beauty of our air-dried woods. Multiple coats of lacquer are thoroughly cured, sanded, and finely polished to produce an exceptionally durable and beautiful finish. **Vintage Series** banjos feature our tung-oil and wax finish for a natural feel, warm appearance, and easy maintenance.



OME metal parts are precision made using our own special alloys, patterns, and dies. Final parts are meticulously polished then triple plated with traditional nickel, tarnish-resistant chrome, or rich 24-kt. gold. Gracefully hand-engraved metal may be ordered as an option on **Custom Series** models and is standard on all **Artist** and **Grand Artist Series** instruments.

Permanently lubricated and sealed geared tuners, two adjustable rim rods, OME armrest and tailpiece, a custom drumhead and hand-made bridge are standard on most models.

Great care is exercised during the final assembly of every OME, as wood and metal parts are precisely hand-fitted together. Final set-up and adjustment are patiently checked and re-checked to ensure proper fit, tone, and action.

An arched-top, hard-shell plush-lined case and the OME limited lifetime warranty are included with every instrument.

NOTE: OME banjos are offered in *Open-Back, Bluegrass, and Jazz STYLES*. Each of these *STYLES* is made in several *TONAL SYSTEMS* as described in the following pages.



For more information visit our website at www.omebanjos.com
OME Banjos, 5680 Valmont Road, Boulder, Colorado 80301
Tel: 303-449-0041 Fax: 303-449-1809

OME OPEN-BACK BANJOS

OME OPEN-BACK banjos capture the spirit and flavor of the classic late 19th and early 20th-century instruments while incorporating modern improvements in construction, playability, and tone. They are offered in 4, 5, and 6-string *styles* in a variety of *models* and *tonal systems*.



OPEN-BACK models shown (L to R): Grand Artist Spring/Hummingbird (long-neck), Grand Artist Renaissance, Minstrel Jubilee, Old-Time Juniper, Gold Bright Angel, and Silver Magician

OPEN-BACK TONAL SYSTEMS

NECK SPECIFICATIONS

STYLES	FRETS	SCALE	NUT WIDTH	PEGHEAD
5-String	22	26.250"	1.28"	Victorian, Scroll
XL 5-String	25	31.188"	1.28"	Artist & Double-cut
Tenor	19	22.125"	1.22"	Artist
Tenor/Plectrum	22	23.375"	1.22"	Artist
Plectrum	22	26.250"	1.22"	Artist
Guitar	22	26.250"	1.75"	Guitar



Minstrel/Old-Time Open-Back

TRADITIONAL OPEN-BACKS

OME **Traditional** banjos offer increased sustain, resonance, and response throughout the entire playing range. They feature a 9/16" curly maple rim with our **Silverspun** brass and steel tone ring and are standard on **Professional**, **Custom**, and **Artist Series** open-back models.



Sweetgrass guitar (L) & Flushfit resonator (R)



Open-Back Minstrel/Old-Time (L) & Traditional (R)

MINSTREL & OLD-TIME

OME **Minstrel** and **Old-Time** banjos produce an unusually sweet, warm, and woody tone perfect for old-time and Irish playing styles. The **Minstrel** features our 3-ply maple **Tone-rim** and is standard on the **Jubilee** models. The **Old-Time** adds a rolled brass tone ring for increased response, and is standard on the **Juniper** open-backs. Both the **Minstrel** and **Old-Time** styles are offered in 11" and 12" body size and come standard with our "scooped" fingerboard.



Traditional Silverspun Open-Back

Traditional open-backs are offered in both the 11" and 12" body size with our optional scooped fingerboard, **Megatone** sand-cast flathead tone ring, and **Flushfit** resonator for increased resonance and volume. All **Open-Back** banjos are available in 4, 5, and 6-string styles.

OME BLUEGRASS BANJOS

OME BLUEGRASS banjos combine classic features of the 1930's vintage flathead banjos with 21st century refinements in technology and design. They are available in the **Megatone** tonal systems with 22 frets, 26.25" scale, 1.28" nut width, and our Double-Cut and Artist peghead.



BLUEGRASS models shown (L to R): Gold Phoenix, Grand Artist Renaissance, Silver Sweetgrass, Gold Monarch, Grand Artist Millennium, and Gold Juggernaut

BLUEGRASS TONAL SYSTEMS

MEGATONE BLUEGRASS

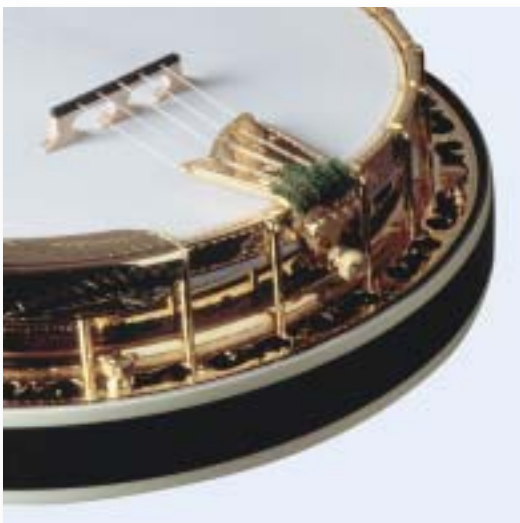
At the heart of the *Megatone* is a precisely balanced and perfected combination of our three-ply, air-dried maple rim; the OME “f-hole” zinc die-cast resonator flange; and the *Megatone* sand-cast, bell-bronze flathead tone ring.

The OME pre-war style *Megatone 200* is standard on our *Vintage*, *Professional*, and *Custom Series* Bluegrass banjos, while the *Megatone 400* is used on the *Artist* and *Grand Artist Series*.



Pre-war style Megatone 200

Megatone options include the OME sand-cast, bell-bronze *archtop* tone ring, *top-tension* construction, *radiused* fingerboard, and our *old-growth water-cured* maple rims.



Snuffy Smith bridge & Harp tailpiece



Megatone Sweetgrass (L) & Gold Odyssey (R)

These instruments produce an exceptionally rich, full tone with brilliant treble, deep full bass, and balanced response throughout the entire playing range. The *Megatone's* rapid tone decay suppresses unwanted overtones and provides optimum note separation for clear, crisp, finger-picking playing styles.



OME Megatone 400

A choice of our custom banjo heads, Snuffy Smith bridges, and *Harp* or *Sweetone* tailpiece is offered on all instruments. The *Megatone* is also available in Open-Back styles with optional *Flushfit* resonator (see pages 4 and 5).

OME JAZZ BANJOS

OME JAZZ banjos are available in three time-proven resonator tonal systems: the **Standard Jazz**, the **Classic Jazz**, and the **Megavox Jazz**. They have a 1.22" nut width, Artist peghead shape, and are available in:

- 19 fret tenor with a 22.125" scale
- 22 fret tenor/plectrum with a 23.375" scale
- 22 fret plectrum with a 26.25" scale



JAZZ models shown (L to R): Grand Artist Spring/Mogul Classic plectrum, Grand Artist Mockingbird Megavox plectrum, Jubilee guitar-banjo, Juggernaut Standard Jazz tenor, Mogul Standard Jazz tenor, and Monarch Classic tenor

JAZZ TONAL SYSTEMS

STANDARD JAZZ ➤

The OME **Standard Jazz** is our most popular Jazz tonal system. It has exceptional volume, resonance, and response, and offers optimum balance between treble and bass, sustain and decay.

These banjos feature our 9/16" curly maple rim, 24 individual rim brackets, the OME 11" **Silverspun** brass and steel tone ring, and our **Standard** style 1-5/8" deep resonator with two-piece brass f-hole flange.



Gold Monarch Classic Jazz

MEGAVOX JAZZ ➤

The OME **Megavox Jazz** banjos offer a deep, warm, and resonant tone. The treble is well balanced, the bass is rich and full with powerful volume and response throughout the entire playing range. These instruments feature the OME 11" **Silverspun** tone ring, 24 individual rim brackets, 9/16" curly maple rim, and our 2-7/8" deep-wall resonator with top-mounted flange.

OPEN-BACK JAZZ BANJOS

OME tenor, plectrum, tenor/plectrum, Irish tenor, and guitar banjos are also offered in Open-Back styles as described on pages 4 and 5.



Silver Monarch Standard Jazz

◀ CLASSIC JAZZ

OME **Classic Jazz** banjos produce a clear, bright tone with more emphasis on the treble notes. They have a strong carrying power and easily cut through other instruments in a jazz band. The OME 11" **Silverspun** tone ring, 24 individual rim brackets, 9/16" curly maple rim, and our bell-shaped spun-brass resonator flange are standard on this style.



Silver Monarch Megavox Jazz

GRAND ARTIST



GRAND ARTIST MODELS (L to R): Millennium Megatone (front & back), Rainforest Megavox plectrum, Renaissance Open-Back, Mockingbird Megavox plectrum, and Spring/Hummingbird Open-Back

MODEL SERIES

OME *Open-Back*, *Bluegrass*,
and *Jazz* **STYLES** are offered in
five **MODEL** series, as described
in the following pages.



GRAND ARTIST MODELS (L to R): Rainforest Standard Jazz , Spring/Renaissance Standard Jazz
(front & back), Spring/Mogul Classic (front & back), and Hummingbird Standard Jazz plectrums

GRAND ARTIST SERIES



GRAND ARTIST MODELS (L to R, front & back):
Hummingbird, Spring/Renaissance, and Wildflower Megatones

MODELS

— GRAND ARTIST Editions of — *The Renaissance, Mogul, Millennium, Spring, Hummingbird, & Wildflower*

Stunning beauty. Rare and luxurious materials. Unsurpassed artistry in construction, ornamentation and design. These are the qualities which establish the “one-of-a-kind” and “limited edition” **GRAND ARTIST SERIES** as the ultimate choice for those with an uncompromising desire for artistic excellence. They are offered in most 4 and 5-string styles.



Grand Artist Megatone & Standard Jazz

- Colorful abalone neck, rim, and resonator purfling
- Ebony/maple/ebony peghead backstrap
- Exotic hand-engraved **Grand Artist** inlays on the fingerboard, peghead, backstrap, heel-cap, and resonator
- Abalone and ivoroid bound peghead
- Hand-carved heel, rim and resonator
- Choice of vibrant custom finish colors
- Hand-dyed multi-colored wood carving
- Genuine mother-of-pearl tuning knobs
- Profusely hand-engraved, gold plated metal parts
- Calton deluxe fiberglass case
- Custom art work available on special order basis



Grand Artist Hummingbird Megatone

Features

- Our finest curly maple and African ebony woods
- Completely ivoroid bound



Grand Artist Megatones

ARTIST SERIES



ARTIST SERIES MODELS (L to R):
Wildflower Top-Tension Megatone (front & back),
Spring Megatone, Renaissance Standard Jazz
tenor/plectrum, Millennium Open-Back, and Mogul Megavox tenor

MODELS

The Renaissance, Mogul, Magician, Millennium, Hummingbird, Spring, & Wildflower

For those who prefer an extraordinary instrument of exceptional beauty, quality, and value, OME offers the “limited edition” **ARTIST SERIES** banjos. They are offered in the *Renaissance*, *Mogul*, *Magician*, *Millennium*, *Hummingbird*, *Spring*, and *Wildflower* models and in most 4 and 5-string styles.



Artist Series Classic Jazz (L) & Megatone (R)

- Hand-engraved **Artist Series** inlays
- Hand-carved heel, peghead, resonator sides and back
- Choice of vibrant custom finish colors
- Deluxe hand-engraved, gold plated OME metal parts
- Optional hand-dyed multi-colored wood carving
- Deluxe hard-shell plush-lined case



Artist Series Wildflower Megatone

Features

- Presentation grade curly maple and ebony woods
- Ivoroid bound peghead, fingerboard, rim, resonator, and heel-cap



*Artist Series Standard Jazz (top) &
Top-Tension Megatone (bottom)*

CUSTOM SERIES



CUSTOM SERIES MODELS (L to R):
Gold Odyssey Megatone (front & back), Gold Bright
Angel Standard Jazz plectrum, Phoenix Megatone,
Primrose Open-back, and Gold Columbine Standard Jazz tenor/plectrum

MODELS

The Juggernaut, Columbine, Phoenix, Bright Angel, Primrose, & Odyssey

Premium-grade woods, exotic inlays, carefully refined appointments, and a wide range of desirable options create our popular **CUSTOM SERIES**. They are offered in the *Juggernaut*, *Columbine*, *Phoenix*, *Bright Angel*, *Primrose* and *Odyssey* models, and in most 4 and 5-string styles.



Gold Juggernaut Megatone

- Capped and ivoroid bound open-back rim
- Choice of six **Custom Series** inlay patterns
- Victorian, Double-Cut, or Artist peghead
- Deep amber sunburst polished lacquer finish with other colors optional
- Snuffy Smith or Farquar bridge
- Nickel plated OME metal parts
- Deluxe Hard-shell-plush lined case
- Options include: hand-engraved metal, chrome or gold plating



Primrose Megatone

Features

- Premium curly maple neck, rim, and resonator (mahogany and walnut optional)
- Ebony fingerboard, peghead overlay & heel cap
- Ivoroid bound peghead, fingerboard, and resonator



*Engraved Gold Megatone with Harp Tailpiece (top)
Nickel Megatone with Sweetone Tailpiece (bottom)*

PROFESSIONAL SERIES



PROFESSIONAL SERIES MODELS (L to R): Gold Sweetgrass Megatone (front & back), Monarch Megatone, Monarch Classic plectrum, Gold Sweetgrass Open-Back, and Monarch Standard Jazz tenor

MODELS

The Monarch & Sweetgrass

PROFESSIONAL SERIES banjos provide the serious musician with all the essentials needed for a top performing instrument. They are available in the **Monarch** and **Sweetgrass** models and in most 4 and 5-string banjo styles.



Monarch Megatone

- Abalone & mother-of-pearl **Monarch** or **Sweetgrass** inlays
- Victorian, Double-Cut, or Artist peghead
- Amber sunburst polished lacquer finish with other colors optional
- Snuffy Smith or Farquar bridge
- Nickel plated OME metal parts (chrome or gold optional)
- Hard-shell, plush-lined case



Sweetgrass Megatone

Features

- Select curly maple neck, rim, and resonator (mahogany and walnut optional)
- African ebony or Brazilian rosewood fingerboard, peghead overlay, and heel cap
- Ivoroid bound fingerboard, resonator, and open-back rim



*Professional Series colors: Raw Sienna (L)
& Amber finish (R)*

VINTAGE SERIES



VINTAGE SERIES MODELS (L to R):
Deluxe Juniper Megatone (front & back), Juniper
Megatone (front & back), Jubilee and Deluxe Jubilee Open-Backs

The Jubilee & Juniper

VINTAGE SERIES banjos combine elegant simplicity with classic design and construction to offer a quality, hand-made instrument at a modest price. They are available in the *Jubilee*, *Deluxe Jubilee*, *Juniper*, and *Deluxe Juniper* models.



Jubilee w/Scroll peghead & scooped fingerboard

The Juniper

- Offered in 4, 5, & 6-string *Old-Time Open-Back* styles; 5-string *Megatone Bluegrass* styles; and 4-string *Standard Jazz* styles
- South American mahogany neck & resonator
- Brazilian rosewood or ebony fingerboard and peghead
- Simulated tortoise bound rim and resonator
- Abalone and mother-of-pearl floral inlays
- Victorian or Double-Cut peghead
- Scooped fingerboard on open-backs
- Tung-oil finish
- Nickel plated OME metal parts
- Hard-shell, plush-lined case or padded gig-bag



Victorian pegheads: Jubilee (L) and Juniper (R)

The Jubilee

- Available in 5-string *Minstrel Open-Back* styles
- South American mahogany neck
- Brazilian rosewood or ebony fingerboard and peghead
- Simulated tortoise bound open-back rim
- Abalone and mother-of-pearl star/moon inlays
- Victorian or Scroll peghead shape
- Scooped fingerboard
- Tung-oil finish
- Nickel plated OME metal parts
- Hard-shell, plush-lined case or padded gig-bag



Deluxe Juniper Megatone w/Double-Cut peghead

The Deluxe Jubilee & Deluxe Juniper

Features curly maple and ebony woods with *Jubilee* stars or *Juniper* diamonds replacing the fingerboard position dots.



Grand Artist Spring/Renaissance Megatone



*Grand Artist Megatone (L) & Classic Jazz
with Gryphon heel (R)*



Grand Artist Classic Jazz with Harp tailpiece



Grand Artist Wildflower Megatone



Grand Artist Millennium Megatone



Grand Artist Megatone & Standard Jazz



Gold Odyssey Megatone



Grand Artist Traditional Open-Backs



*Grand Artist Open-Back w/ Flushfit Resonator
and Sweetone tailpiece*



Gold Phoenix Megatone



Gold Bright Angel Open-Back



Grand Artist Megavoxes

The image features four OME banjos arranged diagonally from the top left to the bottom right. They have dark wood bodies and necks with decorative inlays. The background is a warm sunset or sunrise scene with a rainbow visible on the left side, and trees with yellow autumn leaves on the right. The text is overlaid on the upper right and bottom of the image.

*Bluegrass
Old-Time
Irish
Jazz*

OME BANJOS

5680 Valmont Road, Boulder CO 80301 www.omebanjos.com