In 2001 I began to build simple microtonal musical instruments. I started with a zither, then I tried a slit drum, a psaltery, a set of steel tube marimbas, four long gongs, more zithers, another psaltery, more slit drums, a giant mbira. I later added cut glass bowls, found percussion, aluminium cymbals and gongs. I was, and still am, particularly interested in just intonation tuning systems.

Apart from a later quartet of bowed zithers which have spruce and cedar tops with quality hardwood sides and bridges, my first materials were locally grown Douglas Fir, recycled furniture, steel tubes and aluminium sheets from a local engineering shop. I agree with Lou Harrison that building your own instrument is simply the most satisfying of musical projects.

Compositions and projects that make use of these instruments include *Acousmatic work (2004 - 2008), Zenconcrète, Music Born of Solitude, The Canalisation Project, Maxwell’s Music, Koobi Fora Ash, Huisinis and s-wave.*
bowed psaltery: exotic ply top, cherry sides, ply bottom
bowed psalteries, matched pair
36" six course zither: douglas fir top, back and sides
36" six course zither (detail)
48" six course zither: douglas fir top, back and sides
48" six course zither (detail)
five string bowed zither: cedar top, beech sides, exotic ply bottom, oak bridges
five string bowed zither (detail)
steel tube marimba and beaters: hand cut steel tubing, dowel, douglas fir mount