

# Gold Star(Tokai) BANJO - The Record

6/12/2026

The GF-100 was developed based on research into the Gibson TB-3 (with 5-string conversion neck) 1929 #9465-92. Development took place over four months, starting in April 1977, and three prototypes were completed on August 5th. One of them was shipped to Mr. Richard Keldsen of Saga Musical Instruments in San Francisco.

## PART MATERIAL & SUPPLIERS

All wooden parts were manufactured in-house by Tokai Musical Instruments in Hamamatsu Japan. The mass production of 3-ply rims was the highlight of this project.

Development Resources (1977~1981)

Banjo project supervisor: Katsuhiko Saigo  
GF100 Project Leader: Toshihito Tsuchida  
81 JD Crowe Project Leader: Hideo Matsumoto  
All model Inlay design work by Hideo Matsumoto  
81 JD Crowe specification and metal surface work by Toshihito Tsuchida  
The tailpiece and tuner knobs were repurposed from a 1976 Gold Star AT.  
The tailpiece with adjustable knob was designed by Naito and the tuner button by Tsuchida to match the shape of the Keith Tuners.  
Prewar TB-3 & Granada for reference provided by Toshihito Tsuchida  
The bronze composition of the tone ring provided by Richard Keldsen.

