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Recently I made an instrument, it was along the same design, but I moved the soundhole. Mainly for acoustical reasons. What I was trying to do was lower the resonance a little bit by moving the sound-hole, effectively making the closed part of the body longer... Just because I start out with an idea and draw it out, it doesn't end there. I'll listen to the instrument, see how it works. And maybe I'll think that I want to move in a certain direction, and I'll change it. (So an instrument, when it's finished, isn't necessarily finished.) Well, no-- generally when I say "I'll change it"-- what it means: the next instrument I make, I'll try something a little different.... Because I don't want to become a slave to a design that was just conceived in an abstract way. Like I say, I have these sort of rational principles and ideas that I'm working into the design and that I'm trying to express at the same time. But it's not only that. That's kind of one side of it. I'm trying to be creative with the materials. And I'm seeing how they react with the actual performance of the instrument.

"Nemo's Jig" and its Story 4 Otis Tomas: I made that (tune)--it was on the eve of my daughter's birth. We were (living) in the teepee. It was the night before she was born. I was up kind of late, just playing the fiddle a bit. And there came that tune. Just playing around, that one was the one that was there. Like I say, to me, it's almost like--all of a sudden there's something there ready to be discovered, the tune. I called it "Nemo's Jig" because, actually, when our daughter was born--we didn't really get a good look at her first. She was just kind of born and we wrapped her up in the towels and, you know, held her. You know, put her up with Deannie. There was a woman there helping us with the birth. It happened, really, you know, sort of fast. And she said, "Oh, you've got a little boy. Here you go." And kind of wrapped her up. So we thought it was a boy. Just first glance, you know. The first thing wasn't to give her a physical exam or anything. The first thing was to get her warm and put her to Deannie and.... So we didn't really think too much of it. We just said, all right, you know, a little boy. And it was only an hour or something later when we figured we'll check--changing the diaper or whatever, or putting a diaper on the baby, when I said, "Dean, there's something wrong here!" So it turns out it

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