

BEVEL CUTTING

by Frank Harris

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Which direction to cut? Clockwise or counter-clockwise?

Hand held saw with the teeth pointing away from you?

Machine mounted saw with the teeth pointing towards you?

Table tilted to the left, saw vertical?

Table tilted to the right, saw vertical?

Saw tilted to the left, table horizontal?

Saw tilted to the right, table horizontal?

Veneer piece to be inserted from the bottom?

Veneer piece to be inserted from the top?

For a beginner reading and trying to learn from a marquetry manual, the above situations must be very confusing. He or she doesn't realize, as the expert does, that they will probably never encounter more than one or two of these situations in a lifetime. They probably wonder how they will ever remember all the rules laid down for each situation. Rather than trying to remember rules for deciding which way to cut for any situation. I would recommend to beginners that they always simply visualize a tapered plug (veneer piece to be inserted) being fitted into a tapered hole (background veneer) and cut in the direction which will give this taper. This visualization technique will make all the rules unnecessary. It does not matter if you are inlaying from the top or bottom, or the teeth are pointing away or towards you, or any other situation. You can only cut in one of two directions (clockwise or counter-clockwise) and only one of these directions will give the required tapered plug in the tapered hole.

I feel sure that other marquetarians have other ways of making this decision, so talk about it, think about it and find the way that works best for you.