

HOW TO INLAY FINE LINES WITH VENEER

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Occasionally thin lines are required to be inlaid with veneer, perhaps as hairs or whiskers in a portrait, or tree branches in a detailed landscape. Straight lines can be made quite easily with a knife and ruler. Curved lines are more difficult to do. The fret saw can produce curved lines of a consistent width.

Determine the thickness of the line to be inlaid. Select the appropriate fret saw blade (**Chart B1**) and put it in the fret saw. Place cellophane tape on both sides of the host veneer covering the line. With the front side up, saw along the line with blade perpendicular to the table. A piece of waste veneer or cardboard taped to the back will reduce fraying of the host veneer. Start the cut at the end of the line where the starting hole will be least visible. For example, start the cut for a hair or whisker at its root, or for a branch start the cut at the crotch of the limb, making sure to do the outer branches first. Clean out any saw dust from the cut. If necessary, slide the blade back and forth along the cut to clean it out. (**Diagram B1**).

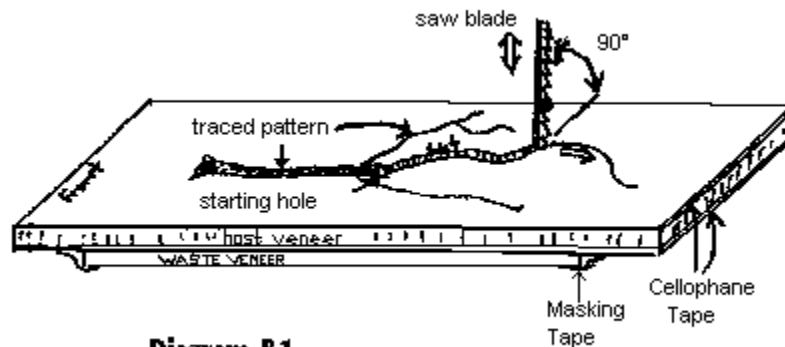


Diagram B1

Next, select the veneer to be inlaid in the cut. It is easiest to use a veneer with straight, fine, even grain. Place this veneer on a flat cutting surface. Trim the edge of the veneer with a knife placed against a straight edge running parallel to the grain. Cut thin strips with the knife and straight edge so that the strips are about 1 times the thickness of the host veneer. Take a strip and cut it to the length of the saw cut or slightly larger, taking into account any curvature. Place the strip between two pieces of sandpaper on a flat surface. Sand the strip until the desired thickness is reached. (**Diagram B2**).

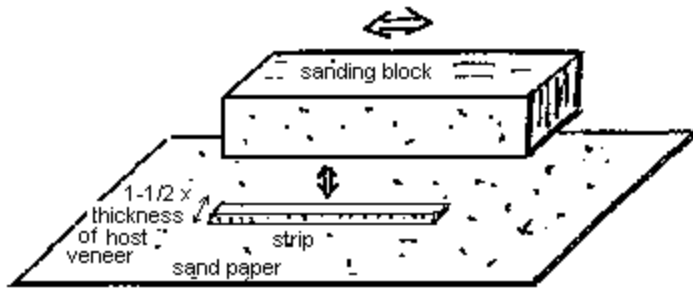


Diagram B2

Push the strip edgewise into the cut. Start at the end opposite at which the fret saw began its cut. Trim any excess off the end of the strip. (**Diagram B3**). Turn the host veneer over (back facing up) and press down around the cut. The strip should push through. Spread glue around the strip protruding from the back. (**Diagram B4**). Turn the host veneer over (front facing up) and press down around the cut. This action squeezes the glue on the back up in to the cut. Wipe off the excess glue from the back. Spread glue around the strip protruding from the front and wipe off any excess. (**Diagram B5**). Allow the glue to dry. Trim off the protruding portion of the strip with a knife. Remove the cellophane tape from the front and back of the host veneer. Scrape the surface flat with a cabinet scraper. (**Diagram B6**).

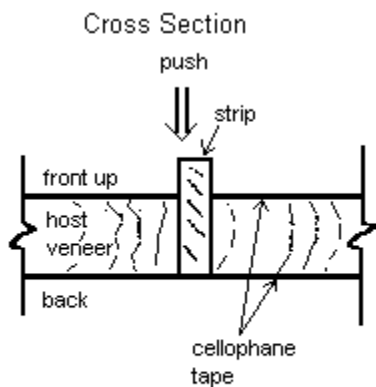


Diagram B3

