

# MOUNTING A MARQUETRY PICTURE

*by Carol Teal*

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The following is the procedure I use to mount all my marquetry pictures and have found it to be a very good one.

1. Square picture and choose the frame width, stringers, etc. Cut board to the overall dimensions.
2. Bond back and edges. The formula for the order in which this is done, is "BEST" – Back, Edges (top and Bottom), Sides (done after ends so the end grain on top and bottom edge strips won't show) and last Top (the picture face).
3. Lay top or face of picture. Centre picture on board and draw pencil line around it, or measure in from board edge the frame and stringer width and draw lines accordingly. Lay picture on the board to recheck. Make sure you can see all four lines at picture edges.
4. Apply contact adhesive to picture back and board according to manufacture's directions, extending the adhesive  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond the lines on the board.
5. When adhesive is ready for bonding, cover board with a slip-sheet of waxed paper leaving only top line uncovered. Carefully lay picture, lining it up with all lines and allowing it to adhere to the top line. Gradually remove the slip-sheet and bond picture to the board, smoothing it from the centre outward.
6. Now put masking tape on the edge of the picture and re-apply glue to the stringer area on the board. The tape keeps excess glue off the picture face. Also apply glue to the stringers.
7. When the glue is set, put a small piece of waxed paper over the picture and board at each corner where the stringer mitre will be. The waxed paper squares are 1 or 2 inches square. Apply stringers to picture edges, allowing only a small part of the stringer to contact the board at one time. This is done by slightly bending stringers (holding one end up slightly) so they come in contact with the board slowly, or you can use a slip-sheet here as well. Make sure to get stringer tight to the picture as you apply it. Push it tight with blunt handle of craft knife or other tool. When all stringers are down cut mitre with knife where the lines intersect. Now the purpose of the waxed paper becomes clear. You need to remove the cut-off scraps of the stringers. If scraps stick to stringer borders, just carefully remove them with a craft knife blade. Then remove waxed paper pieces and press down stringer corners.

Frame strips are applied in the same fashion as the stringer strips using the waxed paper squares on the corners of the board to prevent premature bonding before mitres are cut.

1. Cut oversize border or frame strips. Only one side of these must be straight and the outer edge need not be parallel as it will be cut away.
2. Apply glue to oversize frame strips. Cover stringers (or edge of picture if not using stringers) with masking tape to protect from excess glue and apply glue to board.
3. Place waxed paper squares to cover corners where strips will overlap.
4. Slowly apply frame strips to edge of picture (or stringer edge) pushing strips tight to picture edge as you go. Overlap in an under-over manner. You can adjust which side is over which, for cutting handedness.
5. Now turn picture face down on worktable and trim off excess frame veneers (edge of frame is now flush with board edge).
6. Turn face up, and using a straight edge, cut mitres from inner corner of frame to outer corner of board. Hold knife at a slight angle away from centre of body (right-handed person angles knife handle toward right side slightly.)
7. Carefully remove excess frame veneer from mitred corners. The waxed paper squares prevent scraps from bonding with the board. Using a flat square-ended knife blade, gently lift corners of frame to remove the cut-off end pieces. They will be stuck to the under-side of the frame at some points, but since the contact cement is only on one side of this union, it is not a complete bond and the pieces are easily removed by slipping the knife blade carefully between the veneers.
8. Once scraps are out, remove waxed paper squares and press corners to the board with a veneer roller. If glue loses its power to contact, just heat the corner with an iron to reactivate it after mitre has been cut. Roll down with veneer roller.

Using this method, the mitres should always be perfect to the board corners.