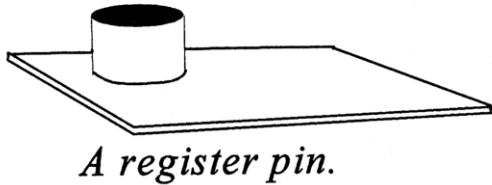
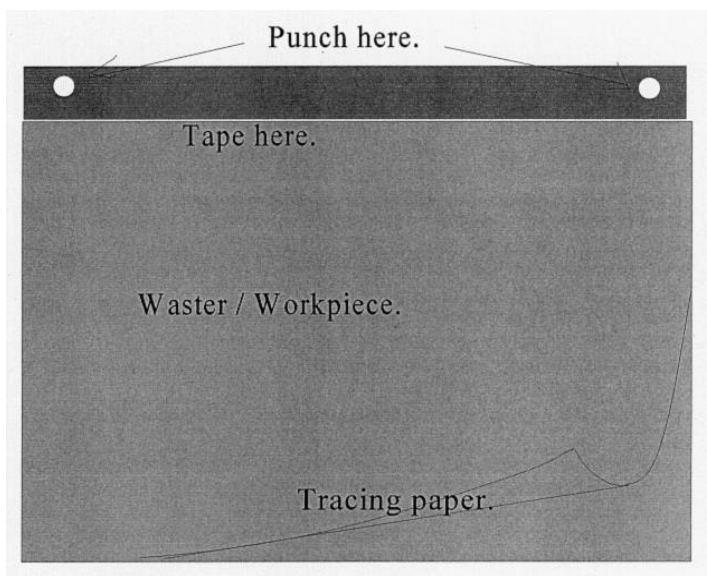


USING PINS TO POSITION TRACINGS AND OVERLAYS IN MARQUETRY

by Tony Stuart




Register pins are used in the graphic arts for assembling film and processing printing plates. They come in various heights, of about 1/8" to 1/4", and they are 1/4" in diameter. A big advantage of using register pins for marquetry is the ease with which both sides of the workpiece can be accurately worked. I happen to have a pair of these pins and have used them successfully so I thought I'd pass this idea on.

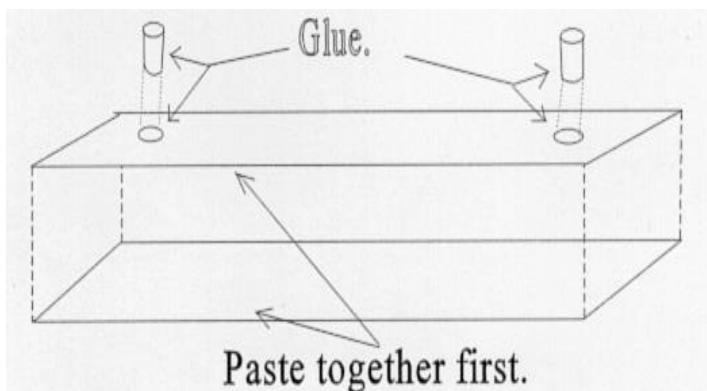


The regular 3-pin binder-punch I have makes holes just a bit too large, about 0.265" diameter. So I use a one-hole punch

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| Name | Date modified |
|--|-------------------|
|  Making and Using a Marquetry Press | 2018-07-31 10:51 |
|  Marquetry Press | 2018-07-31 10:57 |
|  Mounting a Marquetry Picture | 2018-07-31 11:03 |
|  all-Mounting Pressing Gluing | 2018-07-09 7:47 P |

which is just a little smaller than the pins but presents no problems for tracing paper and white-card-wasters.



The technique is very simple. If a one-hole punch is used, attach temporarily the waster

(background veneer), tracing paper, and working pattern (transparent overlay) together. Punch two holes as far apart as possible. They should be roughly equidistant from the centre, along one edge. The assembly must be kept flat and together while punching the two holes. Therefore, it may be best to put a register pin in the first hole punched, then check for position and flatness before punching the second. If a regular binder-punch is used, each item, the waster and tracing paper etc., can be punched separately.

It is best to reinforce with cellophane tape thin papers such as tracing paper in the areas which are to be punched. If a hard veneer is to be used for the waster (background), then a strip of soft thin cereal box cardboard about one inch wide should be securely taped to one edge of the waster and the holes punched in the cardboard. The pins are placed in the punched holes in the waster (background).

With the prepunched pattern and tracing paper placed over the pins in position on the waster (background), trace the design in the usual way. Now each time a new section of the pattern is to be traced on the workpiece (background), just pop it on the pins and it will be accurately aligned. To work on the back, simply turn everything over and reposition it on the pins.

However, because the pins are not a common item, and because it is more convenient if a regular 3-hole-punch can be used, I tried using wooden dowel to make a pair of pins. They seem to work okay (maybe the dowel is a bit oversized). To make a two-pin setup, take a punched piece of cereal box cardboard to your local lumber store and find a piece of dowel that fits the holes snugly. Cut two strips of cardboard the same size, punch one strip in your 3-hole punch and paste them together. Saw off two pieces of the dowel about 1/4" long as square as you can. Chamfer one end with sandpaper and glue the other end into each of the two outside holes.

The metal pins can be obtained from a graphic arts and printer supply house. So check the yellow pages in your area. Canadian Graphic Supply Ltd., 133 The West Mall, in Etobicoke have them if you purchase a minimum of ten pieces. An unmounted pin costs less than \$2.00 and a pin on a metal base is \$9.00. You will need a pair of them of course.