MARQUETRY  classical cutting methods

Presentation by Martin Burgoyne
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**Terminology**

**Marquetry**
- pieces of different coloured veneer built up into a ‘picture’.

**Parquetry**
- similar to the above, but based on repeat geometric shapes; e.g. tile patterns, brickwork, basket weave, etc.

The finished sheet of marquetry/parquetry is then **glued onto a solid base**.

**Inlay**
- individual pieces of wood or veneer, or marquetry/parquetry motifs **glued into recesses** cut into a solid base.

**Tools / Equipment**

✓ Tracing paper.
✓ Carbon paper.
✓ Veneer tape – sponge.
✓ Masking tape – dispenser.
✓ Fret saw and cutting table.
✓ Fine piercing saw blades 2/0 - 4/0 or 6/0.
✓ Magnifying head loupe.
✓ Fine drill or needle point for starter hole for fret saw.
✓ Cutting table/mat.
✓ Tray for pieces.

❖ **Sweep floor before you start!!**
❖ **And / or wear an apron and pin under cutting table.**
**Veneer**

- 1.5 mm veneer for fret saw cutting method.
- Can use 0.7 mm but more care needed.
- Newsprint/butchers paper glued to face side with wallpaper adhesive – helps prevent splintering and break out.
- Waxed or suet paper sheets between multi layered packets used for lubrication of the saw.

**The Design**

- The image is scanned into a computer and ‘traced’ using drawing tools.
  
  OR

- The image can be traced by hand with pencil and tracing paper – the tracing can then be scanned into the computer.

- Once in the computer:
  - Traced image can be re-sized, flipped, stretched, rotated, distorted, etc.

- Print pattern out, onto:
  - **Paper** – for ‘colour’ scheme, or glued onto veneer as cutting pattern.
  - **Tracing paper** – for use with carbon paper to mark the pattern on either the face or reverse side.
Classical Marquetry

Marquetry
Classical Marquetry - Rotengen Berlin Cabinet
Modern Marquetry – by Silas Kopf
Classical Marquetry Box – by Andre Boulle
Modern Marquetry Boxes – by Silas Kopf
Parquetry

Marquetry
1. Piece by piece method

- Individual pieces of the picture are cut out of the paper pattern, which is then glued onto the veneer.

- Each ‘piece’ of the picture is cut out – cutting **outside** the line

- Pieces can now be sand shaded, some assembly can take place.

- Individual pieces cut out of the paper pattern are then glued onto the back ground veneer.

- Each ‘hole’ in the back ground is then cut out – cutting **inside** the line.

- The pieces are then fitted into their ‘holes’.

- All work is done on the reverse side – with veneer tape glued onto face side.
1. Piece by piece method

This is the reverse side of the picture ready to be glued onto a base.
Veneer tape is on the face side.
2. Double cut method

The double cut method entails cutting through two veneers at once – the ‘piece’ veneer and the background veneer.

**Vertical cut**

- The saw is held vertically while cutting through the two pieces.

- When the piece is glued into its hole there is a saw kerf gap around it.

**Bevel cut / sawing**

- Saw is held around 10 degrees off vertical.

- When piece is put into its hole, the saw kerf gap disappears as the piece fits ‘perfectly’.
2. Double cut method – building a picture

This applies for either straight or bevel cut.

Masking tape

Tracing paper pattern

Background veneer

Tracing locators
Decide which pieces to cut out – stems.

Veneer for stem fixed in place with masking tape.

*Note this is on top.*
2. Double cut method – building a picture

Draw round pieces to be cut out.
2. Double cut method – building a picture

Marquetry
3. Stack or packet cut method

- Multiple layers of veneer are cut together.
- Gives multiple copies from one vertical cutting.
  - e.g. Different colour combination flowers.
  - These can be flipped to make left or right hand flowers.
- One complete picture can be produced from one vertical cutting.

Different veneers fixed together with masking tape,
...or veneer pins,
...or staples.

Left hand and right hand flowers
3. Stack or packet cut method – multiple copies

Two same veneer.
Two contrasting.

Same veneer but different grain direction.
Marquetry longcase clock

- The areas marked ‘A’, ‘B’, and ‘C’ have been cut using the packet method from bookmatched veneers.
- Each of the numbered flowers were all produced from the one cut using the packet method.
- The flowers marked ‘2a’ are a small version of those marked ‘2’.
3. Stack or packet cut method – multiple copies

Pattern for the longcase clock.
3. Stack or packet cut method – multiple copies

Range of flowers

- Cut out using stack cut method – leave extra veneer around outline.
- Let in using double bevel cut method.

Patterns re-sized and flipped on computer.
3. Stack or packet cut method – all in one

Setting the pattern.
3. Stack or packet cut method – all in one

Building the packet.
3. Stack or packet cut method – all in one

Finished picture.
Curiosity Cabinet – door image.
Door pattern ‘traced’ onto scanned image.
3. Stack or packet cut method – all in one

Door pattern.
Parquetry

- Use cutting board with back stop.
- Use spacers for sizing – nuts, coins, washers, etc.
- Cut strips with scalpel.
- Glue edges.
- Use masking tape to pull strips together.
- Veneer tape over joint, weight down until dry.
- Re-cut and repeat the above.

Useful links

Marquetry specialists:  
www.originalmarquetry.co.uk  
www.schurchwoodwork.com

Think veneer:  
www.constantines.com

Veneer supplies:  
www.mcb-supplies.co.uk  
www.kerriebearveneers.com  
www.veneersupplies.com

MOP shell inlays:  
www.luthiersupply.com  
www.mopsupplies.com

How to:  
www.marquetrysociety.ca  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jScr9gAvULU