



Scott Horsburgh
Designer and Maker of Fine Handcrafted Furniture

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Piece: Display cabinet on a stand

Subject: The making of the cabinet back frame.

In Ezine 3 I discussed the making of the back panel. One thing I failed to mention was why I used the lighter huon pine on the inside and the darker jarrah on the outside. It was, as mentioned in David Charlesworths article, to brighten the inside of the cabinet. It does this beautifully.

The back frame is bridle jointed. When cutting the bridle joints I have cut the mortises first on the bandsaw. I decided on the width of the tenon and then used marking gauges to mark out each side of the mortise from the face side. I set up a fence on the bandsaw for the first cut and cut all of the members with the face side to the fence. I then set the fence up for the second cut and did the same. I then removed the waste with the coping saw and cut to the shoulder line with a chopping chisel.

Below: Cutting the waste away with the coping saw.



Below: Cutting to the shoulder line with a small chopping chisel.



Once the mortises are cut, use the marking gauges to mark out the tenon from the face side on the tenon members. I also cut the tenons on the bandsaw and am aiming to get this cut to fit perfectly into the mortises. This will avoid the need to pare to the line. Test the fence position by using a piece of scrap and do not cut the actual tenons until you are happy with the placement. The same routine applies for the second tenon cut. By using a test piece and ensuring the cuts are accurate, you should be able to cut right to the gauge line and have a perfect fit. You are seeking to have the outer and inner surfaces as flush as possible.

I have then sawn off the tenon waste with a tenon saw as close to the shoulder line as possible. I have then used my large chopping chisel to cut cleanly to the shoulder line.

Once the bridle joints are cut you need to prepare the grooves on all members to hold the panel. I have cut this groove on my router table after testing the cuts on scrap to ensure the placement is perfect. I have then taken several cuts and increased the depth with each cut.

Below: Tenoned members showing the routed groove to hold the panel.



In Ezine 5 I will discuss the glue up of the back frame and panel.

Scotty Horsburgh
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