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Article 4: 16th July 2009

Piece: Sideboard

Subject: Veneering of Panels.



In Ezine 3 I explained why I have chosen to use veneered panels rather than solid wood panels. In this Ezine I am going to show you the very basic set-up that I am using to lay the veneers. The veneers I am currently laying are commercial veneers of 0.6mm thick. These veneers are being used on the two end frame panels, all of the interior panels and the back panels. The door panels are being veneered from hand cut veneers of 2.4mm thick that I cut on the bandsaw using the re-sawing jig shown in the photos under the 'Latest Project' tab. When I make the doors I will be taking photos and writing articles about that process.

This article is concerned with the preparation and laying of the commercial veneers. I do not have a vacuum veneering system. This is a piece of equipment that I will be buying soon as it will be a huge time saver and easily enable the

veneering of curved work as well as flat work. For this job I am compressing the veneered panel between sheets of 16mm mdf. I am preparing a base of two sheets of 16mm mdf and then laying the veneered board on top of that. I am using two sheets of mdf to help ensure complete flatness. I then lay sheets of newspaper on top of the veneer being glued to the substrate and place the other two 16mm boards of mdf on top of that. I am then using 6 x 10kg weights and as many clamps as I have to clamp the whole structure together. I am trimming the mdf to be slightly larger than the substrate being veneered so that I can maximize clamping pressure.

Before I commence shooting the veneer edges to ensure a perfect join I need to have a look at the face sides and determine their exact alignment. Once I have determined how they will be aligned I can trim them so that one end will be in line with the other. Because I will start taping the veneers together on the face to be glued to the substrate, having one end in line with the other makes putting them together easy. The picture below shows a straight edge and the veneer saw which I used to simply cut along the edge.



The first step in preparing the veneers is to shoot the edges where you are joining the veneers together. This was demonstrated in DVD 2. The photos below show the two veneers folded together like a book and clamped between two pieces of hardwood/(Jarrah). The edges are protruding out from the edge of the jarrah by only 2mm so that edge can be planed. If you protrude the edge too much the veneer may bend and prevent you from cutting a clean, straight edge.





As was demonstrated in DVD2, I will hollow the length by taking stop shavings and then take one or two full through shavings to get the final cut. Once this is done I am then in a position to tape the veneers together. When taping I will start by taping the two pieces together on the side to be glued down to the substrate. I will have to remove this tape before gluing but initially it holds the two pieces together and enables me to then turn the taped piece over and examine the join from the 'show face'. I use blue tape when taping on the 'glue side' as it is much easier to remove than the light tan tape that is lightly wet before taping down.

Hold the two veneers together as crisply at the join as you can and begin to tape them together.





Once you have taped them together you can turn the piece over and have a look at the 'show face' and see how tightly the edge join has pulled together.



If you are happy with your join you can then tape the 'show surface' using the stronger light tan coloured veneering tape. This tape needs to be slightly wet before placing onto the veneer. Once you have taped the 'show surface' you can then safely remove the blue tape from the surface to be glued to the substrate.



Turn the piece over and carefully remove the blue tape from the surface to be glued.



You are now ready to glue the veneer to the substrate material. The substrate material I am using in the sideboard is White Birch Multiply (WBM). I am using Better Bond Cold Press Veneer Adhesive as the glue to bond the two together. I use a roller to apply an even coat of glue to the substrate. I then place the veneer carefully onto the substrate and cover the veneer with newspaper. Then I cover the top surface with two pieces of 16mm mdf and place as many clamps as possible.







When I was veneering the sideboard base I used a large garbage bin two thirds filled with water to give some clamping pressure.



Below: One side of the veneered base.



One last very important point. Make sure you veneer both sides of the substrate.

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