

SCROLLSAWS

By Jacob von Holzen

CLOGGING SCROLLSAW BLADE;

If you find the piece of timber you are cutting keeps clogging the blade or is burning, try a strip of cellotape over the line along which you are cutting. Cutting through the cellotape seems to lubricate the blade and also to act as a cooling agent and prevents burning.

CUTTING PLASTIC OR SIMILAR;

Cut at a very slow speed. If the blade speed is too fast the plastic will melt and adhere to the blade.

DENTS IN TIMBER;

If you accidentally knock a dent into a piece of timber, wet the dent with water, cover with brown paper and apply a hot iron. Repeat until the dent has disappeared. Allow to cool and sand lightly.

NAILING THIN TIMBER;

When nailing thin timber, 3mm to 6mm. I always drill pilot holes to avoid splitting. I use a brad selected for the job as a drill bit. Cut off the head of the brad and use in the drill. Saves a lot of heartache.

GLUING A NARROW FACE;

To apply glue to a narrow face, hold the glue container as you would a pencil, and guide the nozzle of the glue container with your middle finger rubbing the edge of the timber as a guide. Squeeze the glue container gently while doing so. A neat controlled bead of glue can be spread down the centre line quite easily.

GLUING OVERLAYS;

To apply glue to the underside of fretted overlays, I use a small roller covered with foam plastic to spread the glue in an even layer.

GLUING SMALL ITEMS;

Small items can be held together with rubber bands. Spring clothes pegs make handy little clamps. Bricks make ideal weights to hold down items while the glue is drying.

GLUING SURFACE;

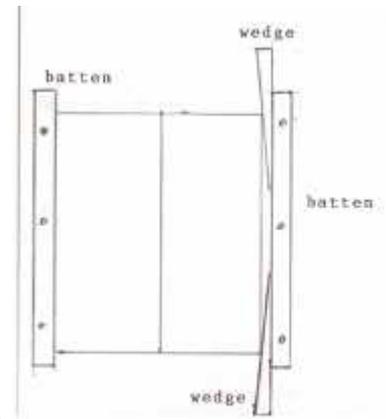
I have a piece of 18mm particle board which fits my work bench. This I cover with a plastic sheet and use this surface for all my glue jobs. The plastic prevents the glued workpiece from sticking to the surface of my work bench.



JOINING SMALL Thin BOARDS;

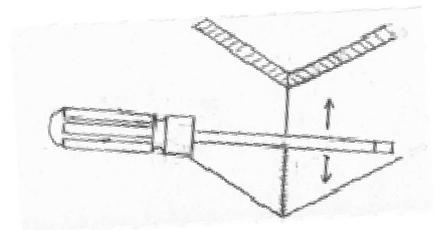
Small thin boards are easily glued together using the method illustrated in the drawing. Place a piece of plastic sheeting under the work. Brad down two battens about 6mm further apart than the width of the pieces of timber to be joined, glue the joint, rub together. Then knock in the two wedges until tight. Place a weight (brick) over the boards to stop from bowing up.

The wedges I cut from 18mm stock, 150mm long and 12mm wide.

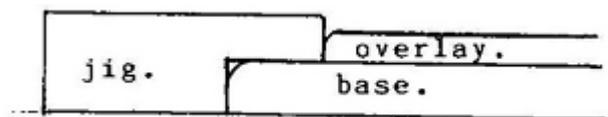


ROUNDING MITRED CORNERS;

Using a round tool (screwdriver) rub up and down the outside edge of the mitre applying pressure against the edge while doing so. This will crush the sharp edge and result in a smooth rounded edge.



When I glue overlays onto the base timber, I make little jigs with a notch cut from one end to help me position the overlay correctly.



GLUING A MITRED BOX;

Gluing a box with mitred corners can be a problem. My method makes this simple. I lay the pieces in sequence (end-side-end-side) along a straight edge, face side up, and tape the joining edges together with strips of tape and one end. See fig. 1. then turn the taped pieces over and apply glue to the valleys and the untapped end. See fig. 2. Stand on edge and fold the ends together and wrap the loose ends of the remaining tape around the final corner. Check with a set square and add weight until dry see fig. 3.

