



A jigsaw puzzle by Jacob



A small lidded bowl by Jim Reilly

## Making your own inlay Banding

By Jacob von Holzen

Because of the prohibitive cost and difficulty to obtain I decided to make my own. I developed a system using the 'entrapment' method, and also the principal that is better to cut fine lines and small pieces if the veneer is already glued to a 'parent' piece of material. Basically the technique consists of stringers and fillers (fig.1) all of which can be made quite easily by following a few simple rules.

Each one consists of a 'infill' pattern enclosed within two outer stringers. I will deal with the outer stringers first. Take a piece of dark veneer 300mm long and 50mm wide. We will stick to the length of 300mm steel rule until experience has been gained. The finished banding can be joined almost invisible anyway when applied to a project. Cut a piece of dark veneer (Walnut) longitudinally down the centre. Now take a piece of white veneer (Sycamore) 300mm long by 25mm wide with the edges perfectly straight. Turn this piece over after trimming the edge glue between the two dark pieces. The reason for turning the piece of Sycamore over is so that the bevels left by the knife cuts will mate up with the two dark pieces. This is very important to achieve a close joint. After gluing, secure the pieces with low tack tape placed crosswise to pull the joints together.

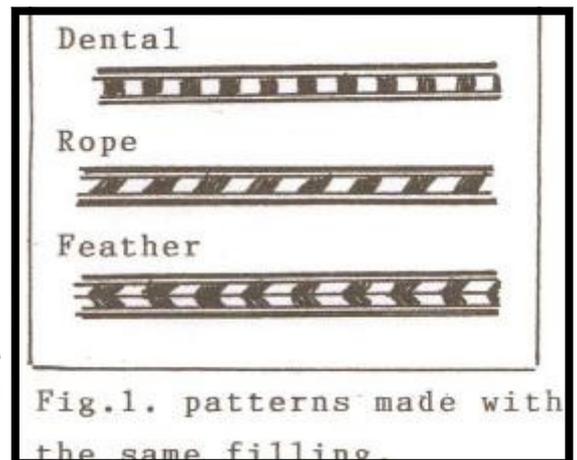


Fig.1. patterns made with the same filling

Place your 300mm steel rule on the assembly with a millimetre of white showing. It is virtually useless to work to a pencil line on such fine limits. What I do is place a small steel rule against the main rule. Measure top and bottom then then make the cut. Fig 2 will make this clear. Repeat with the other edge of the assembly and laly these pieces aside until the infill is made.

For the infill strips select a piece each of straight grained Mahogany and Sycamore about 100mm square, and have ready a square piece of board with some wide tape sticky inside upheld in place with small pieces of tape. Take the of mahogany and press firmly up against the fence of the cutting board so the cut will be across the grain. Place a spacer of the desired width at each end of the veneer. Hold the straight edge firmly against the spacers and down on the veneer to cut.

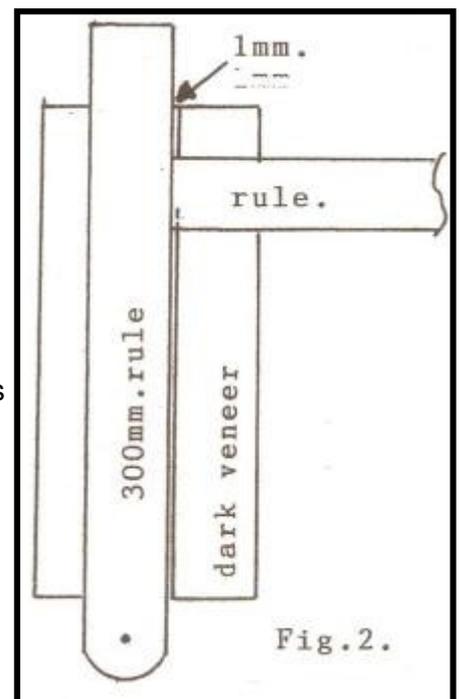


Fig.2.

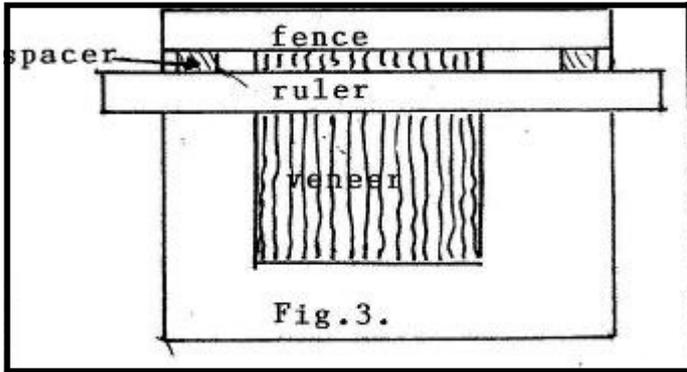
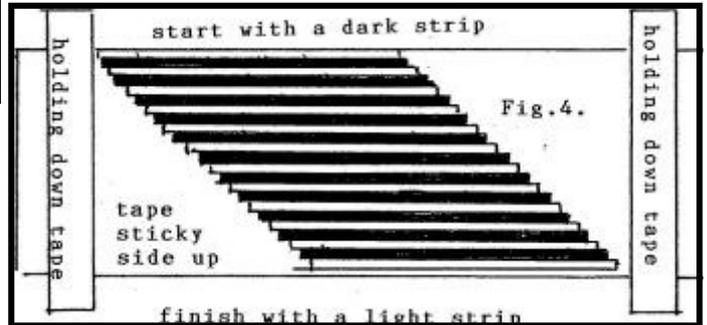


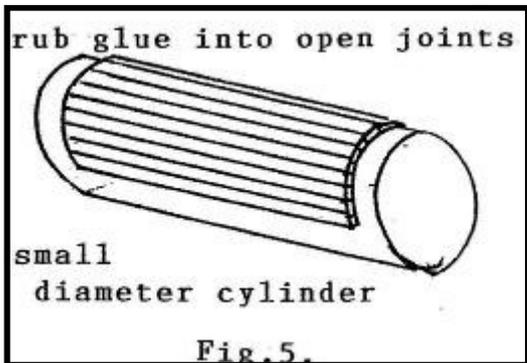
Fig. 3 will make this clear.

Make the cut and place the resultant strip down on the sticky surface. Now cut a strip of Sycamore, turn it over as mentioned before and lay this alongside the Mahogany strip.. Proceed in this manner until you have built up a stock sheet about 75mm wide. Don't use glue at this stage. Fig 4 shows the built up for the feather patterns, where each strip



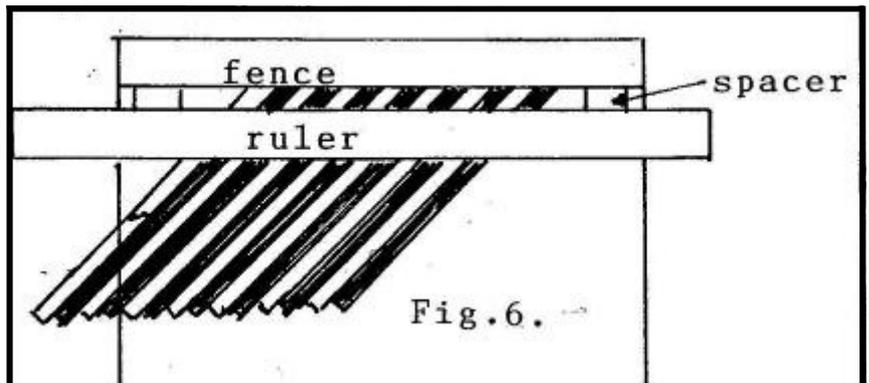
is off-set to avoid waste when cutting through 45 degrees. The dentil pattern is built with the ends of the stringers straight.

I prefer to have the assemble fully glued up as a sheet of man-made veneer. To do this, find a small diameter bottle or canister,



lay the assembly over this and rub some diluted P.V.A. Glue into the open joints, Fig. 5, lay flat and remove excess glue by placing a piece of paper on top and rubbing with side of hand and leave under weight until dry. Remove all the tape.

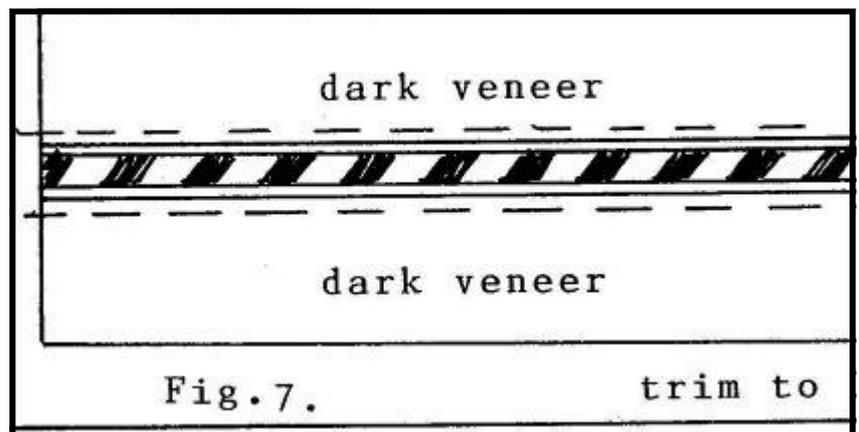
Incidentally I am often asked what I mean by diluted P.V.A. Glue. What proportions? I find a teaspoon of water to an egg-cup of glue is ideal.



I prefer to cut the Mahogany-Sycamore man-made veneer into strips before assembling. After you cut each strip lay it out in careful sequence onto a flat surface ready for use. Fig. 6.

Place one of the stringer pieces up against the fence add the infill's until the length is made up. Take care to make sure the colours follow in sequence. Add the other stringer piece and tape together with strips of magic tape across the assembly to hold it firmly together. Fig. 7.

Fold the taped strip towards the taped side to expose the edges and rub glue into the joints. Wipe off excess and put under weight until dry. When dry all that needs to be done now is to measure and cut 1mm stringers from the back sections and there is your piece of inlay banding. Fig. 7.



For reversed feather pattern of course an extra cut will have to be made and turned over.

These stringer assemblies are easy to make and the infill patterns can be replaced with narrow strips of stripy veneers cut across the grain.

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