



Marquetry with Quentin Smith

Quentin had a stand close by our club at the Daventry show last year. During lulls in visitor interest our members strayed across to view what Quentin was about. They decided the club should give him a wider audience than just them.

Quentin was a micro biologist for much of his life but then sort of strayed into actually earning a living from his hobby. He is now the President of the Marquetry Society.

All this he told us during his first demonstration as he was cutting and forming a simple but very effective rose.

This first demo was to show the "Window method". This is where you cut out pieces to slot into a hole you have made in a background veneer.

1. Start with the full design on a piece of paper. Attach this to the background sheet.



Wait for TV to come back on



From this you transfer the part you will inlay onto the background sheet using carbon paper. You can still get carbon paper although you will get odd looks when you ask for it. How times have changed.



2. Cut away the 'hole' into which you will insert your background piece of veneer.

3. Next cut out the matching piece its self from your piece of veneer. Quentin explained that these cuts should be made with a stabbing action. Should you try to do a continuous cut then invariably the cut will stray to follow the grain of the wood. Although this will be quite a minor stray it will show up on the finished article.

4. Insert this piece into the hole cut earlier. Tape in place with masking tape and fill the minute gap by rubbing in wood glue. Tape up on this side as well.

5. Repeat the process and build up the final picture.

The knife Quentin used was an Eric Ives craft knife. He explained how ordinary craft knives do not have strong shoulders and therefore when using the stabbing action tend to snap at the shoulder of the blade. The "Eric" knife was designed by a man who simply got fed up of breaking knives and having to stop whilst he changed the blade.

After the tea break:-



Parketry

Having made a very decent 'Rose Design' in the first half we turned to doing geometric designs by cutting strips on veneer and then inter weaving them to create different geometric effects.

1. Cut a straight edge to you veneer sheet. And butt this up against a heavy metal ruler that you have fixed on the board.

2. Set two spacers up against the heavy straight edge. These determine the width of the strips you will use throughout the design.
3. Cut a strip to the width you have fixed. Repeat many times.
4. Repeat the whole process with another colour veneer.



5. Now you have to decide on the pattern you want as a finished item.

The strips are cross cut as required so you have multiple small pieces of both colours. These are assembled a

row at a time and held together with masking tape a row at a time.

As in the strip above the strips are simply alternate colours with a band each side. Below you can see the effect of cutting the strips at a 60 degree angle then assembling them.



On the left is the hexagon design inlaid to make a small mat. On the right in the centre is a simple geometric design applied to a jewel box. Whilst the mat on the left of the picture is the 'window' style application.

Quentin pointed out that whilst you could make pictures out of marquetry for wood turners its real use was enhancement of a bowl or platter by insertion of a band around a rim of a bowl or inlaying a top with a simple circular pattern.

Whilst showing off some of the circular inserts we could use he demonstrated how to get a really good circle. You can, of course, use any device for drawing a circle but the next stage is to cut it out of the veneer. Invariably this will not be truly circular. You can buy a template device that has multiple circles and comes with a cutter that slots in a rolls round the edge giving a near perfect cut every time.



From the complex to the simple

Note: supplies of veneers can be obtained from:

<http://www.thewoodvenerhub.co.uk/>

Forthcoming Attractions - 2017

Meetings normally are on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections. Meetings start at **7pm**.

Mar 2nd AGM

Apr 6th Hands on and start on Mrs Woody

May 4th

Remember: members who demonstrate will receive payment.

Committee

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Chairman | Nick Milton | nick.milton5@ntlworld.com |
| Vice-Chairman | Ken Croft | Kay_cee@talktalk.net |
| Secretary | Steve Jennings | 01295 812147 stevejennings070@btinternet.com |
| Membership Sec. | Vacant | |
| Demo Organiser | Vacant | See above - Nick until AGM |
| Treasurer | David Williams | 01788 810035 vrseurope@btinternet.com |
| Editor | Mike Sharman | michael.sharman1@tiscali.co.uk |