

## "Bald Eagle"



### Introduction

Welcome to marquetry kit "Bald Eagle" from QJS Marquetry. This design is relatively simple to cut, but requires some careful shading for best effect.

The pack includes all the veneers required to make the picture, giving options in some cases.

### Getting Started

Ideally, before starting this design you should have followed our "Introduction to Marquetry by the Window Method" sheet and made the "leaf" test piece satisfactorily.

Tape the design sheet onto one of the background pieces so that the bird is positioned where you want it to be. As the feathers sit in "layers" one above another, it is best to start with the dark body area. You can either cut individual feathers, as marked on the drawing, or cut a single piece as in the illustration above. Do not try to cut the intricate shape of the top of the body part - just cut the piece larger than required (there is a dotted line on the design to guide you).

Continue cutting in pieces, working up towards the large white pieces for the cheek and top of the head. Shade your veneers by dipping the edge in hot sand (take care, it needs to be very hot), touching against a hot soldering iron or using a hot-air paint stripper. If using the iron, make sure the shading goes all through the veneer and isn't just "drawn" on one side - if you do that it will be lost when you sand down your picture during finishing.

Finally, cut in the beak and finally the eye (see hints for the eye below).

## Hints

- When cutting detail, protect the work and avoid losing small pieces by taping with masking tape. You can tape on the front or the back and both have advantages. Taping on the back allows you to see exactly where you are cutting on the front. However, after inserting the piece you need to tape the front, then remove the tape from the back before gluing up. Taping the insert piece on the front can help you to see your marking through.
- For the eye, join small pieces of black and grey. Cut a circle in the "iris" veneer and place the black/grey assembly behind. Cut in the pupil in one piece. Similarly cut the opening for the eye and position the iris and pupil behind. Subtle changes in position will change the expression of your bird, so choose carefully!
- Note that the man-made veneers may have a fibrous "fleece"-like material on one side. This is added by the manufacturers to strengthen the veneers, which are otherwise very fragile. The fleece-side should be the back of your picture.



Veneers provided (typically):

Background – Cherry (*Prunus spp.*)

White - Commercially Bleached - Anigre (*Aninger spp.*) or similar

Flecked white – man-made veneer intended to mimic masur birch

Beak – Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

Brown – Walnut (*Juglans regia*) or similar

Dark brown – bog oak (*Quercus spp.*) or stained lacewood (*Platanus spp.*)

Black, Grey – commercially dyed veneer, usually sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

For more help and information about marquetry please contact:

**QJS Marquetry**

01785 850614

[www.qjsmarquetry.co.uk](http://www.qjsmarquetry.co.uk)