

"Have A Go" Marquetry Kit



Introduction

Welcome to our simple "Have a Go" marquetry kit from QJS Marquetry. This simple exercise includes pre-marked veneers to give you every chance of achieving a good result. All the veneers are real wood, though most are commercially dyed to provide the bold colours.

The methods you'll use are similar, but a little easier, than those used for standard marquetry. But if you enjoy this you'll be ready to take on one of our range of kits.

The veneers have tape on the back – **DON'T REMOVE IT!**

Getting Started

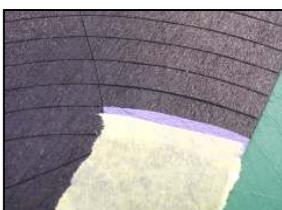
First assemble your knife, taking care with the sharp blade. Follow the instructions on the knife packet and note that the small closed section of the knife slot should support the back of the blade. In addition to the knife you'll need a surface to work on (a craft cutting mat is ideal but a kitchen board or some strong cardboard will do), masking tape (or clear tape) and some PVA wood glue.

Let's start by taking the black background piece. Note that it has all the lines partly cut through. The lines also pass right through the heart shape – this is to do with the marking process – we only need to cut the outer rainbow sections. Start at the lower part of the rainbow, as there are some spare purple and blue pieces in case of mistakes.

Carefully cut out one of the bottom pieces of the rainbow. Don't press too hard, but let your knife follow the groove. Keep the blade upright – we want square edges to our cut, not an angled "plug-hole" shape. It should take four or five strokes to cut right through.

When cutting near the edge of the sheet it's best to cut "inwards" from the edge so as not to tear the veneer.

Then take the purple veneer and check which of the two shapes you require. Carefully cut the piece out, again letting your knife follow the groove and keeping your knife perpendicular to the surface.



Insert the piece into the slot in the background and hold it tightly in place with a piece of tape. If you only tape the lower side, as shown left, the tape won't be in your way when you cut the next piece.



Continue cutting out each section one at a time and then cutting its insert piece and taping it in place. You'll end up with several pieces of tape on top of each other – that's fine.

You might be wondering why we didn't just cut out all the pieces and fit them like a jigsaw puzzle? This is for two reasons. Firstly it's actually more difficult than you might expect to juggle all the pieces and get them fitting well together and secondly cutting out pieces one at a time and "replacing" them with a different piece is much closer to the standard marquetry "window method".

Repeat the exercise cutting out the other section of the rainbow. The orange piece is a little tricky. Take care not to lose any pieces from the cross-grain point (the tape on the back is your friend here!)

Once you have cut all the rainbow sections you can remove the heart and cut out the shape to fit in the hole. Make sure that all the joints on the front are taped, then turn the work over and carefully remove the tape from the back. Peel the tape back on itself – don't lift it – and pull gently and steadily.

Spread a little PVA glue over all the joints on the back, then rub this into the joints. Use a smooth tool like a spoon handle and press gently but firmly to force the glue into the joints. The pressure should be something like you would use to reveal a scratch-card. Scrape or wipe off any surplus glue and allow time for the glue to set.



So How's This Different to "Real Marquetry"?

The main difference is the pre-marked lines. When making a picture from a line drawing or photograph you would keep that taped to your "background" (the black piece here) and trace through each element you want to cut using carbon paper or transfer paper. You would then cut out the piece (knife upright!) to create your "window". Now you would try different pieces behind the window to see the effect and, when you've chosen, you would cut out the insert piece using the hole as your guide. Once you'd marked all round you would cut out the piece just as you did here with the rainbow segments. The piece is inserted, taped and glued straight away. For more details see our "Introduction to Marquetry by the Window Method" and try the practice exercise enclosed (<http://qjsmarquetry.co.uk/downloads/instructions-window-method.pdf>)

Finishing Off

You may be happy with your completed picture "as it is", but you may prefer to stick it to a thin board (3mm MDF is excellent) and then sand and polish the wood to bring out the colours. To do that you'll need to tape the front and clean off any tape from the back before sticking down. Instructions and ideas for this can be found on our website at: <http://qjsmarquetry.co.uk/downloads/instructions-finishing.pdf>

Alternatively you could mount it in a picture/photo frame, or stick it to a greetings card – the choice is yours.

What's Next?

Why not try one of our kits?

<http://qjsmarquetry.co.uk/marquetry-kits.php>

For more help and information about marquetry please contact:

- **QJS Marquetry**
01785 850614
www.qjsmarquetry.co.uk

- **The Marquetry Society**
www.marquetry.org