

"Hummingbirds"**Introduction**

Welcome to marquetry kit "Hummingbirds" from QJS Marquetry. These designs are relatively simple to cut, but ideally need careful use of shading for best effect

The pack includes enough veneer to make both designs. (Please note that the colours may differ slightly from those shown in the pictures.)

Getting Started

In addition to the kit you will need a sharp craft knife, 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.

Ideally, before starting these designs you should have followed our "Introduction to Marquetry by the Window Method" and made the "leaf" practice piece satisfactorily. (Instructions available at <http://qjsmarquetry.co.uk/downloads/instructions-window-method.pdf>)

The "horizontal" bird is slightly easier, so we recommend that beginners start with that design first. Tape the design sheet onto one of the background pieces so that the bird is positioned where you want it to be. There is no obvious "best" place to start, so we suggest cutting in the two large white pieces first. These can be cut slightly bigger and more simply than their finished shape (except where the edge of the piece is the outline of the bird) to make them easier.

Some of your veneers have been shaded by dipping the edge in hot sand. Select the areas you use so that you achieve differentiation between feathers, etc.

Continue cutting and inserting pieces in the order of your choice.

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.
- You can save time, and ensure some really tight joints, by cutting a large piece and then splitting it into smaller pieces before shading and fitting. For example, the four tail feathers of the horizontal bird were cut as one piece, and the wing feathers were initially cut as two pieces.

Cheat! – If you want to get fine lines between feathers you can use a permanent marker (not a water-based one as the colour may run into the PVA glue) to carefully colour the edge of each piece – taking care not to get ink on the veneer face. Once the pieces have dried, place them into your picture and glue up as normal.



Left: a single piece of wing veneer (here grey) was cut to fit the window and then cut into five pieces.

Right: We shaded the pieces after cutting, but you can achieve the same effect by carefully selecting shaded areas of the veneer.



- Cut the highlight for the eye into a piece of the black veneer. Then cut the aperture for the pupil in a piece of the white veneer and cut in the black including the highlight. Finally cut the whole assembly into the head in one go, taking care to position the eye correctly. (Working this way means the pieces are less likely to break up and it is easier to position the small elements correctly)

- The tail feathers on the upright bird can be made easier by first making a small sub-assembly. Cut diagonally across a piece of the blue veneer, shade or colour one edge and then assemble on a piece of tape so that the grain directions are angled to each other (see picture). Then cut in the two parts of each feather together as a single piece, remembering to have the grain direction running downwards.



- How about cutting in a few small flowers for your bird to feed from?

Finishing Off

You may be happy with your completed picture "as it is", but you may prefer to stick it to a baseboard and then sand and polish the wood to bring out the colours. Instructions and ideas for this can be found on our website at:

<http://qjsmarquetry.co.uk/downloads/instructions-finishing.pdf>

For more help and information about marquetry please contact:

- **QJS Marquetry**

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- **The Marquetry Society**

www.marquetry.org

