

"Kingfishers"



Introduction

Welcome to the marquetry kit "Kingfishers" from QJS Marquetry. The designs are relatively simple to cut, but ideally include some careful shading for best effect

The pack includes enough veneer for both designs - please note that you may have slightly different colours 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.

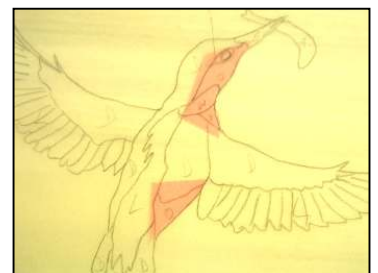
Ideally, before starting this design you should have followed our "Introduction to Marquetry by the Window Method" and made the "leaf" test piece satisfactorily.
(Instructions available at <http://qjsmarquetry.co.uk/downloads/instructions-window-method.pdf>)

The standing bird is the slightly easier design, so we suggest you start with that one, and we think the picture will look better using the background with the grain running horizontally.

Tape the design sheet onto the background piece so that the bird is positioned where you want it to be. The twig is a good place to start and we recommend running this right to the edge of the veneer so it runs right through the picture.

Continue cutting and inserting pieces in the order of your choice. Remember that it can be easier (and quicker) to cut some of the early pieces a little larger than final size, and a simpler shape – like the two orange pieces in the photo. Don't overcut where it is a final line in the picture though!

Where very fine lines are required to delineate the feathers there are several methods you can use. The "classic" way is to insert a tiny sliver of veneer, but this is a skilled process. Simpler, if you have the facility, is to shade your veneers by dipping the edge in hot sand (take care, it needs to be very hot) or touching against a hot soldering iron. 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 should you choose to sand down your picture during finishing. Alternatively there is a cheat!

Cheat for Veins – Cut pieces to fit, but **DO NOT GLUE THEM IN**. Using a marker pen (ideally a permanent one as the colour from water-based ones may run into the PVA glue) 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.

Hints

- When cutting detail, protect the work and avoid losing small pieces by taping with masking tape (remember that important parts of the background may be vulnerable and need taping as well – such as the area between the tail feathers shown). 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. This works particularly well for the tail, and the feathers on the wings of the flying bird, which can be cut in four or five pieces and then split.
- Cut the highlight for the eye into a piece of the black veneer. (It's easier if the hole is rectangular, then you can cut a thin sliver of white and chop off a piece to fit). Then cut the aperture for the pupil in a piece of the light blue 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)



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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www.qjsmarquetry.co.uk
- **The Marquetry Society**
www.marquetry.org

