

"Rudolph"

Introduction

Welcome to the "Rudolph" kit from QJS Marquetry. This simple design is a great introduction to basic marquetry techniques, however you might like to read our "Introduction to Marquetry by the Window Method" sheet and perhaps make the "leaf" test piece from that first. (See www.qjsmarquetry.co.uk/kits.php)

In the pack you'll find the red, brown, white, cream and black veneers, and a thicker shape which will be the centre

of your pendant/Christmas Tree decoration.

We'll be following the design above, but you don't need to be exact. Changing the position of the eye or antlers will change the expression of your Rudolph. You'll need a craft knife, some sticky tape, a cutting board or thick cardboard to work on, some PVA glue and a strong clamp. A paper punch might be handy if you have one.



Draw round the oval shape onto a piece of the black veneer. Keep enough of the black for later to cover the back of the shape (or make a second Rudolph).

Draw the position of his head as a single piece – use light pencil lines to keep your work clean (I've used heavy lines here so they show in the photos!)



Carefully cut along the line keeping the knife upright to make a clean cut.

Place the brown veneer behind the black with the grain direction running horizontally (it's easier!). Keep the knife against the edge of the hole and carefully mark the brown veneer with tiny pricks.

Then cut out the piece of brown, which should fit perfectly!



Fasten the pieces together with some sticky tape on the front, remove any tape from the back and rub a little PVA glue into the joint. Remove excess glue and put a piece of tape on the back to hold everything in place.

Always extend beyond the edge of the shape, so you have a little room for error when sticking down.



Next cut the aperture for the nose. If you have a paper punch the right size you can cut the hole and the red piece to fit them using the punch, otherwise cut the hole and insert piece using the "window method".



Then cut and glue in the eye. It's easier to cut a small oval of black into a piece of white veneer and allow the glue to dry. Then cut the hole for the eye and place the eye assembly behind the hole. Small movements of the eye will change Rudolph's expression, so experiment until you are happy, then cut in the eye.



Finally we'll make the antlers. Tape the back of the work before cutting the hole for the antlers as otherwise you may lose fragile parts of the background. You can try to insert the whole antler in one go, but it's much easier to make them one "prong" at a time. Start from the outermost prongs and work back towards his head, cutting and gluing in each piece in turn.

Once the glue is set, tape the front of the design and remove all tape from the back. Rub some PVA glue onto the oval shape and glue it to the veneer – DON'T put the glue on Rudolph as he'll curl up and be difficult to handle. If the shape already has a hanging hole make sure that the hole is at the top, otherwise Rudolph will be flying upside down!



You'll need to use some flat wood and a good clamp to ensure it sticks properly. You may find a little glue will come through your joints, or even through pores in the veneer, so use a piece of plastic to stop your Rudolph sticking where it shouldn't! Strong spring clips like those used for keeping papers together will work, but make sure they do not bruise the delicate veneers.

Hint: ensure you mark the hanging hole through, and trim off the excess veneer from the side, before you glue on the back of your Rudolph. It's much harder to trim the second side, or find the hole, otherwise!

Hint: When removing tape from the veneer always peel it right back on itself to minimise the chance of pulling out your newly inserted piece. Sometimes tape can lift fibres from the veneer. If that starts to happen STOP PULLING – and instead pull the tape from the other end – it will come off more easily.

Your Rudolph will look great now, but to finish him off really well carefully sand him flat using a medium-grade abrasive paper to remove any remaining glue or pencil marks. A coat of clear varnish or lacquer will make him shiny and keep him looking smart for next year! Why not email me a picture of your Rudolph for my website?

For more help and information about marquetry please contact QJS Marquetry
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