

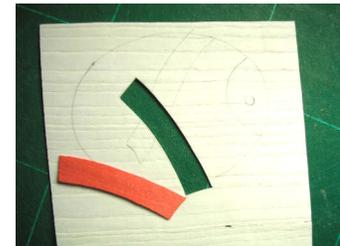
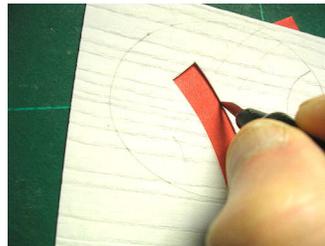
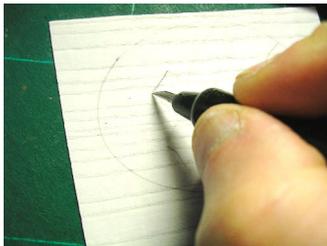
"Snowman"



Introduction

Welcome to the "Snowman" 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, orange, black and white veneers, and a thicker oval 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 eyes or nose will change the expression of your snowman. You'll need a craft knife, some sticky tape (I'm using masking tape in the photos, but clear tape is fine), 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 white veneer. Keep enough of the white for later to cover the back of the shape.

Draw the position of the scarf and hat - use light pencil lines to keep your work clean.

Carefully cut the shape of the scarf, keeping the knife upright to make a clean cut. Extend the scarf beyond the edge of the shape.

Place the red veneer behind the hole you have cut with the grain direction running along the scarf (it's easier!). Keep the knife against the edge of the hole and carefully mark the red veneer with tiny pricks.

Then cut out the piece of scarf, which should fit in the hole perfectly!

Fasten the piece in place with some sticky tape on the front, remove the 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.

Repeat for the other pieces of scarf and the hat - always extend beyond the edge of the oval shape, so you have a little room for error when sticking down.

Next cut and glue in the buttons – these can be made the same way or, if you have a paper punch, you can cut the holes and the black pieces to fit them using the punch. Now you've had practice with the buttons, cut the eyes – again you can use a punch if you have one.



Finally we'll make the nose, and we'll do this a slightly different way to help get a good expression on your snowman's face.



Cut the carrot shape from the orange veneer and try it in different positions top of the design. Once you've chosen the best position, hold it in place and carefully mark round the nose with your knife point, then cut out the hole and glue in the nose.

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 the snowman 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 of your snowman, otherwise he'll be hanging 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 snowman 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.



Once stuck, trim off the excess veneer and mark through the stringing hole. You can cover the back with plain white veneer in the same way, or make a second snowman!

Hint: ensure you mark the hanging hole through, and trim off the excess veneer, before you glue on the back of your snowman. 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 snowman 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 snowman for my website?

For more help and information about marquetry please contact QJS Marquetry

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