

“Union Flag Coasters”

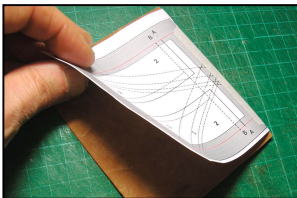


Introduction

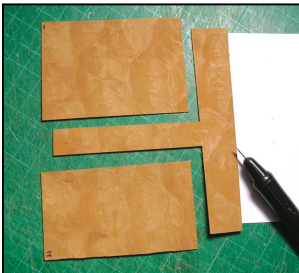
Welcome to the Union Flag Coaster kit from QJS Marquetry. In addition to the materials provided you will need a sharp craft knife, a metal straight-edge or ruler, masking tape (clear sticky tape will do) and some PVA wood glue. For finishing your coaster inserts you might want to use some medium grade abrasive paper and a coat or two of clear lacquer or varnish.

The pack includes enough veneer to make either the "deconstructed" Union Flag designs as pictured, or a set of four full Union Flag designs.

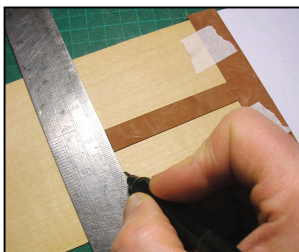
Getting Started



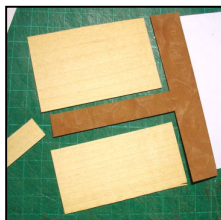
Cut the full flag design from the design sheet. Cut a piece of the "red" veneer a little bigger all round than the overall insert size (check using the clear template). Tape the flag design centrally onto the veneer using a single piece of tape on the right-hand side, like a hinge.



Mark through the two right-angled lines labelled "A". You can use carbon paper (not supplied) or just push your craft knife through the pattern to mark the ends of the lines. Note that the two parts of the vertical line should be exactly in line. Cut along the lines, keeping your knife vertical so the edge of the cut is square. Label and retain the two pieces cut out – we'll need them later.

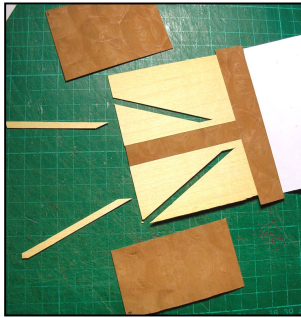


Cut a clean new edge on the right side of a piece of "white" veneer. Place it under the finger of "red" and push the vertical joints together. Secure with a couple of pieces of tape. Trim off the "white" veneer vertically at the end of the "red" "finger". Mark the position of each end of the sides of the "finger" onto the "white" veneer with a knife prick, then remove the white veneer and cut the two pieces. The section that was under the "finger" will be discarded. This method ensures the grain of the "white" veneer continues correctly, regardless of its direction. Tape the two "white" pieces in place and secure with tape on the front. Rub a little PVA glue into the back of the joints and scrape off any excess. Leave for a few minutes to dry.

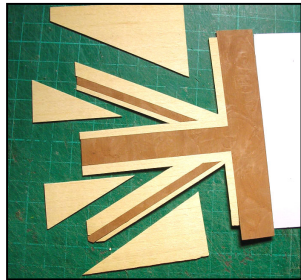


Tape the back of the joints, then carefully remove any tape from the front of the work ready to mark through the next part of the design, which are the two diagonal "red" stripes.

Note that although the lines on the design extend right across the sheet (to assist placement of the straight-edge) no cut must cross any of the dotted lines marked "B" on the drawing.



Mark through and cut out the two areas marked "1" as shown. Turn the work over and tape the two pieces of "red" veneer that we saved earlier behind the "white" pieces. Ensure they are in the correct position and orientation. Mark through, cut out and glue in the pieces as before. Note that depending on the grain direction chosen you may have some very fragile cross-grain corners. If this is the case, tape the back of the pieces before cutting, so that the tape supports the corners.



Once the glue has dried, tape the back of the work and remove any tape from the front, then mark through the four areas labelled "2". Cut these out, then position the "blue" veneer behind the work and fasten in place with a few pieces of tape to prevent movement. You will almost certainly have some cross-grain corners to cut, so ensure these are reinforced with tape. Prick through the edges, then remove the "blue" veneer and cut out the four triangular pieces. Put these into their positions and tape in place. Rub in the glue, then sit back and admire your handywork!

For the individual flag elements, the cross of St. George is simply constructed using the same method as the first section of the Union Flag. The two diagonal crosses are best made by cutting the outside of the "V" and then cutting the insert to fit. Once this is complete, cut the inside of the "V" and cut the original piece back in, such that the grain direction is maintained. Note that the St. Patrick's cross is "red" cut into "white", but the St. Andrew's cross is "white" cut into "blue".

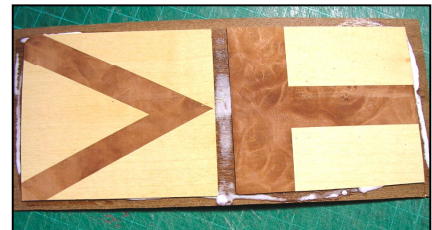
Finishing Off

For a quick result you can simply leave your work taped on the back, trim to size and seal in the small clear pouches supplied with your coasters. However a better, and more durable, method is as follows.



Trim each finished design to size (use the clear template to ensure correct positioning). Keep tape on the front, but remove any tape from the back. Cut a piece of the backing veneer supplied to just bigger than each insert, choosing the grain direction which matches the predominant grain direction of the design. (Crossing the grain would be more likely to cause warping). Apply PVA glue to the backing veneer and immediately glue on the design. Clamp firmly between flat pieces of wood, using a piece of plastic to prevent the inserts sticking to the boards. Note that for good adhesion considerable pressure is needed. Commercial firms use vacuum presses which exert atmospheric pressure - 14 lbs/sq.in. Even on our small coaster inserts we need upwards of 80 lbs, so a couple of books won't do the job! Use screw clamps or similar.

Once glued, the design can be trimmed to size and sanded with a medium grade abrasive sheet (something around 150-250 grit). Take care when sanding – hold the insert down flat on the table and sand from the centre to the outside. Sanding the other way it is easy to catch the edge and damage your work. You may find a small nail file or emery board useful for shaping the edges and corners. Give the inserts a coat or two of clear lacquer or varnish, being sure to varnish both sides so that the inserts are protected against accidental spills.



The Veneers provided will vary according to availability. Those in this set are:

"Red" –

"White" –

Blue" -

For more help and information about marquetry please contact:

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