

Preparing a Blank for a Celtic Christmas Ornament

Prepare a blank longer than you'll need to add safety when making the cuts on the tablesaw. Also use a zero clearance insert for improved safety.

Blanks should be between 2"-2 1/2" and long enough to extend a good ways down the miter.

Set miter angle to between 18-22 ° to get a good angle on the bands.

Add a stop block to the miter, so that the cuts can be positioned the same distance from the top as you go around the blank.

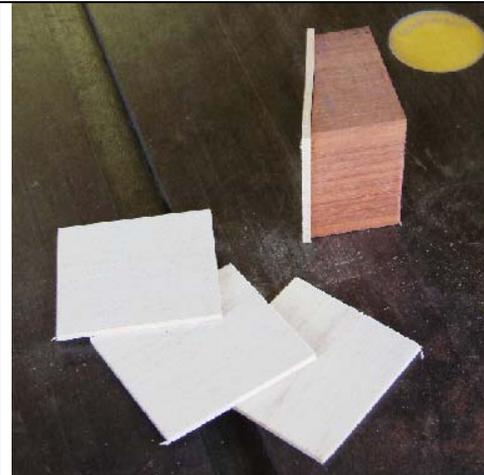


Prepare your veneer for the contrasting bands. The thickness of the veneer should be the same as the thickness of your saw blade, ie. 1/8" for a regular saw blade and slightly less for a thin kerf blade.

If using a planer, you should stick down the thin stock with double stick tape to a carrier board for safety, since most planers can only go to 1/8" and can catch on thin stock. A thickness sander works very well for final thicknessing.



After you've made your first cut, measure the veneer along the cut face and cut four pieces.



Glue the veneer to the top and then the top and veneer to the bottom and clamp. I use a jig with a 2X4 clamped to the table and both the top and bottom sections clamped to it. I then add a third clamp to add end to end pressure. Don't tighten this clamp too much since it can easily shift the blank. Notice a small notch cut in the 2X4 where the edge of the veneer can stick out so it can later be trimmed flush. I use Tite-Bond, since I don't think CA glue will hold the veneer tightly enough when hollowing.



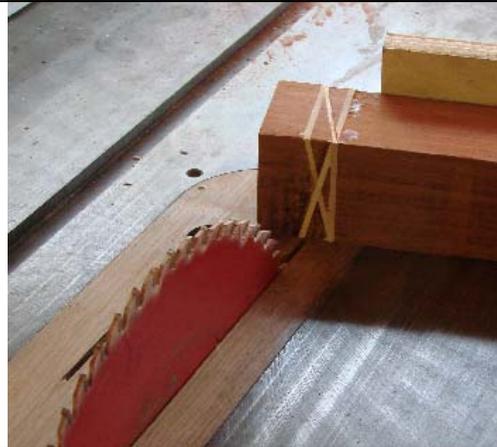
Sand all the faces of the blank smooth on a belt or disk sander. This ensures that your blank is flat for the next cut on the tablesaw.



Make the second cut on the tablesaw. Then repeat the gluing of the veneer.



Repeat cutting and gluing for the last two cuts.



Final blank



Mount the blank on a glue block. If you cut the blank longer, you can mount directly onto a chuck, but I find this method saves wood.



Shape most of the exterior and then hollow. You'll find that the end grain of the veneer is a bit harder to cut, so take extra time to make sure the globe surface is smooth and then sand.

Make the finial and top as you normally would and glue to the globe with CA glue.



Final ornament

