

SQUARE PATTERN



This is a simple but effective pattern that can be used in many designs. I surely didn't come up with this, I only wrote this tutorial. I also use this same pattern in some of my Christmas ornaments.

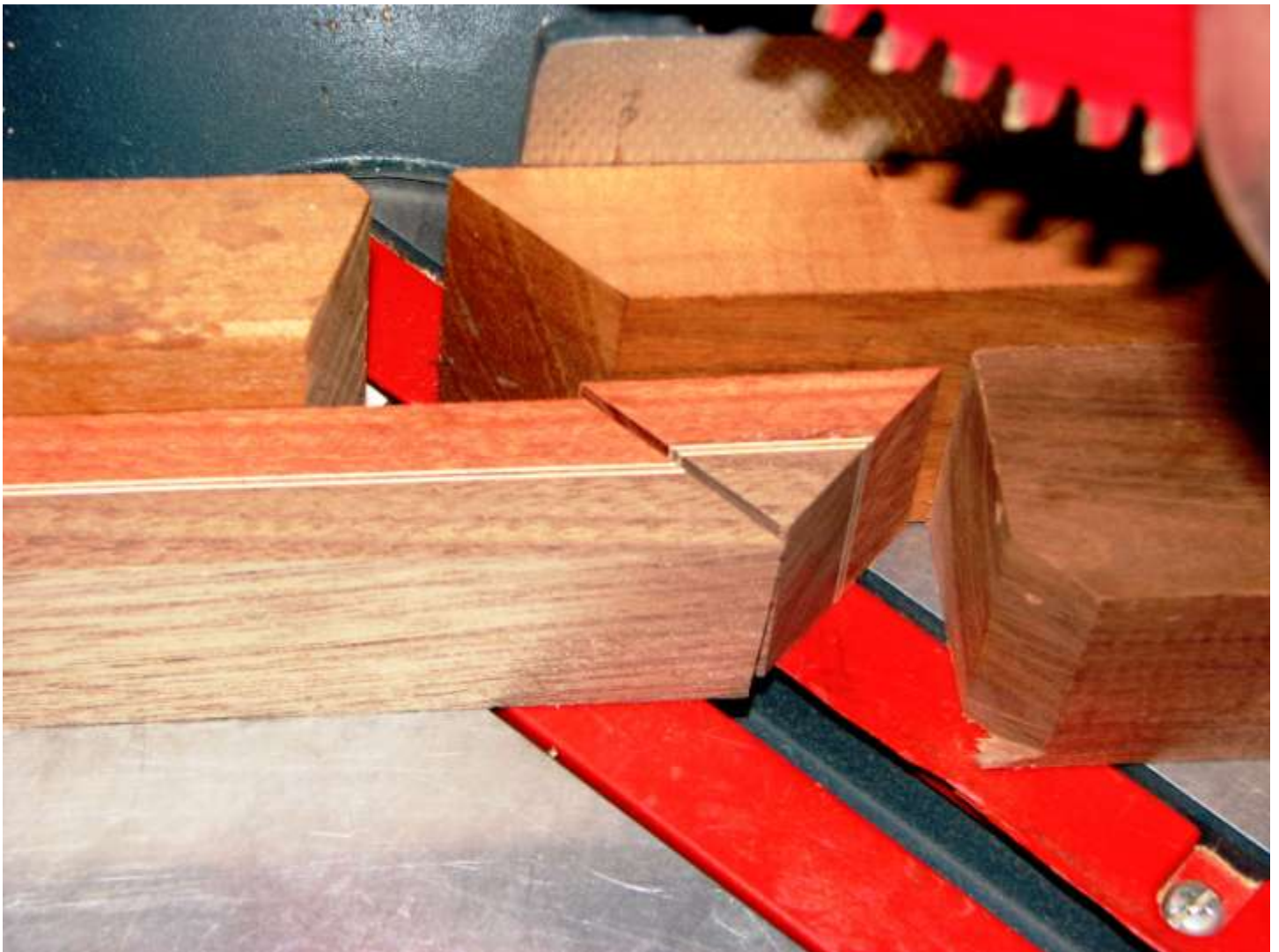
First off I laminate two contrasting lengths of board. The dimensions should be determined by the size of your intended pattern. You can roughly figure that your block will end up about four times the thickness of your board. Example: a $\frac{1}{4}$ " board should yield a square about 1". A $\frac{3}{4}$ " board will yield about a 3" block. So plan accordingly. Also the board length and width should be determined for your particular needs. I usually make mine wider and longer than necessary and if there is any leftover I can play with it on another project.

It's kinda critical that the thickness of the boards be equal so that when you flip the segments each contrasting piece will line up exactly with the other. This will become apparent when you put the pieces together so don't worry-you'll figure it out quickly.

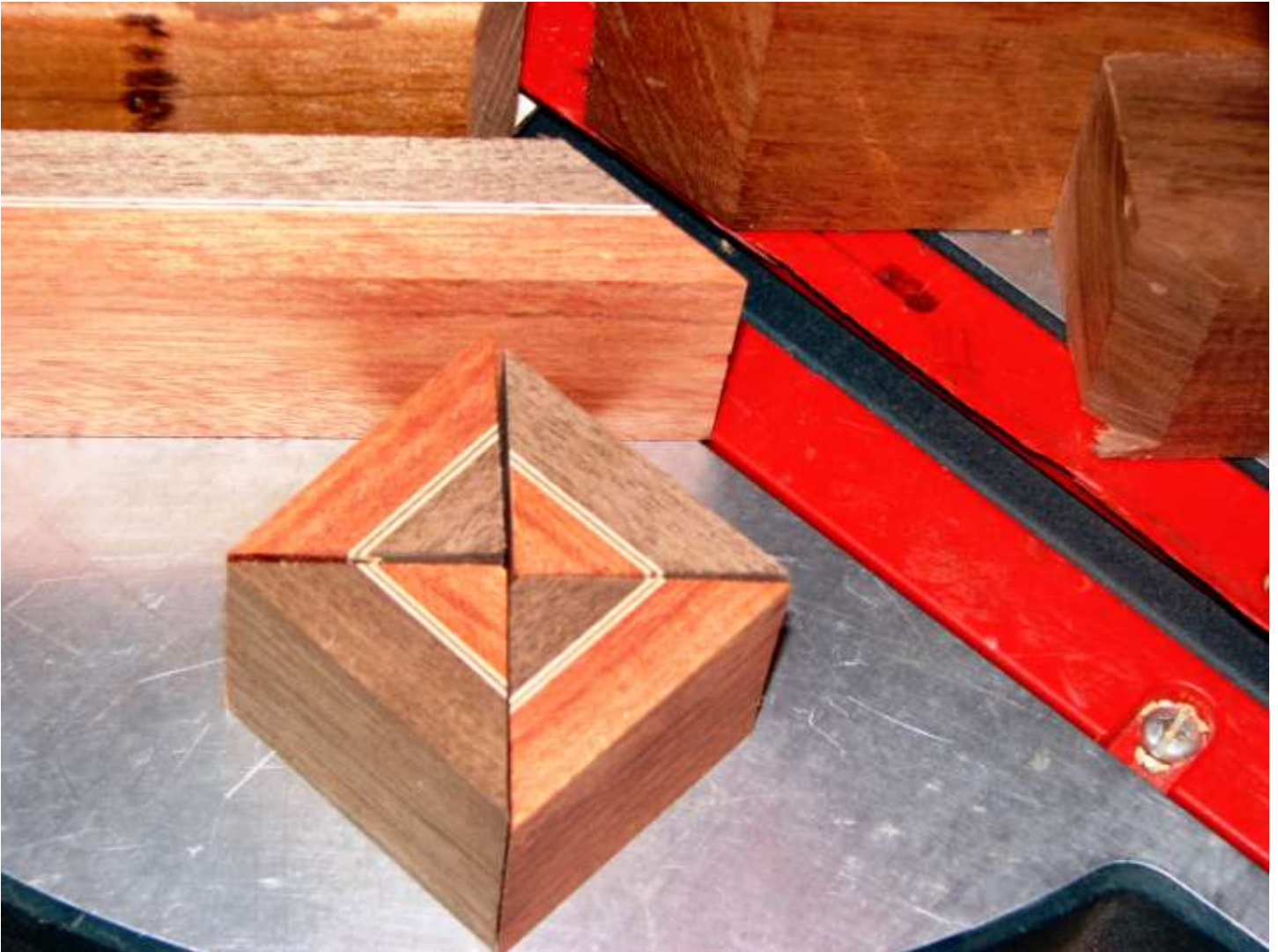


In the photo above I have inserted contrasting veneers as well to give more detail to the pattern. I have also used two wood species with slightly similar shades for the particular pattern I desired for this vessel. Typically I would use woods with greater contrast. Use whatever woods fit your project.

The next step is carefully cut the board into segments. I have cut these on 45 degrees with a miter saw. It takes four consecutive cuts for each block.



In the photo below I have arranged the pieces to show the effect.



I could probably stop here because you can probably see how to get it done by now, but since I've gone thru great expense to take the photographs, I will proceed, thank you.

From here I take each piece to the sander and sand one side of each to get as close as possible to a 90 degree angle.

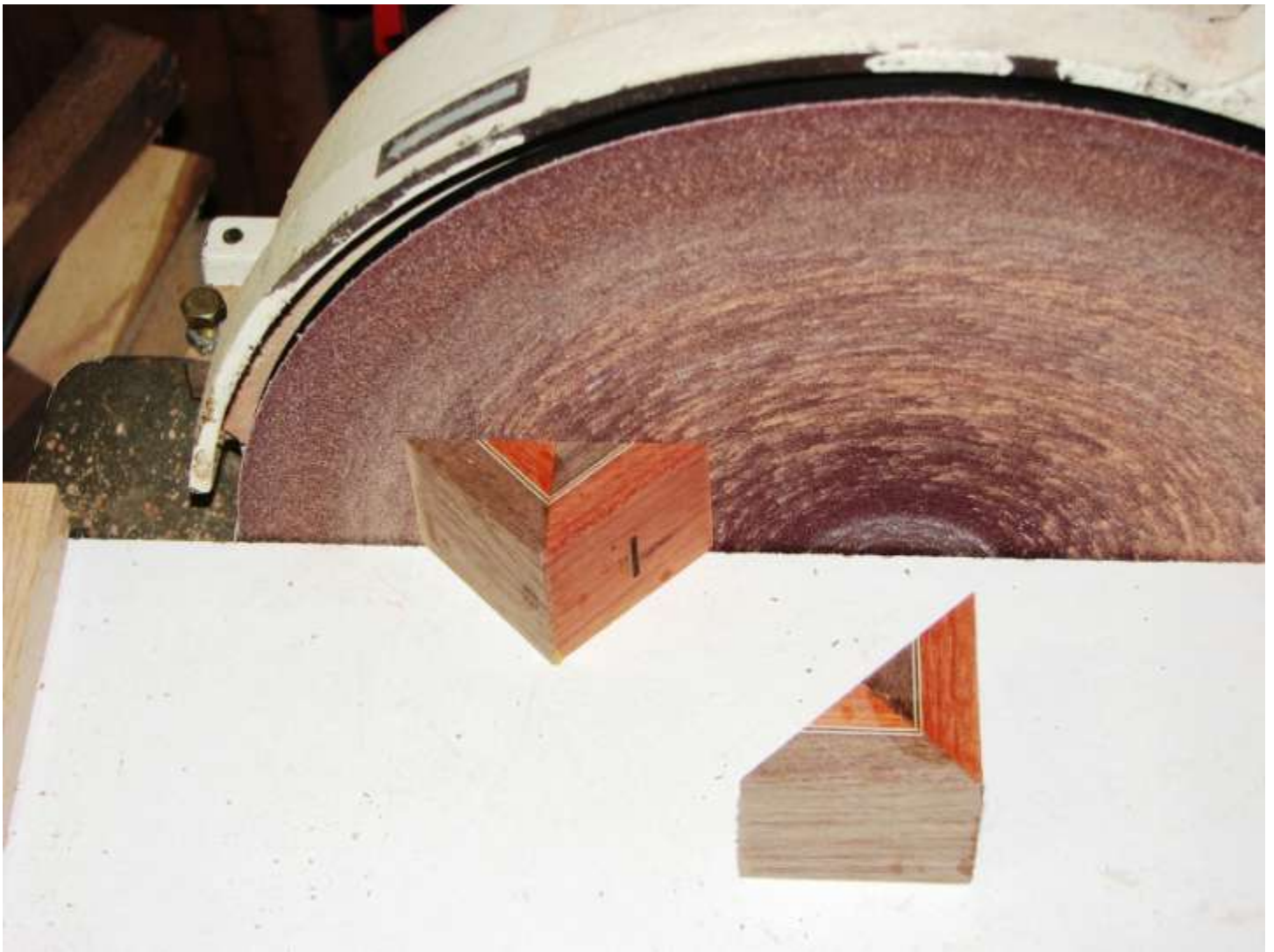


It's not necessary to have a 45 degree jig. You can simply set the piece flat on the sanding table and sand against the disc since your table should be at 90 degrees, but I have this 45 degree board for other projects and by golly, I'm gonna use it.

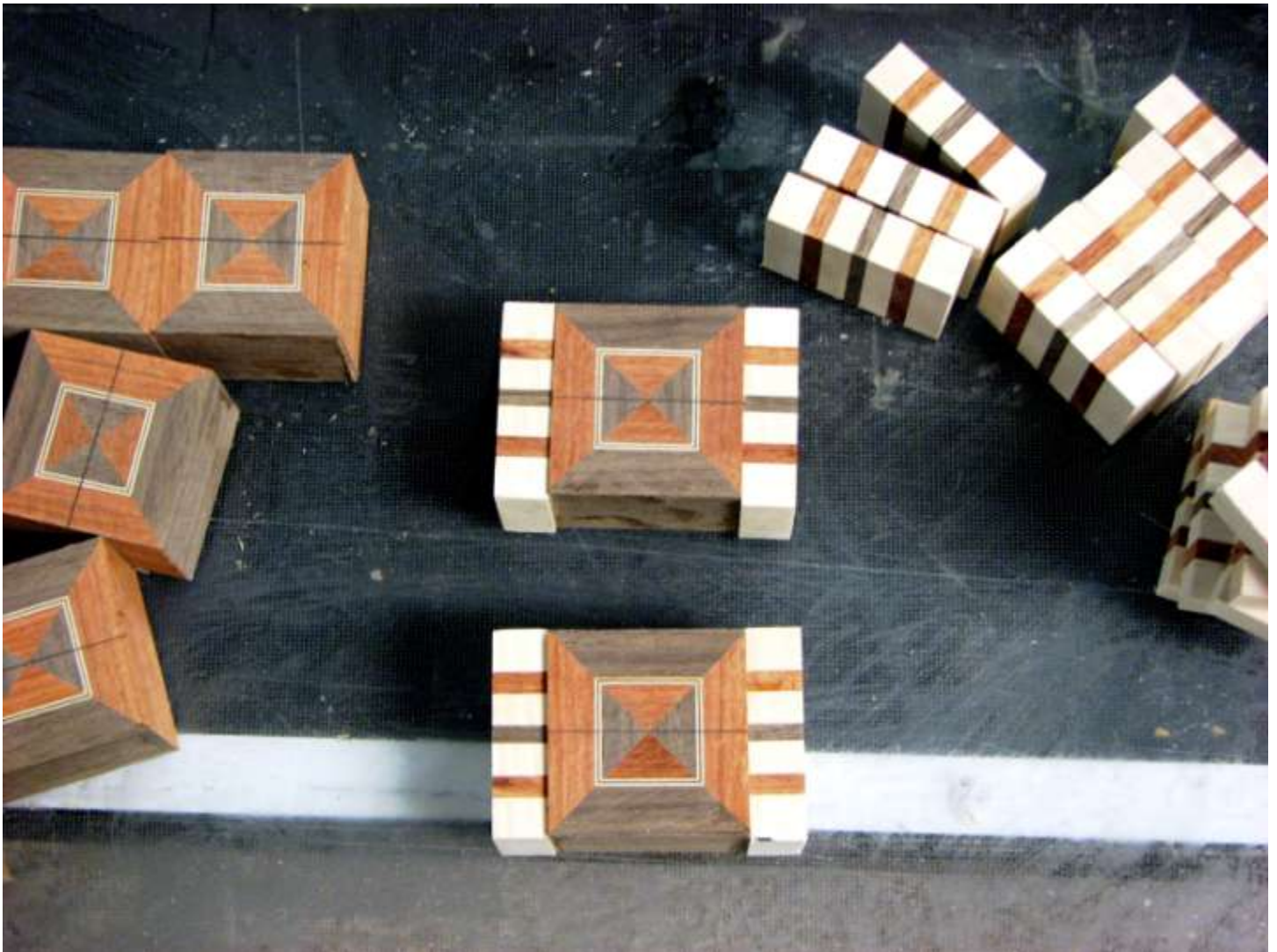
After I have sanded one side of each piece I can simply line up two quarters and glue them together- lining up the woods or veneers. I don't clamp these, I just rub them together to squeeze out the excess glue and let set.



Yes, the photo is out of focus, but you probably get the point. In the next step I sand the long surface created by gluing the two quarters (see below). This gives me a flat surface to glue the two halves together. If your pieces don't quite align, you may need to lightly sand more on one half to be able to align the pieces perfectly together.



I apparently didn't take a photo of myself actually gluing and aligning the two halves and probably didn't have to because you kinda saw that coming anyway.



Here are the finished blocks and the extra design elements I added to each side. Just a bit of fancy trimmings easily cut from another laminated board. These also offer a buffer zone for cutting my angles without cutting into my block. If these elements

shorten somewhat when I turn the ring to final dimensions-
nothing lost.



I have created eight segments to be installed in a vessel with 16
segment rings.



In the above photograph I have cut and installed small maple segments to finish out the ring. All of my angles were cut for a 16 segment ring (11.25 degrees, I think). It doesn't matter to me that they aren't all the same length as long as I can get my desired ring thickness from the assembly.

Typically, if the segments are of different lengths, I may not be able to glue the ring into two halves like I would on a standard ring. In that case I clamp the ring together and determine where I can sand off a little of one of the maple wedges to get a good fit for the entire ring. It should only take a little sanding off one edge of a segment to compensate and correct for a snug fit.



Above is the ring fully constructed and glued. I hope this little tutorial was helpful and please take this and expand upon it. This is only one technique and one project that can utilize this pattern.

You can surely come up with many other modifications and trimmings to make your pattern special and unique.

Good turning-Robin

