

how they did it

BY JONATHAN BINZEN

Assembling a parquetry pattern

To make the parquetry top for his coffee table (see the back cover), Jason Andrew Hernandez did initial design work at the drafting table before drawing the pattern full scale in pencil on a sheet of 1/4-in. MDF. He bandsawed veneers from a couple of solid planks, smoothing the sheets with a

wide belt sander and finishing with slices a heavy 1/16 in. thick. As he cut and fit the tiles, he followed his drawing carefully, but deviated in places where the grain and color of individual pieces guided him. He enjoyed choosing and placing the tiles, comparing the process to working with images. Once all the rectilinear pieces were

edge-glued into a sheet, he routed out the two circular spaces—"a nerve-racking experience," he says—and created mating circles to fit in them (see photos, next page). He used a vacuum press to glue the finished sheet to a 1/2-in.-thick substrate made of ApplePly with a 2-in.-wide lip of solid claro walnut.

MAP OUT THE PATTERN



Full-scale layout guides the process. After developing a small version of the parquetry pattern on paper, Hernandez roughed it out full-scale on the plywood substrate itself (above), and then drew a fully detailed version on a sheet of 1/4-in. MDF (right), which he used throughout the fitting process.



SHOOT TO FIT

Piecing the pattern. Hernandez edge-glued a piece at a time to build the pattern. Elevating the workpiece on a shopmade shooting board, he planed the edges to create straight glue joints.



CREATING THE CIRCULAR INLAY

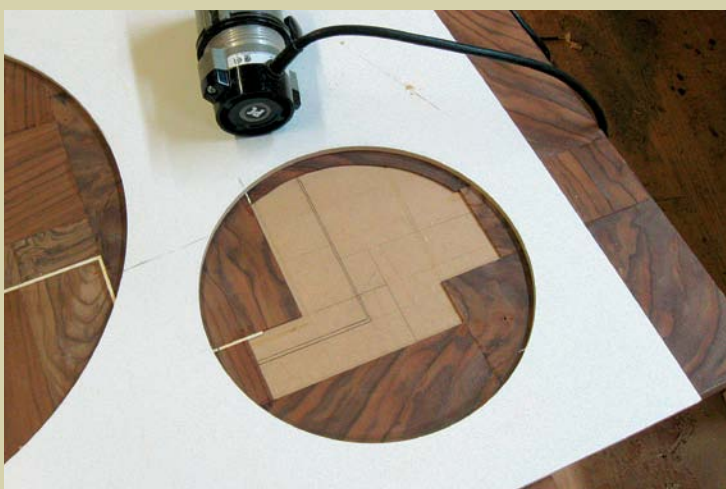
Circle in the squares. The roughsawn circular insert (right) helps locate the mating recess. To rout the recess (below) Hernandez made a template from melamine and used a Whiteside 9500 router inlay set with its wide rub collar so the cut was inset by $\frac{1}{4}$ in.



Quick, clean circle. Using the same template and bushing with the wide rub collar removed, Hernandez routed the circular insert.



Fitting the circle. After applying a bead of glue around the perimeter of the recess, Hernandez pressed the circle in place. Masking tape stretched across the seams provides the clamping pressure, as seen in the glue-up of the larger circle (left).



Ready for glue. With all the tiles edge-glued and the parquetry pattern complete, Hernandez scraped and sanded, and then glued it down to the ApplePly substrate in a vacuum press.