Do It Yourself

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Contemporary Headboard -- Frame Completion and Back-Panel

From "Wood Works"
episode WWK-107 -- More Projects »

With the mahogany frame, rails and legs all assembled and glued together, work proceeds removing the dog-ears, shaping the curved frame, and preparing the frame for installation of a mahogany plywood back panel.

Materials:

Mahogany plywood stock
Headboard template
Jig saw
Hand-held router; flush-bearing bits; rabbet bit
Carpenter's pencil
Saftety glasses or goggles

Note: Cut sizes may vary. For exact measurements, please contact David Marks through his Web site -- information below under Resources.

Safety Alert: *Always* wear safety goggles or safety glasses when working with wood, saws, drills, routers, etc.

Shaping and Smoothing the Mahogany Frame

Steps:

1. With the glue completely dry, the clamps can be removed in preparation for cutting away the dog-ears and excess spline-stock from the frame joints (**figure A**).

2. A jigsaw is used to carefully cut away the excess wood from the curved frame (**figure B and C**).

3. With the excess wood pieces removed from the frame, the 1/2-inch

The headboard frame is now assembled. Host David Marks prepares to cut away the excess wood tabs -- or "dog ears" -- that assisted with clamping and gluing the assembly together.

Figure A

Figure B

thick template -- used earlier to fashion the headboard -- is slid into position on top of the glued-up assembly (**figure D**).

4. Once aligned the template is used as a guide for creating the exact profile of the headboard. A hand-held router and flush-bearing bits are used to trim away excess mahogany and create a smooth edge on the frame. The template provides an exact path for the bearing-bits to follow (**figure E**).

5. Using the router to create a smooth edge is a two-step process. The a bit with the bearing mounted on its bottom follows the inside curve of the template, cutting a smooth edge about halfway down the stock (**figure F**).

6. The headboard is then flipped over, and a bit with the bearing mounted on its top follows the smooth edge to clean up the rest of the headboard (**figure G**).

Fitting the Back-Panel in the Frame

Steps:

1. To install the mahogany plywood back-panel in the frame, a rabbet is cut into the back side of the frame. A 1/2-inch rabbet bit is installed in the hand-held router. The router is used to cut a 1/2-inch by 1/2-inch rabbet around the inside curve on the back of the frame (**figure H**) as well as the back of the top rail.

2. Since the rabbet bit leaves rounded corners, a sharp chisel is used to cut the bottom corners square (**figure I**) so that it will accept the square corners of the plywood panel.

3. With the rabbet cut out, and the corners chiseled square, the frame itself can be used as a template for cutting out the curved plywood back-panel. The frame is set carefully onto the plywood panel (**figure J**).

4. The straight edge of the plywood is referenced up against the bottom edge of the rabbet (**figure K**), and the curve of the headboard is marked onto the plywood stock.

5. The plywood panel is cut to fit the curved shape using a jigsaw. A

Figure C

Figure D

Figure E

Figure F

Figure G

pattern-maker's rasp is used to smooth the edges of the cut panel.

6. Once it has been cut and shaped to the exact dimensions, the panel is given one final check for fit inside the rabbet (**figure L**).

In the following, and final, segment in this project, the headboard is finely shaped with various hand tools, the back-panel is installed, and a dark wood finish is applied.

A hand-held router is used to cut a smooth edge on the headboard once it has been assembled.

Sponsored Resource
> Click here to order your tools and materials for this project from **Woodcraft**!

RESOURCES:

Fine Woodworking
A magazine devoted to high-quality craftsmanship in woodworking.
The Taunton Press Inc
Newtown, CT 06470
Phone: 203-426-8171
Fax: 203-426-3434
Email: service@taunton.com

With the frame assembled, its curve can be referenced to create a plywood back-panel.

The Small Wood Shop (The Best of Fine Woodworking)
Model: 1561580619
Author: Helen Albert (Editor)

Woodworking Techniques: Best Methods for Building Furniture from Fine Woodworking
Model: 1561583456
Author: Fine Woodworking Magazine
The Taunton Press Inc
Newtown, CT 06470
Phone: 203-426-8171
Fax: 203-426-3434
Email: service@taunton.com

Figure H

Mastering Woodworking Machines (Fine Woodworking Book)
Model: 0942391985
Author: Mark Duginske

Figure I

David Marks Website

David Marks, DIY's *Wood Works* host, is a master woodworker. For more information on cut sizes and project details, please contact him via his Website at www.djmarks.com

Figure J

Beds and Bedroom Furniture: The Best of Fine Woodworking
Model: 1561581917
Author: Editors of Fine Woodworking
(1997)

Figure K

The Taunton Press Inc
Newtown, CT 06470
Phone: 203-426-8171
Fax: 203-426-3434
Email: service@taunton.com

The Complete Woodworker's Companion
Model: 0823008665
Author: Roger Holmes
(1996)

Figure L

Watson-Guptill Publications
Lakewood, NJ 08701-9914
Phone: 908-363-5679
Fax: Private

The Complete Book of Wood Joinery
Model: 0806999500
Author: Richard J. Descistoforo
(1997)

Sterling Publishing Co. Inc.
New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-532-7160
Fax: 800-542-7567

Advanced Woodworking
Model: 0783539126
Author: Editors of Time Life Books

1998
Time-Life Books Inc.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-838-7000
Fax: 703-518-4124

Popular Woodworking Magazine (F & W Publications, Inc.)
F & W Publications, Inc.
Cincinnati, OH 45207
Phone: 515-280-1721
Website: www.popularwoodworking.com

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