

## Do It Yourself

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### Mahogany Headboard -- Assembly and Finish

From "[Wood Works](#)"

episode WWK-403 -- [More Projects »](#)

The finishing steps in the headboard project are final assembly and application of a wood finish. The glue-up is straightforward, but takes some time since it must be done in stages.

Materials:

#20 Wood biscuits  
Blue carpenter's tape  
Slow-setting plastic-resin glue  
Clamps  
320-grit sandpaper  
Hand scraper  
Potassium dichromate  
Tung-oil wood finish  
Paint brushes  
Rags  
Rubber gloves; Eye protection

**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, power-tools, saws, drills, routers, etc.

**Safety Alert:** *Always* wear protective gloves when working with wood stains, solvents and other toxic solutions.

Steps:

- With the fit checked for all of the elements, glue-up can begin. Apply blue carpenter's tape to the edges of the veneers and the joints to catch any glue that squeezes out during the process (**figure A**).



The completed headboard.



Figure A



Figure B



Figure C

- Begin the glue-up by gluing all of the biscuits into their slots (**figure B**), and the tenons into their mortises.
- Glue the bottom rail in place, then attach the stiles and crest-rail. Temporarily add a clamp to the center to pull the joints tight (**figure C**). Attach the legs without glue to confirm the alignment, and to act as cawls during the first stage of the glue-up.
- Clamp the assembly securely in both directions (**figure D**), and let that part bond for 12 hours.
- After the first phase is dry, remove the clamps and side-legs.
- Now, glue the legs and bottom rail in place, and clamp the assembly securely so that the joints are snug (**figure E**). Allow the glue to harden overnight.
- When the assembly is finished, and the glue has dried, clean away any excess glue with a scraper, and sand the entire piece with 320-grit sandpaper.
- We brushed on a potassium-dichromate finish to color the wood (**figure F**). After the dichromate dried, we added several coats of tung oil to bring out the three-dimensional quality of the quilted mahogany.



Figure D



Figure E



Figure F

**Safety Alert:** Potassium dichromate is toxic, so wear gloves and eye protection, and work in a well-ventilated area.

[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](mailto:service@taunton.com)

## **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](mailto:service@taunton.com)

### **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](http://www.djmarks.com)

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