

Veneer/Ring Glue Press

By Jim Rodgers

October, 2007

Materials

1. Melamine sheet
2. Melamine disks various sizes to maximum ring diameter
3. 2 x 4 KD, construction grade
4. Veneer press screw, Rockler, Grizzly, etc
5. Stove bolts, wood screws

Construction:

1. Construct a square base from 2 x 4 stock
 - a. Add short cut offs to corners for reinforcement and to act as feet
 - b. Screw all components together
 - c. Add a center cross support to support center
2. Install Melamine square on top surfaces with smaller wood screws
3. Through bolt two 2 x 4 uprights to the center of left & right sides
4. Laminate together two 2 x 4 into a cross beam
 - a. Allow approximately 1 ½ inches on each end of the lower laminated beam to project on either side
 - b. The longer length should be slightly less than the clearance between the two uprights created in step 3
5. Mount press screw into the center of the cross beam
 - a. Drill clearance hole in center to fit screw
 - b. Mount screw into hole from the bottom
6. Complete upright supports
 - a. Extend screw to near maximum length and set onto Melamine surface created in step #2
 - b. Measure where cross beam contact uprights and mark location
 - c. Screw two 2 x 4 pieces to upright from the melamine surface to the marks
 - d. Set cross beam on new upright supports
 - e. Retract veneer screw to near minimum extension and measure clearance between press deck and screw
 - f. Add additional 2 x 4 sections of the this measured length on top of cross beam screwing them into place on the uprights
 - g. Continue to the desired height of press is achieved



Notes & cautions:

- Note that the photographs included in the write up do not necessarily conform to my latest thinking.
- Dimensions for the glue press can be adjusted to meet the maximum ring diameters that you require
- All 2 x 4 sections added to the uprights must be thoroughly screwed into place since a lot of shear stress will be applied during operation
- One or more cross beams must be added to the initial under framing to provide support of the mid portion of the press so it won't flex
- If a longer veneer screw is purchased, less (or no) "notches" will be needed
- Use KD construction timbers to prevent wood movement and shrinkages due to drying
- The "plastic" surface of the melamine sheet will allow for waxing to prevent glue from sticking – this will be needed!
- Purchase additional; Melamine disks to match the ring sizes you will press so that they can be stacked to equalize pressure during the glue up's