

Wood Selection

You will need two pieces of the same color for the accent pieces 3" x 3" no thicker than 1/8" - 1/4". Veneer sheets can also be used to make a very thin accent line to go with the 1/4" accent pieces. Choose wood that will accent your central band of 1/2" segmented wood. You can choose colors from the central band but often exotic woods such as yellow heart, purple heart or red heart or other contrasting woods give excellent visual emphasis.

Note: Veneer sheets can be purchased in multi-packs, or you can make your own veneer by re-sawing wood on the band saw. For those who have never tried this it is easier than you think. I have a standard 14 inch Delta band saw with factory fence and use a 1/2" blade with three teeth per inch. The fence is set so that the teeth on the blade are 1/16" from the fence. I usually get about 8 pieces of veneer from a 1" piece of wood. Also, you can make wider cuts for more visual interest in the glue up. Cut up several different colors and thicknesses so you can try different pairings.

Preparing the Accent Bands

It is a good idea to choose and cut to size a variety of woods and make several colors of veneer. By doing this, you will have more options when you assemble the blank.

I like to make my accent bands symmetrical, but it is not necessary that the same combination be on the top of the central band and on the bottom. There are many ways to achieve visual interest. One idea that looks great is a 1/4" accent of the dark color and one of a light color wood. Another example is a veneer sheet on the top and bottom of a contrasting 1/4" piece. Whatever combination you choose, make two matching sets of the 3" x 3" squares.

2. Cut all chosen wood to 3" x 3" by 1/8" or 1/4".



Top and Bottom Bands

Wood Selection and Preparation

1. You will need two bands of the same type of wood 3" x 3" x 3/4" thick.
2. The wood should complement the other woods used and be flat and smooth.



Blank Assembly and Glue Up

1. The cube should be assembled in symmetrical layers.
2. Starting in the middle use the center band you made in part one.
3. The accent bands should be used in the same combination on the top and bottom of the center band
4. Veneer layers can add visual interest and identical veneers can be placed on both sides of the center band and/or the accent bands.
5. Finally the top and bottom bands are added.

Note: Prepare extra accent bands; try different pairings with your top and bottom woods. The combinations can be endless and you will train your eye to see "DESIGN".