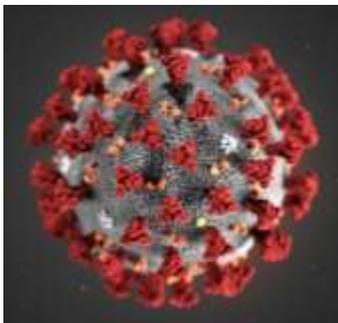


Crosscut



◀ Visualisation of the coronavirus showing the characteristic crown structure

Secretary: Lynton Dennill secretary@wwwa.org.za Editor: Trevor Pope tpope@iafrica.com

All written content and opinions are those of the editor, unless stated. © Copyright reserved. Go to www.wwa.org.za for back issues of Crosscut.

No meetings are scheduled until further notice due to the national SARS-CoV-2 virus shutdown.

Please keep in touch via email and WhatsApp for developments.

News

Wood of the Month – Chris van Heeswijk compiled a presentation on Snake Bean – Bobgunnia Madagasariensis, so-named despite not being found in Madagascar.

Club Notices / Committee Matters

Renaming of Wits Woodworking Association?

It has become clear that if we wish resume our previous club meeting schedule, we will have to rename the WWA. It does mean that we will need to limit meeting attendance to 50 members.

This insightful cartoon from Zapiro offers some suggestions.



2-6 - 20
DAILY MERRICK
ZAPIRO

Please forward suggestions for a name to conform to the *Level 3 Lockdown Regulations* to the editor for inclusion in the next edition of Crosscut and tabling at the forthcoming AGM, (whenever that will be).

The cartoon can be found at: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/cartoon/taking-the-gap/>
(I am a great fan of Zapiro for his insightful cartoons, as well as the Daily Maverick for quality journalism.)

Regular Events:

These have all been suspended for the duration of the lockdown. Please monitor your emails for notice of when they will be resumed.

End Grain Cutting Boards

By Paul Moldovanos

One of my lockdown projects was to make some end grain cutting chopping boards. The end grain requires more steps, and can be tricky to make, but it is kinder to the knife edges. Chefs prefer this type of board for this reason as they do a lot of chopping with awfully expensive knives.

I used the Alcolin Ultra wood glue which is equivalent to Titebond III. I chose it because it is a waterproof glue, but I have seen many examples where boards are made from normal wood glue.

I finished it with a light coat of mineral oil, then I buffed in a very thin layer of beeswax. I have seen some professionals suggest a wiping varnish (50/50 varnish-thinners mix), but this is no good in my opinion as the chopping action of the knife cuts the finish once it has cured, making it look unsightly as well as creating a risk for germs to grow under the cracks. The beeswax was also overkill from my side, I just had stock and it creates a nice texture and smell.

The board can be washed with warm soapy water and left to dry on the dishrack. Do not put them in the dishwasher. One can oil them once a year or I prefer leaving a layer of coarse salt over the board overnight, to soak up all the impurities. This can be done once a year.

1. The first step. Whether you use various thin strips or fewer larger pieces, joint & thickness and do the first glue up. I used cauls on each end to keep the board flat. You can see one of the cauls at the top of the picture with the orange clamps.
2. Once the glue has dried, I jointed and thickened the board. At this point it is a face grain board, and you can stop right there.



3. The board is now crosscut as shown on the right. It is very important to make the cuts identical in width. The width of the crosscut will determine the final board thickness.

4. The crosscut pieces are all rotated kebab style by one turn which exposes the end grain. (Below)



5. Now every alternate piece is flipped to the right (or left), to create an interesting pattern.

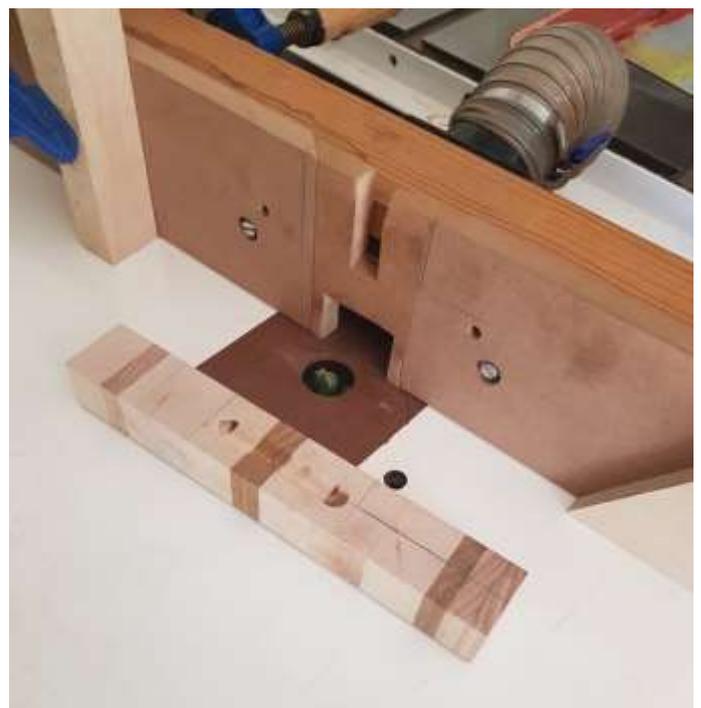


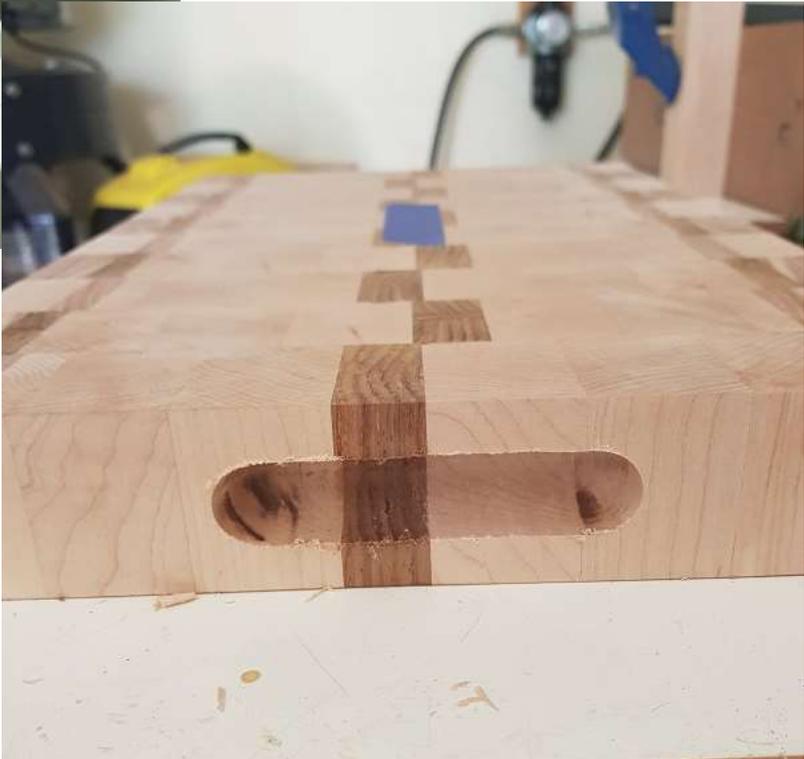
Here I've shifted the alterative pieces to better illustrate the effect.

6. Now for the second glue up. Try and get the pieces as flat and even as possible, when you glue up which will save you a lot of work flattening the board. Unless you have a very wide thicknesser and/or a drum sander, this can be hard work. I initially used a random orbital sander but even though the results were good, it took too long. I then tried a bevel up jack plane, and it worked better and faster.



7. I routed the handles with a cove bit. Pictured is an offcut as a test piece. Notice the two stop fences clamped onto the router fence which determine the width of the handle. The fence to the right is cut at an angle to allow the board to be eased into the bit, whereas the fence to the left is perpendicular to the table.





The blue masking tape ensures that the same side is always against the router fence with each cut. It is not advisable to cut to full depth on one pass, and seeing I was routing 5 boards in one session, it would be easy to flip one the wrong way.



Above - Rock Maple, Kiaat and Cedrinho from Brazil.

The centre of this board is an unknown Brazilian wood. Other woods are Kiaat, White Oak and Cedrinho.





On the left is the first board I made with a wiping varnish, which I removed. On the right is the same board with the mineral oil and beeswax finish.

Close up.

