

CUTTING BOARD

Materials

Wood Selection

The two basic categories of wood used most often in wood working projects are hardwood and softwood. Hardwood is more durable and less prone to dents and scratches. It is also more expensive but will finish to a better advantage. Soft woods, like pine, are more prone to dents and scratches and do not have the durability of hardwood. Softwoods are much less expensive and easier to find.

Ask your lumber supplier to show you "Class 1 " or "Select Grade" lumber. Make sure it is properly dried, straight, and free of knots and defects. (It may be impossible to be completely free of defects but be sure you understand how to cut around these.)

Ask your Lumber supplier for assistance when purchasing your wood. Similar to laying a pattern out on a piece of cloth, often you can cut several different pieces of the same thickness of wood out of a single piece. It is a good idea to add up the total number of board feet, being careful to make sure you group short pieces in a board with long pieces to minimize waste.

This project could be built out of scrap wood already in your workshop. If you choose to use new stock from the lumber yard, both hardwoods and softwood are good choices.

Note: Developing a good relationship with Your lumber suppliers is important. They can help guide you in making material selections as well as making special orders for a type of wood you may desire for a project.

Now that you have reviewed safety hints, learned the mistakes to avoid, reviewed the basic components and gathered your tools and materials for your projects - you are ready to BEGIN!

These are the steps to follow for the cutting board:

1. Cut the stock
2. Laminate the boards
3. Finish the board

Cut the Stock

1. The block thickness is determined by the width you cut the individual pieces. Example: For a block to be 1 1/2" thick you will cut the stock 1" wide because of the lamination process which will group the boards together.

2. Cut the stock a little longer than you wish the length of the cutting board to be. You will cut the board to the finished side after it has been laminated and sanded.

Laminating the Stock

1. Use resorcinol glue on both sides of the stock to glue them together. Resorcinol glue is water proof and will provide stability if the board is soaked in water.
2. After gluing, clamp the boards together and let dry overnight.
3. Scrub off extra glue before it dries to prevent chipping the cuffing blades when finishing and shaping.

Finishing the Cutting Board

1. • After the board dries, take out of the clamps and use a belt sander to smooth the top and bottom surfaces.
2. Using a table saw or circular saw, cut the board to length. If using a table saw be sure that the cutting blade does not exceed 1/4" above the cutting board to prevent drag.
3. Using a shaper or router put around over edge on the top surface of the cutting board. Be careful to follow the guidelines reviewed in the tape.
4. Use a non-toxic finish such as mineral oil or a salad bowl finish for this project.

