

Workshop Tips #2 Working with Patterns

Probably the most boring job in model building is tracing patterns on to the material. One method is using carbon paper, but that can leave ugly, hard to remove stains.

There are better methods for transferring patterns: Print out a second page from Aschi's plans, cover your wood with masking tape and glue the pattern onto the tape. You can use a glue stick, craft glue, spray glue or any glue you have at hand will do the job. Cut the part out with a jig saw or scroll saw, peel off the masking tape and you're done – unless you leave the tape on your wood for a long period of time the tape should come off very easy.

Another method is to directly spray glue onto your paper pattern (not onto the wood!) and attach the pattern, but you will have to use mentholated spirits to soak the pattern back off. You could also use the glue stick to directly glue the pattern on, to get it off you have to moisten it with water – don't soak the wood in water, just dampen a bit, the pattern should slide off, or you might have to nudge it a little with your fingernail. Personally I like the tape method the best because it is much quicker and less messy.

If you need the pattern to make several identical parts I'd recommend making yourself a template from cardboard, or you could make it from thin MDF/craft wood or ply.

Again: Print out another page from Aschi's plans and glue them onto the material you choose. For cardboard scissors will do, but you need a scroll saw to cut them from MDF or ply.

Once you have your template hold or clamp it to the wood you are going to use and draw around it with a pencil. Remember to use a very sharp pencil and draw as close to the template as you can to keep the dimensions right.

All patterns used in Aschi's plans are not very intricate and can be done with a jig saw.

Some parts might be easier cut using a scroll saw, depending on how thick the wood is you can even stack cut them, cutting two or more pieces at the same time. Again there are several methods. To stack cut You can tape around the edges of two pieces of wood to



keep them together, then add the pattern to the top. You can also staple the pieces together as long as you remember to do so outside of the pattern. Or you can even nail them together making sure they do not protrude at the bottom which will scratch your table.

Special thanks to Jutta from **WOODCRAFTER'S HAVEN** in Wodonga Vic/Australia for giving us the information about working with patterns.

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