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EASIWOOD

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Size and thickness of the sheets

- \bullet Standard size: nominal 2,440 mm x 1,220 mm
- Available on request: 3,050 mm x 1,220 mm
- Thickness: approximately 0.6 mm.

Product Construction

EASiWOOD is a real wood veneer product and consists of veneer leaves, edge jointed together to form a book-matched sheet. This veneer sheet is then supported by a backing material made from non-woven cellulose/polyester fibres bound together with an acrylic binder. The strength of the backing is further enhanced by impregnation with moisture resistant polyvinyl acetate adhesive.

The resulting backed veneer sheet is then passed through a flexing process to produce a highly flexible product, which is sanded ready for use.

Conditioning before use

As EASiWOOD is a natural product, it will react to the ingress and egress of moisture. It is therefore important that both the EASiWOOD sheet itself and the substrate to which it will be joined are conditioned in the same atmospheric conditions prior to use. These conditions will vary for every workshop but at a temperature of 20 degrees centigrade and a relative humidity of 65%, a minimum of 48 hours conditioning should be allowed.

If any fabrication is to be completed in the environment where the finished item will remain, then conditioning is also necessary to prevent shrinkage or expansion of the EASiWOOD and substrates.

Adhesive application

The following adhesives will generally be used for most applications but care should be taken with their selection to ensure that optimum results are achieved. A test with the substrate to be used should be carried out if you are unfamiliar with any of the adhesives.

- Contact adhesive (Solvent or water based)
- Urea (need a hot press)
- Polyvinyl acetate (Need a cold or hot press. Pressing time will be much longer in cold presses).

If a contact adhesive is your preferred method of application for EASiWOOD, then the following hints may be useful.

- Ensure that the substrate surface and rear side of the Easiwood are both clean, dry and free of dust.
- If the contact adhesive is sprayed, ensure that sufficient coverage of both surfaces to be mated is achieved. Check the manufacturers instructions to confirm if a specific coat weight is recommended.
- For very porous substrates, a second coat of adhesive may be required to achieve adequate bonding.

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 When using hand applied contact adhesives, care should be taken to apply an even coat to both surfaces. Using a comb spreading tool is generally best for this operation. Refer to the adhesive manufacturers instructions for the best technique.

Applying the Easiwood Sheet

Once both glued surfaces have been allowed to dry, bonding can take place. Different ambient temperatures can affect the drying time of the adhesive and this should be taken into account.

- Place a piece of waxed paper, Kraft paper or other release film over the glued surface of the substrate. Locate the Easiwood sheet onto the release paper, ensuring that the veneer overhangs the edges of the substrate underneath.
- Slide the release paper slowly from between the glued surfaces, and use a blunt scraper tool to remove any entrapped air. Work from the centre of the substrate and push the scraper along the grain direction. Move slowly out towards the edges once you are satisfied that no air is trapped.

Once the EASiWOOD sheet has been applied to the substrate, carefully check the surface once again for any air entrapment. If air bubbles can be seen, cut these carefully along the grain with a sharp knife and push each side of the bubble towards the knife cut in order to release the air. The scraper should then be used to apply pressure to bring the two glued surfaces together.

Pressure with a warm iron will also help form a bond after air removal, however, never use the iron directly on the veneer as colour changes can occur. A cloth or paper separator should be used.

The processing of checking and removing air bubbles must be completed very soon after the EASiWOOD sheet has been applied to the substrate. If the contact adhesive film applied to the both the EASiWOOD sheet and the substrate are allowed to dry excessively, a bond may not be made.

Finishing

Leave the fabrication for 48 hours before trimming back to size.

Care should be taken if water based stains and lacquers are to be used for final finishing. Several light coats should be applied with adequate drying time allowed between each rather than one or two heavy coats. Moisture can be taken up by the veneer, which could result in ridges forming due to expansion of the veneer.

Storage

EASiWOOD sheets should be stored flat and ideally covered with cardboard or black polyethylene to avoid fading or other colour changes in the veneer.

A cool dry area out of direct sunlight is best but it should be remembered that conditioning of all materials will still be necessary.

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