

# BOOK REVIEW

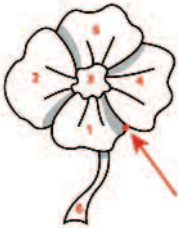
—by David Walker

This book by Ken Horner is pure gold to those, especially beginners, who wish to take up Marquetry as a hobby or those with woodworking skills who wish to enhance their creations with a Marquetry design. People who are already competent woodworkers will have no problem in following Ken's earlier projects but towards the end of the book there are other projects that will test their skill.

Those people who wish to start Marquetry as a hobby will find the step by step instructions given by Ken easy to follow. I have found with many pupils that the initial enthusiasm soon wears off if there is no end product produced in a reasonable time and they will give up.

Ken has overcome that by producing in the first five projects, simple designs that someone starting Marquetry from scratch should have no problem with and have a finished article to admire without too much difficulty in a reasonable time.

This is important for those who cannot attend a Marquetry Chapter and just have to rely on printed instructions.



**Drawing 2.3. The Flower Pattern.** This is an easy multiple-veneer project; collect the grains and orient them in two directions. There are four petals, the center and a stem to cut out. Trace the 2/30 blade through the hole at the base indicated and cut around the bottom Petal all lines. Cut the pieces out in the order indicated; the grey areas are to be sand shaded.



Photo 2-2

*Sample illustration from Ken's book displaying the easy to follow style of instruction and guidance therein*



It is not a book intended primarily for beginners though. The projects increase in complexity towards the latter part of the book and are intended to test the skills of the reader both in Marquetry and woodworking.

For the Novice there is a very comprehensive guide to tools and materials needed to make a start although not all are essential to begin with and can be added to in the future. In America, Marquetry is normally cut with a saw, either a scroll saw, fret saw or chevalet saw and some initial skill with these implements must be acquired before the beginner is able to produce satisfactory work. Most of the projects in the book rely on the saw method of Marquetry but the 'Window Method' which is used in the U.K is also covered in Project 15 and 23. This method uses a scalpel or small sharp knives to cut

out shapes in a background veneer which are then filled in with a contrasting veneer.

There is no correct way to do Marquetry and readers will have to decide for themselves which is the best technique for them. By following these step by step instructions the reader will be able to try various methods and find the best one to suit them. These instructions are the result of over 50 years experience and are reflected in the text.

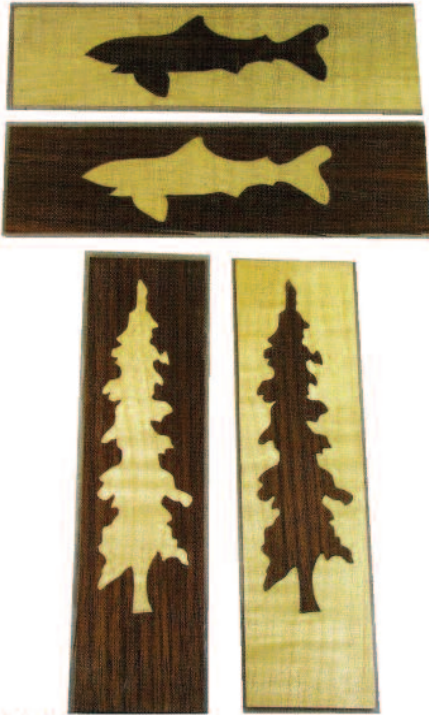
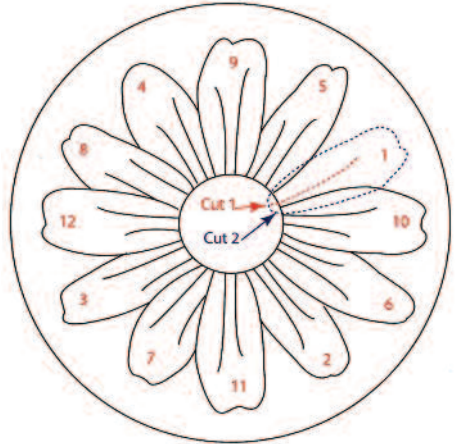


Photo 1-1

*Mirror image marquetry pieces which would make, for example, excellent and original book-marks*

It would be good practice to read the Concepts chapter as a novice first as it gives techniques that are similar in many of the projects. Throughout the book in a little box on most pages there is a 'bright idea', a tip which Ken has found through his experience has helped him over the

years. The reader will find these very useful. There is a very comprehensive index at the rear which allows the reader to access various projects or techniques quickly.



**Drawing 13-1. Flower Pattern and Cutting Sequence.**  
Cut the veins with no tilt (red line) and the petals with a 11° tilt (blue line).



Photo 13-1

*Above: Top: the design drawing of a flower pattern - and below: the finished version turned into a fabulous marquetry clock*

There is always something new to learn in Marquetry. Having completed 35 years of Marquetry and risen to the dizzy heights of the Premier Class in The National Exhibition in the UK I am often surprised by new hints and tips that are

introduced by other members which I hadn't thought of. This book is no exception.

Although I am a 'scalpel man' I have found many applications and tips given by Ken in this book that will be useful in my own Marquetry. The line drawings were certainly well drawn which made them easy to understand and provide the perfect supplement to the text.

Whatever level the reader has attained, this book will be a very useful addition to his book shelf and often referred to.

**David Walker**



Photo 271

*A superb example of applied marquetry*

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*Above: The Contents pages showing 36 chapters and 36 projects - plenty to read here!*

Ken Horner's book "Basic Marquetry and Beyond" is available on-line from

- www.amazon.com
- www.wordery.com
- www.booksplea.se
- www.BookDepository.com
- www.ebay.co.uk

Ken's book is also available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

Plus Amazon also have available other woodworking related books written and authored by Ken.

It is well worth checking out Ken's books on Amazon.co.uk as there is a wealth of woodworking knowledge available there.