

Lisa's rippled sycamore chair back



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER SEFTON

Assembly of the two matched curves on Kevan's leg frames



The wavy shelves ready for holding wine bottles

## Insight

# Laminating

Peter Sefton takes us through the lamination processes used for three of his students' projects

When most people think about curved work in furniture making, their first thoughts are of steam-bent components – the practice widely used by the chair bodgers of the Chilterns and still the best way of bending green timbers for Windsor chair making. But in most furniture-making workshops, including my own, laminating to form curves is the preferred method – engineering with wood.

The method involves gluing together sheets of veneer, thin strips of solid timber, flexible plywood or thin MDF, or a combination of the above.



MDF formers to produce Oscar's shelves

Three of this year's full-time students have used veneer laminating within their masterpiece projects. Lisa has used 1mm-thick ripple sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) to form a bookmatched pair of back slats for a brown oak (*Quercus robur*) chair – 15 layers, all glued together on a single former used in the vacuum bag – see main photo, top left.

### Credenza formers

Oscar is making a wine storage credenza and we decided to form the curved shelves between a pair of matched male and female formers to go in our Platen veneer press. The shelves were made up of 14 leaves of 0.6mm consecutive veneer to produce shelves finishing 200mm wide and 390mm long – see photo below left.

### Crossover under framing

The third project was a crossover under framing for Kevan's dining table. This was made from quartersawn American black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), 1.5mm thick constructional veneers, producing two interlocking curves shaped to match each other's

internal and external radii, to later form a flowing leg construction. The shapes were glued with sash cramps, so although three different cramping methods were used in these projects, we also had some commonality. MDF cores were used to produce the formers and Urea Formaldehyde – Cascamite – glues were used as the adhesive. MDF is cheap and easy to shape and UF glues hold their shape when cured. PVA glues tend to creep and epoxy glues, although very good, are expensive and possibly overkill for internal furniture work. ■

### Peter Sefton

Peter Sefton is a well-known furniture maker who runs courses in fine woodworking, teaching and mentoring students at the Peter Sefton Furniture School. He also owns Wood Workers Workshop and he is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers.  
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