VENEER SAW

Thank you for purchasing our Veneer Saw. The design is based on a traditional French pattern saw, but features improvements to the blade, and mounting method.

We also offer a range of interchangeable blades with varying tooth profiles to fit what is customary for your training or the work at hand. Most important, Gramercy Tools Veneer Saws and blades come sharp and ready to use.

No matter your level of skill and experience with marquetry and veneer, we feel that this new saw will become a reliable, trusted tool you'll reach for again and again.

Gramercy Tools are designed & manufactured by the good people at:

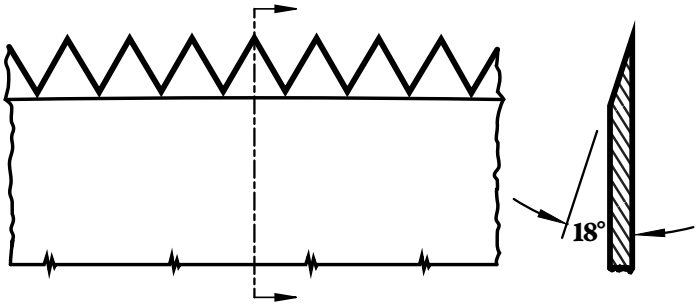
TOOLS FOR WORKING WOOD

112 26th St. Brooklyn, NY 11232
800.426.4613 & 718.499.5877
toolsforworkingwood.com

We hope you enjoy your saw. Please contact us if you have any questions.

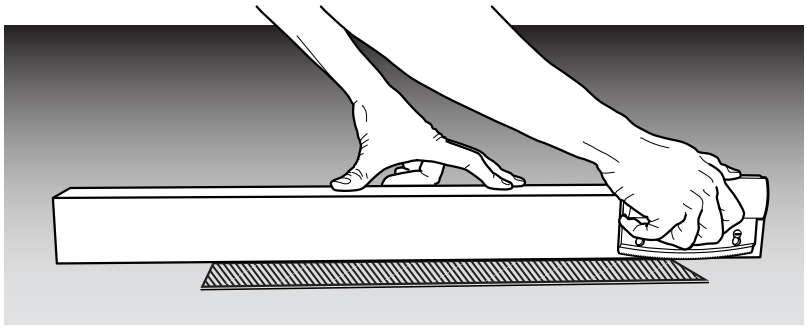
INTRODUCTION TO VENEER SAWS: If you are new to veneer saws it's important to start with the knowledge that they don't cut like other wood saws. Most saws have "set" teeth. They are alternately bent away from the blade so they cut a kerf that is wider than the blade is thick. When the teeth are properly set, you can saw back and forth in a deep cut without excessive friction or binding. A veneer saw is unique among saws because it is not designed to cut a kerf. Modern veneers are very thin. Deep cuts are impossible so there is no need for set teeth.

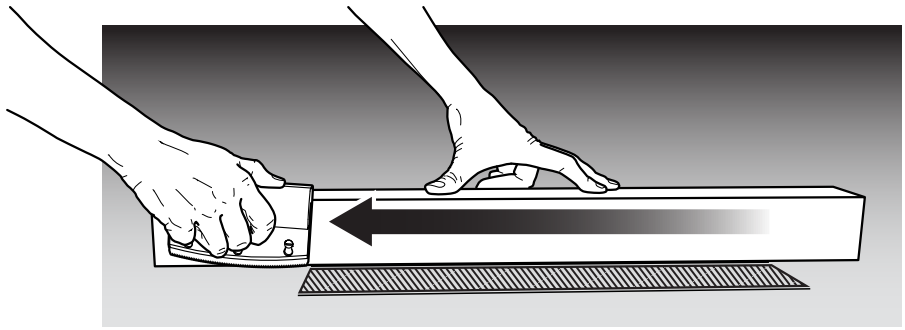
However, thin veneers can be fragile and prone to cracking and tear-out. In order to prevail under these conditions, the teeth of a veneer saw must function like a multitude of knives. The teeth are beveled to sharp points rather than set. They score and incise the veneer, leaving straight and smooth edges.



ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN USING TOOLS

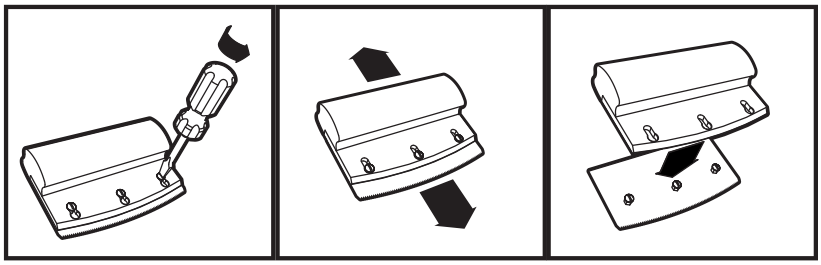
USING THE VENEER SAW: The Gramercy Tools Veneer saw is designed to be used in the traditional manner of French-style veneer saws. By running the saw along a tall straightedge, you can make long, smooth cuts in veneer that are ideal for cutting strips or sizing large panels. Our blade is taller than most, in order to give smooth, uninterrupted contact with the upright face of a straightedge. A favored method of cutting is to begin at the far end of the cut, and with a slight amount of downward pressure, draw the blade toward you. Repeat as necessary until you've completely severed the veneer. The curved blade will allow you to have a range of orientation throughout the cut without worrying about the saw digging or catching at either end of the blade. The same cuts can be accomplished in multiples by stacking veneer under the straightedge, and cutting through all the layers at the same time.

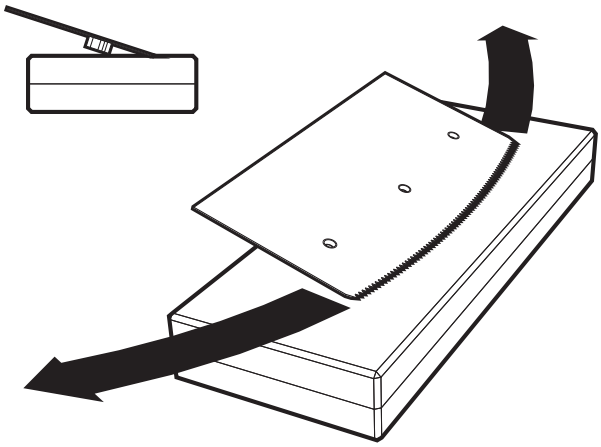




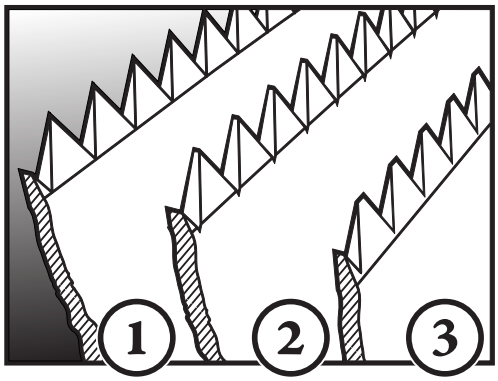
CUTTING SURFACES: Normally, you'll want to avoid cutting veneer directly on top of your workbench. Most people slip something under the cut to prevent needless benchtop scars, but the choice of cutting mat can have a considerable effect on the quality of your cut. In our experience, soft woods and spongy cutting mats tend to promote tearout and ragged edges. We like to use scraps of hardwood-faced ply and we make a point to run the grain of the cutting surface perpendicular to the cuts we intend to make.

CHANGING THE BLADE: An exciting new feature on the Gramercy Veneer Saw is the quick-change blade. You can swap out an old blade for a fresh one, or switch to a different tooth pattern. All you need is a screwdriver. Simply loosen each of the three screws that secure the blade to the steel backer plate. Then slide the blade down, free of the key-hole slots. A quarter-turn or a half-turn of each screw is usually all you need to loosen or secure the blade.



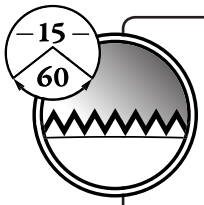


SHARPENING: Sharpening veneer saw blades is at once a delicate but straightforward art. The task is divided into two parts. First, you need to file the teeth. This is no different from filing any other saw. In short, you want to pass a file over the teeth while maintaining a consistent rake and fleam angle. Because all the blades we offer have a pitch of 15 points per inch, we recommend using a Swiss needle file. Next, you need to sharpen the bevel. You can do this with a flat mill file, but it's better to do it with sharpening stones. We prefer to use a medium India stone followed by a hard or translucent Arkansas stone.

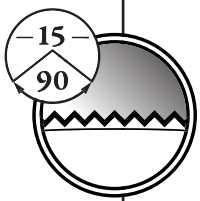


Consult the diagram at right. Using arc-shaped strokes, sharpen the bevel against the stone until the bevel meets the filed points of the teeth (**1**). This is where you need to take your time. If you under-sharpen, the teeth may look pointy, but you'll notice quickly that the saw cuts with difficulty and will possibly leave a ragged edge (**2**). If you over-sharpen the bevel, you'll start to see flats on the top of the teeth and you'll need to do some more filing to make them pointy again (**3**). It's good to make test-cuts often if you're new to saw-sharpening. This will give you the best idea of how you're doing.

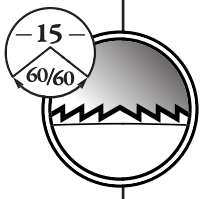
BLADE SELECTION: We offer three tooth patterns. These reflect traditional approaches and don't necessarily imply different purposes such as ripping, cross-cutting, etc. However, we feel that the best way to get a sense of the subtle differences between them is to try them for yourself.



15-60: Very straightforward. We feel this traditional English/American pattern is a good all-around blade for many applications. It's also the easiest to sharpen.



15-90: Modified traditional. For delicate situations when the 15-60 might feel too grabby or aggressive. This is our own invention. We use a square file instead of a three-corner (triangular) file and the result is a relaxed rake that can cut smoothly in difficult grain.



15-60/60: Old-world French combination blade. This is also a traditional pattern, but it seems to spark the most controversy. Because the blade features teeth that appear to 'face' each other, this blade can cut with different characteristics depending on how you hold it. For some, this can be infuriating; for others, it's a joy to use. In the workshop here at Gramercy Tools, it's a house favorite.

King Kong: This modified 15-60 veneer saw blade is specifically designed to meet the needs of the ébéniste, marqueter or crafts-person using hand-sawn or otherwise thicker veneer. Designed using feedback from master craftsmen Patrick Edwards and Patrice LeJeune of the American School of French Marquetry, King Kong features a filing pattern similar to our Gramercy Sash Saw. The blade has no set, and only a light dusting of bevel. This allows it to cut with less drag than standard bevel veneer blades while tracking along a straightedge.