

Abalone Veneer Strips: Heat Gun Installation



1. Sizing Abalone Veneer

Measure Blank Diameter to get the strip width necessary to cover the area. To do this, wrap several plies of masking tape at each section you need to measure. Slice the tape with a razor blade and remove from blank. Place the tape on the backing of the veneer at the desired length of the part. Draw a line from just above the ends of the tape lengths then cut the veneer piece to be used with scissors.



2. Applying the Strip

Remove the backing from the veneer strip. Use a Burnishing tool to push down the leading edge of the abalone veneer strip. You will want to begin the strip in the most inconspicuous place possible, as it is the one place where you will be able to see an edge.

3. Heating & Bending the Strip

Next we will heat the veneer flap with a heat gun set on low. You begin by gently passing the heat gun across the veneer with the direction of the hot air towards the flap of veneer sticking up. Do this for about 10 seconds then start to rotate the rod or part you are applying the veneer to. As you rotate it push down the veneer with the burnishing tool. You will need to continuously run the burnishing tool the full length of the part as it is slowly rotated. During this time you will need to keep the heat gun blowing on the veneer flap that has not yet been bent and is still sticking up. Do not keep the heat gun in one spot you need to be constantly moving it back and forth. When you have finished the entire diameter of the part use the burnishing tool to smooth down the exposed edge of the veneer strip.



4. Wrapping & Compressing

Immediately after applying the abalone veneer strip you will want to do a thread wrap over the entire length of the veneer strip you applied. This will smooth the surface and force out air bubbles for a more uniform surface to finish over. You will want to leave the thread wrapped around the part until it cools back to room temperature (usually about 20 minutes).



5. Trim and Finish

Next you will need to remove the thread after the veneer strip has cooled down. After removing the thread you'll need to do a small trim wrap at each end to keep the edges down. After you have done the trim wraps it is ready to finish. That's it - your inlay is complete!

