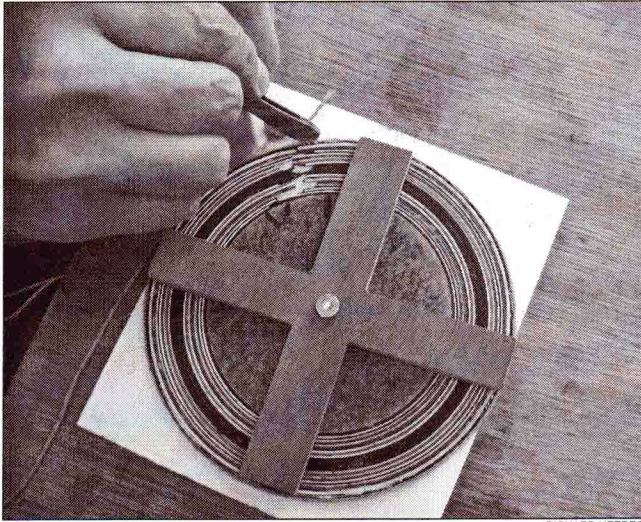
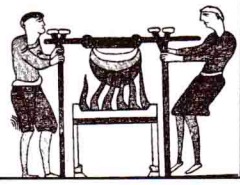


IT WORKED FOR ME



RICHARD HEERES

I don't know if I'm reinventing the wheel here, but this is something I came up with when making an old-style rosette. It works better for me than the messy method of gluing the strips into the rosette channel.

The base is a 20CM×20CM piece of Trespa, a solid melamine formaldehyde to which wood glue doesn't stick (www.trespanorthamerica.com). Waxed paper on some other solid flat material would work, too. The cross to hold the strips against the base could be any old piece of plywood. Between the two I mount a Trespa circle with about the same diameter as the inside of the rosette to serve as an interior mold (after experimenting, I found that oversizing the mold 1MM works best, as the rosette shrinks a bit when the glue dries). In the picture the base is light colored, and the mold is darker, but they are both Trespa.

Hidden behind the hand and tweezers are a bolt and a piece of rope. One end of the rope is knotted to the bolt, the other end goes around the rosette with every new strip, to get them nice and tight. Make sure to clamp the rosette between two sheets of Trespa as the glue dries or it'll warp like a... a..., well, something that really warps! The cross is removed before clamping. The rosette is about 3MM thick, and the mold is thin enough that it doesn't interfere with clamping.

If you fail miserably, you can still get the rosette to the right dimensions by soaking it in water for ten minutes or so, putting it on the right diameter mold, brushing it with fresh glue, and clamping it between two Trespa sheets.

When the rosette is complete, its bottom surface is trued up, and it gets glued in place. When the glue is dry it is made flush with the top of the soundboard.

— Richard Heeres