

## Marquetry Factsheet

**Marquetry** is the technique of applying pieces of veneer to a structure to form decorative patterns, designs or pictures. The word derives from a very old French word meaning “inlaid work”.

A **Veneer** is a thin sheet of wood which has been cut to show the beauty of its grain (the natural markings of the wood). Veneers are normally only one millimetre thick.

The **veneers** used are mostly types of wood but can also include bone, ivory, turtle shell, mother of pearl, pewter, brass, or fine metals.

A **fret saw** is a saw used for intricate cutting work, especially when the pattern has a lot of tight curves. The saw you see in the video is also sometimes called a **scroll saw**, which is a small electric or pedal-operated saw that is used for cutting tight curves and patterns.

A **motif** is an element or part of a pattern or theme. A motif can be repeated to make a pattern. They can be used many times in a pattern or just once.

An **anthemion** is a motif in decorative art. It looks like the fan shaped leaves of a palm tree. The motif originated in ancient Greece, and was used in Ancient Egypt and Ancient Rome. The motif was very popular during the time of Thomas Chippendale. Today we call it a Honeysuckle.

**Sand shading** is a technique used to shade the pieces of veneer used in marquetry. The technique uses sharp edged silver sand, which is heated. The veneer is then dipped into the hot sand where it burns to create shadow and depth. This technique is popular in marquetry because it creates smooth, gradual shading and a three dimensional effect. It has been use in marquetry for over 400 years.