5. Bonding the Top

- Mark a centreline on the bench top and on the laminate sheet to allow for correct positioning of the sheet (see Fig 10) this step is important as contact adhesive bonds immediately – you will not be able to re-position the sheet.
- Apply contact adhesive to both the bench top and the underside of the laminate sheet using either a special notched adhesive applicator or a brush (see Fig 11). Ensure the glue coat is even and covers the entire surface to be glued.
- Wait until the glue dries before attempting to bond the surfaces. A good test is to gently touch the glue surface with your knuckles, when the glue no longer sticks to your knuckles it is ready to bond.
- Place a number of thin dowels across the bench top (see Fig 12), the dowels will stop the laminate sheet from touching the adhesive until you are ready.

Fig10 Mark a centreline on the bench top and laminate sheet.

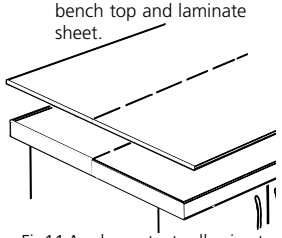


Fig11 Apply contact adhesive to the bench top and underside of the laminate sheet.

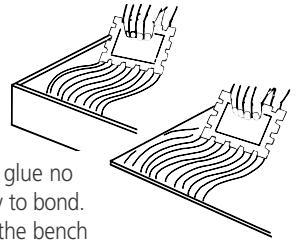
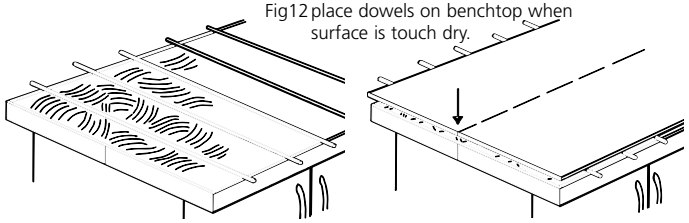


Fig12 place dowels on benchtop when surface is touch dry.



- Place the sheet on the dowels and line up the centreline marks on the sheet and bench top exactly (see Fig 12).
- When the marks are aligned, remove the two central dowels and press the sheet down to the bench surface (see Fig 13). Work from the centre out to the edges, removing the dowels as you go and pressing the sheet down firmly.
- Ensure a tight bond by moving a padded timber or cork block over the entire surface while tapping firmly with a hammer (see Fig 14).

Fig13 Working from the centre, press sheet down firmly.

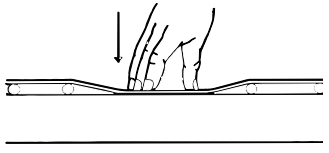
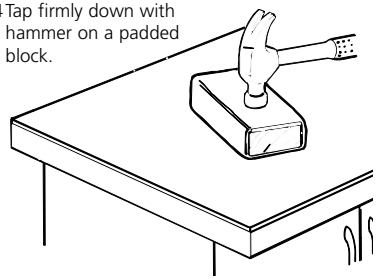


Fig14 Tap firmly down with hammer on a padded block.



6. Final Trimming

- Trim off the overlapping edges of the new surface using a file.
- Now bevel the edge of the laminate by tilting your file to 45° and pushing forward and down (see Fig 15).
- Clean up any traces of adhesive with a cloth moistened in methylated spirits and your bench should be looking brand new.

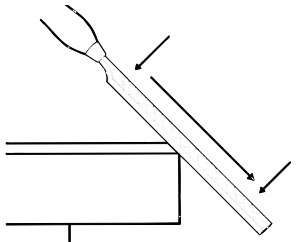


Fig15 Bevel edge finish with a file.

Project Cost Estimator

Materials Description	Quantity	Cost
Laminate Sheet		
Contact Adhesive		
6mm Timber Dowel or strips		
Mineral Turpentine or Methylated Spirits & Cloths		
Equipment		
Tape Measure		
Straightedge		
Laminate Cutter		
Contact Adhesive Applicator		
Sandpaper		
Flat File		
Padded Timber Block or Cork Block		
Hammer		
Total		

All these materials you need for this job are available at Magnet Mart, your home improvement warehouse.

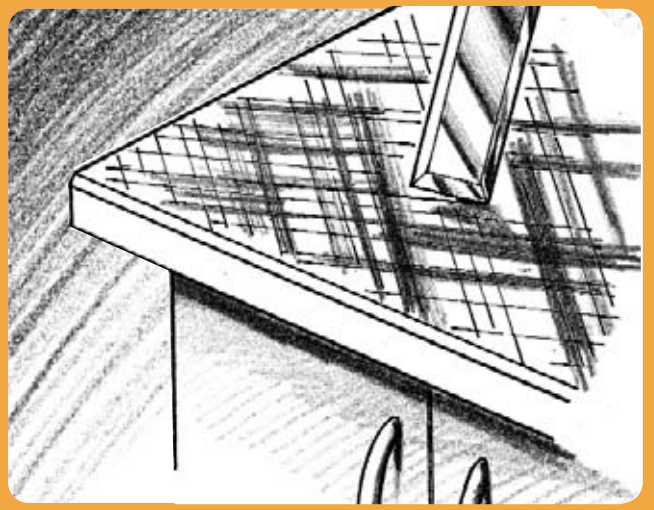
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Home Project

Magnet MART Home Warehouse

Laminate Your Benchtop



- Easy to follow step-by-step guide
- Important and handy tips
- Materials check list
- Project Cost Estimator

Before you start, please read through this pamphlet carefully and estimate and assemble all the materials you will need for the project and gather your tools and equipment together. Refer to the checklist and estimating form on the back panel of the pamphlet to assist in this preparation.

You Can Laminate Your Bench Top

Give Your Benches A New Look

Your kitchen is probably the centre of activity in your home and over time, this busy room will show the signs of wear and tear. A DIY make-over can be just what your kitchen needs to freshen it up. Make-overs can be relatively simple and well within the means of any homeowner.
Take some paint to refresh the walls and new laminate for the benchtops and you'll be surprised at the difference you can make in a very short time. This brochure will show you just how easy it is to improve the look of your kitchen with a little help from Magnet Mart.

1. Surface Preparation

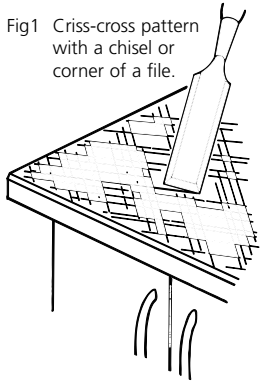
New Surfaces

- New particle board, hardboard or plywood all make ideal surfaces for applying plastic laminate. Solid timber is not an ideal material for laminating as it may twist and warp over time. If you need to laminate to a solid timber surface, first apply a hardboard or plywood covering to the timber, nailing and spot gluing the new surface so it is perfectly flat.
- Prepare all new surfaces for laminating by sanding smooth and dusting down. Ensure the surface is clean, dry and free from any grease or soap residues.

Existing Laminated Surfaces

- Check that the existing laminate is flat without any air pockets under the surface. If there are bubbles, try drilling 12mm holes in the affected area and forcing contact adhesive under the laminate, clamping overnight.
- If this does not work, or if the laminate surface is too badly damaged, remove the entire sheet of laminate by applying solvent thinners to the glue line and lifting the laminate as the glue dissolves.
- To prepare a previously laminated surface for re-glueing, first sand with very coarse sandpaper – try 80 grit – to roughen the entire surface. Then make a criss-cross pattern over the surface with the sharp end of a chisel or the corner of a file (see Fig 1).
- Brush the surface and then clean with a cloth moistened with methylated spirits or turps to remove any grease in preparation for glueing the new laminate.

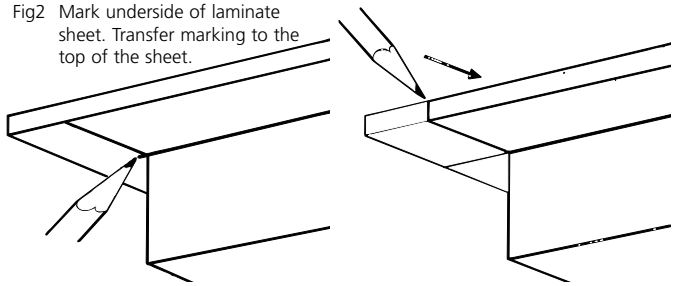
Fig1 Criss-cross pattern with a chisel or corner of a file.



3. Cutting the Laminate

- Place the new laminate sheet face up on the bench and mark the area to be covered on the underside of the laminate sheet (see Fig 2). Transfer these markings to the top of the sheet.

Fig2 Mark underside of laminate sheet. Transfer marking to the top of the sheet.



- Draw lines across the face of the sheet allowing 3 – 5 mm oversize for later trimming (see Fig 3).
- On a clean, flat surface lay the sheet face up and score the lines with a laminate cutter using a timber straightedge as a guide (see Fig 4). Score the sheet in one firm, even pass.
- Press down firmly on the straightedge, grip the offcut of the sheet and lift it firmly so that it snaps along the scored line against the straightedge (see Fig 5).

Fig3 Allow 3-5mm oversize for trimming.

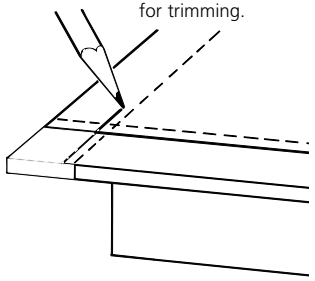


Fig4 Scoring laminate sheet with a laminate cutter.

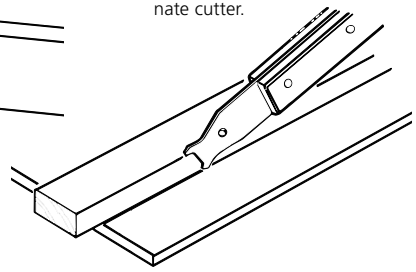
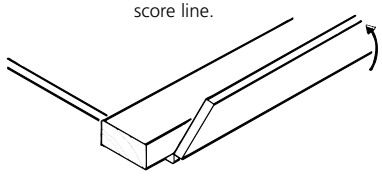


Fig5 Snap along score line.



4. Bonding the Edges

- It is easier to fix laminate to the edge of the bench first, cutting a suitable piece from the laminate sheet, remembering to cut the piece slightly oversize for later trimming (see Fig 6).
- Using contact adhesive, apply the glue to both the bench edge and the laminate strip and wait until the glue dries. Do not attempt to adhere laminate to a surface while the contact adhesive remains tacky, be patient and wait for the glue to dry (see Fig 7).
- Commencing at one end, stick the laminate to the edge and then using a cork or padded timber block and a hammer, firmly tap all the way along the edge strip to ensure a firm bond (see Fig 8).
- Now you can trim the edges of the strip flush with the bench using a file. File only with a horizontal, forward motion, ensuring that you lift the file from the edge at the end of every forward cutting stroke (see Fig 9).

Fig6 Cut edge piece slightly oversize for later trimming.

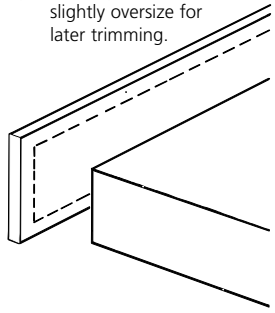


Fig7 Apply adhesive to underside of laminate strip and also to bench edge.

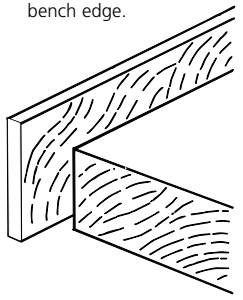


Fig8 Tap firmly with hammer on padded block.

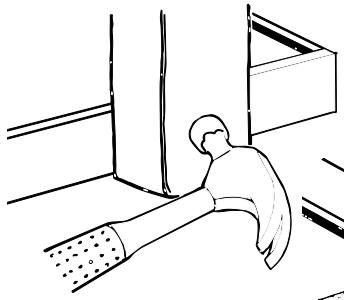


Fig9 Trim edges with a file in a horizontal forward motion.

