

veneer in the round

What you need to know about working with Hollowood tubes

During the design stages of our room divider, featuring the arch and columns on *page 44*, we learned of a wood product that proved perfect for our columns. It was strong but light, and it matched the surrounding cherry cabinets. From the point of constructing columns from scratch, this substitute saved us time and money.

Called Hollowood by California manufacturer BrandNew, this veneered tubing consists of thin, bonded plies of poplar measuring anywhere from $\frac{1}{32}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick. Strong, water resistant adhesive resin adheres the plies together, creating a tube wall of $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ " thickness. The outside is wrapped with a $\frac{1}{32}$ " veneer of exotic or domestic hardwood.

Idea starters

Though we used Hollowood in an architectural column application, there's no end to its uses. Some projects include bird houses, humidors, kaleidoscopes, furniture legs, drums, desk accessories, fly rod cases, kitchen canisters, and telescopes.

Making Hollowood work for you

To machine Hollowood, our builder Doug Guyer discovered a few secrets worth passing along. "When sawing the tubing, run tape around the perimeter where you have your cutline. Scribe your cutline on the tape. This will prevent chip-out.

"Also," Doug says, "make your cuts on a tablesaw, using a triple-chip blade with a 7° to 10° sawtooth bevel. Raise the blade $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the table/tube contact area [as shown *below*]. Fit your miter gauge with an auxiliary fence and stop. Locate the stop to cut the tube to the desired length. Then, turn on the saw, and move the gauge and tube over the blade. Rotate



Move the tube over the saw blade, then rotate it against the auxiliary fence and stop for an even 360° cut.



Use your drill press and a Forstner bit when making holes in Hollowood, easing the bit slowly into the wood to avoid tear-out.

the tube 360° to complete the cut. To drill Hollowood," Doug adds, "use a sharp Forstner bit mounted in a drill press and place the tube on a V-block to steady it while boring. [See photo *above*.] Don't force the bit through the wood or tear-out will result.

"Before applying a finish to Hollowood," Doug says, "sand the tube, working through a progression of 100- to 220-grit abrasives. Be careful not to sand through the thin veneer." ♣

Photographs: Baldwin Photography

For more information on Hollowood, contact

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