

Included Items

VS Standard™ vinyl vacuum bag, brass stem insert, and bag closure.

Preparing Your Vacuum Bag

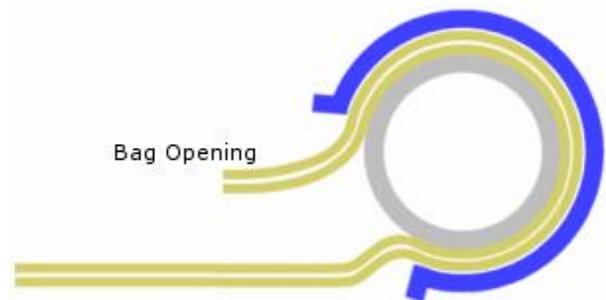
1. Unroll the vacuum bag and locate the vinyl nipple which is located approximately 15 inches inward from the vacuum bag opening.
2. From the top side of the vacuum bag, insert the barbed side of the included brass connector into the nipple. Warning: Brass products may contain chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.
3. You can now connect to the vacuum bag with our lock-on connector which is available at VeneerSupplies.com.

Warning

Safety should be your highest priority when working with this item. It is your responsibility to use and handle it in a safe manner and in accordance with all safety policies in the work area. Wear appropriate safety equipment including eye and ear protection while using this item. Use of this item is at your own risk. JWW Services Inc. doing business as VeneerSupplies.com disclaims all responsibility for any resulting damage, injury or expense.

Using the Bag Closure

The PVC closure system included with your vacuum bag will allow you to easily seal the bag opening. Simply roll the bag end over the PVC tube. Then snap the PVC C-channel over the bag starting from one end and working towards the opposite end. To ensure a perfect seal, be certain that the entire bag opening is secured by the closure and that there are no wrinkles in the bag material.



For additional clamping strength, you can attach spring clamps over the C-channel. This is not necessary under normal conditions but it will provide a better seal if the bag is heavily worn. For the ultimate gripping strength, the bag may be rolled over the tube twice before the C-channel is attached. We do not recommend more than a double roll over the tube due to the difficulty of removing the closure under such clamping pressure.

To remove the closure, pull the C-channel off of the PVC tube starting at one end and work toward to the opposite side until the closure is released.

A light coat of car wax applied to the outside of the bag will make it easier to apply the closure.

VS Standard™ Vinyl Vacuum Bag Maintenance

During the first two or three uses, the vacuum bag may seem rigid and difficult to work with. However, with each use, you'll find that the vinyl becomes more soft and pliable. Within the first ten pressings you will see and feel a noticeable increase in the bag's flexibility. With ordinary use, the vacuum bag will last for a very long time. Extend the service life of the vacuum bag by using and storing it carefully. Be sure to round over any protruding edges on the platen and cauls the might puncture the bag. You can also extend the life of the vacuum bag by using it only when the ambient temperature is above 60°F. When you finish using the vacuum bag, store it away from direct sunlight and other UV sources such as fluorescent lighting.

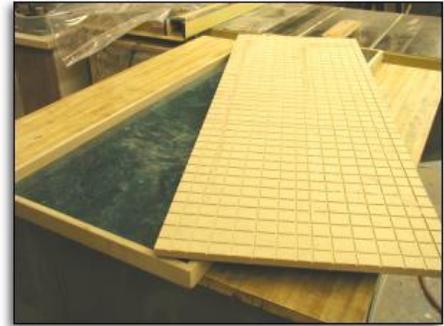
Should your bag develop a leak, the easiest way to find it is place pieces of brown paper in the area where you suspect there is a leak. Then place the platens inside the bag and clamp it shut. Next,

turn on the vacuum unit and allow it to achieve as much pressure as possible. Now spray the outside of the bag with water. Any holes in the bag will show up on the paper as the water is absorbed.

For a quick fix, place some clear packing tape over the hole and press it down firmly. If you prefer a more durable repair, please see our website for a vinyl patch kit.

Platens and Breather Mesh

The platen system inside the vacuum bag is what keeps the panel flat while the press is in use. It also allows air to flow out of the vacuum bag to the vacuum source thereby creating evenly distributed pressure inside the bag. You'll need to make 2 platens from $\frac{3}{4}$ " melamine. Or if you have plastic laminate available, you can also use plywood or MDF for the platens (be sure to adhere the laminate to one side of each platen). Either of these two types of platens is ideal for vacuum pressing because it will prevent the veneered panel and any excess adhesive from sticking to the platens.



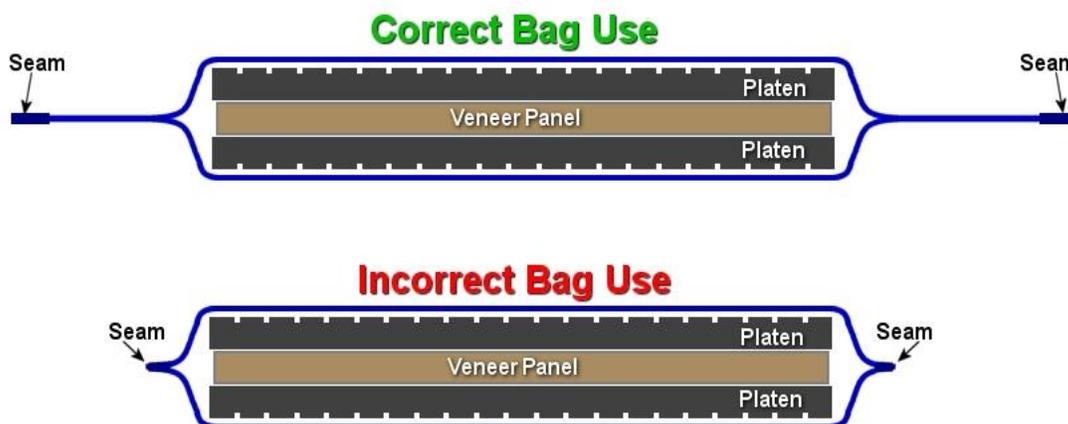
More Information can be found at www.JoeWoodworker.com/veneering/platenscauls.htm

Breather mesh is an extruded plastic fabric that is used in a vacuum bag to allow air to flow away from the project being pressed and towards the vacuum port (bag stem). It is used in place of a top platen/caul. Without it, the vacuum bag material can seal itself against the veneer causing pockets of air. These pockets have little or no pressure inside and therefore do not provide enough clamping strength for veneer work. Breather mesh allows the even distribution of vacuum inside the bag. This is the key to successful vacuum pressing.

More Information can be found at www.JoeWoodworker.com/veneering/breather-mesh.htm

Avoid this Common Mistake

Be careful that you do not stress the seams on your vacuum bag. The seams will surely break if they are being pulled apart by vacuum. When using an appropriately sized bag, the seams will pull together. Imagine a small project inside a large bag. Under pressure, you can see that the seams actually pull together and are not stressed.



Making Large Bags More Convenient

It can be difficult to work with a large project in a large vacuum bag. To make the process easier, you can cut off the seam at the far end of the bag. This will allow unencumbered access to the project panel from both ends. Keep in mind that you will need a second bag closure to seal the end. These are available at VeneerSupplies.com.