

Veneer Tape Dispenser

If you've ever joined two veneers with veneer tape, then you probably know how important it is to have a decent tape dispenser on hand. There are several imported dispensers out there that are remarkably expensive but I doubt there are enough woodworkers visiting our website that would want or need something so costly. With that in mind, I offer this simple benchtop veneer tape dispenser using some everyday parts found in the hardware store. I hope you will find it a useful and valuable tool in your shop.



Warnings

The tape cutter is sharp. Always keep fingers away from the cutting edge.

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 while using this item.

Brass products may contain chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. Visit www.p65warnings.ca.gov for details.

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Instructions

1. Remove the protective cardboard that surrounds the cutting blade.
2. Slide the black tubing off the water bottle nozzle and fill the bottle with clean water.
3. Re-attach the tubing using enough pressure to create a tight fit on the nozzle.
4. Snap the bottle onto the mounts on the side of the dispenser.
5. Gently squeeze the water bottle to fill the roller-wetting basin. The water port in the basin will only fill to the correct level. Excess water in the basin will be pulled back into the bottle when it is released.
6. To prime the wetting wheel, slowly spin it by hand until the entire wheel is moist. Squeeze more water into the basin if needed to keep the wheel wet.
7. Remove the plastic spacer on the tape holder if your veneer tape is wider than 3/4".
8. Place the veneer tape on the carrier so that it unrolls from the bottom of the roll. This will put the adhesive side of the tape on the bottom so that it can be wetted properly.



9. Feed the tape under the aluminum pin and pull it onto and over the wetting wheel.
10. To use the tape dispenser, pull the tape toward you horizontally so that the tape rolls over the wetting wheel. Pull the tape slower if you prefer more wetting. You can also place gentle finger pressure on the tape over the wetting wheel.
11. When the correct length of tape has been wetted, tear off the tape using the cutting edge of the dispenser. Keep fingers away from the cutter since it is very sharp.
12. Gently squeeze the water bottle to refill the basin as needed.

Clean Up and Tips

- When you have finished using the tape dispenser, remove the bottle from the mount (leave it attached to the hose) and hold it below the water basin. Tilt the dispenser on its side to direct the water toward the filling port. Gently squeeze and release the bottle to pull the basin water back into the bottle. The wetting wheel can then be removed and dried with paper towels.
- Lightly moisten the end of the veneer tape. Loop it back over the aluminum pin and stick it onto the roll as shown below. Doing so will keep the tape from sticking to the wetting wheel until it is ready to be used during your next veneering project.



Maintenance

- If the wetting wheel develops patches of mold, spray it with a mixture of 1 part bleach and 9 parts water. Then rinse it thoroughly with clean water.
- The tape cutter can be sprayed with silicone or machine oil as needed to prevent corrosion.