

DRAGON INSTRUCTIONS

Materials needed:

20' of 2 x 8 red oak, 20' of 1 x 8 red oak, 7/8" dowel, #20 biscuits, wood glue, sand paper, stain (if desired), and polyurethane.

The first thing to do is transfer the silhouette of the dragon from the grid. Each block represents an inch, so you will need a piece of tracing paper at least 4'-3" by 2'. Grid your paper then transfer the images.

After transferring the images, you need to make a blank for the body, this needs to be out of 2 x, at least 4'-3" by 2'-0", try to take into account grain orientation for stress points, that is, make sure the grain runs lengthwise in narrow places like the neck and legs, in larger places it is pretty much a matter of aesthetics.

To make the blank, use your biscuit joiner, before cutting slots, cut out your paper dragon (cut the solid lines first, the dotted lines are for later) and lay it on your wood to make sure you don't put any biscuits where they will be cut or seen. After determining where the biscuits need to go, set your joiner for 2 x, and cut and apply like we discussed earlier.

Also make blanks for the legs, remember, you will need two of each.

When your blanks have cured, preferably overnight, tape your paper cutouts to them and trace the outlines. Once traced, take your blanks to the band saw and carefully cut them out. Take your time and let the saw do the work. Regardless of how slow and careful you are, there will still need to be a lot of sanding done. Remember, this project is going to take some time, so don't rush it.

The rectangles at the bottoms of the feet are for the tenons which will hold the dragon to the spreaders in the rockers. They should be 1/2" thick and eventually 1" deep and 1/2" tall, they are bigger than that now, but will get cut down later.

After cutting out the 2x, you can cut your paper patterns along the dotted lines, leaving off the tail and section of the neck, make up 1x blanks to make two sides of the body and head, this will give some dimension to the dragon, your blanks won't need to be quite as big as the 2x one, but will be done the same way. Once these pieces are dry and traced, take the 1x to the band saw and carefully cut them out.

When all your pieces have been cut out and sanded, you can glue the 1x to either side of the 2x, taking care to line them up as exactly as possible. Clamp them on, wipe up any excess glue with a damp cloth, and let them dry over night.

When the clamps are removed you may find you need to scrape glue, this needs to happen before staining or sealing.