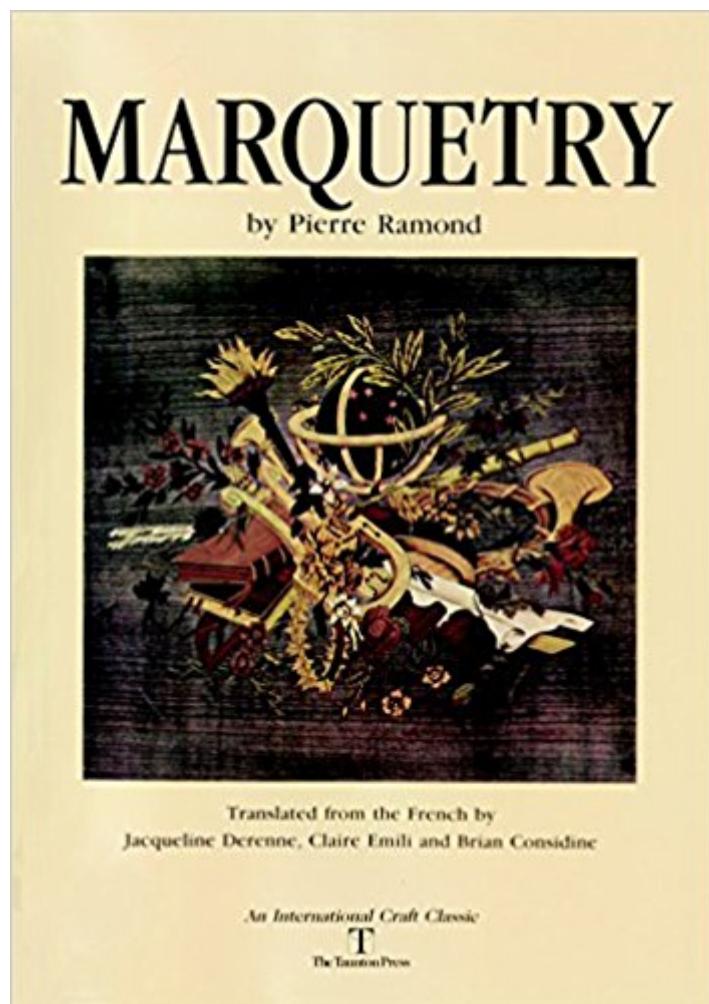


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# Marquetry, (An International Craft Classic)



## Synopsis

For centuries the art of marquetry has been centered in Paris, where the tradition has been transmitted only within workshops concentrated in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine. The outside world, therefore, has had very limited knowledge of the techniques used by the masters of this art. The publication of this English-language edition of *La Marqueterie* gives amateurs, art historians, creative woodworkers, and conservators access to an invaluable body of knowledge of the techniques of marquetry, covering the history of the craft as well as explanations of how a marqueter's studio is organized and the materials, instruments, drawing, preparation, and procedures used in the craft. It combines a thorough explanation of the craft techniques with detailed analysis of period examples, thereby giving readers a better understanding of marquetry pieces and new insights into shop practices. The book is an invaluable resource both for the art historian and the practicing craftsman.--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The history and technique of marquetry, a mosaic-like art of fitting together thin wood veneer pieces to form intricate "pictures" in furniture or on decorative surfaces, is meticulously examined as Ramond, teacher at Paris's famed craft school, l'Ecole Boulle, traces the history of the centuries-old tradition from Asia Minor to Italy, France and England, and explains the complex mechanics involved in creating what is sometimes called "painting in wood." Marqueters, cabinetmakers, restorers and art historians will be fascinated by drawings and photographs that detail working

methods, tools and machines employed in construction, virtually reviving a craft that had its distant heyday in the 18th century. Also surveyed are period styles as represented by marquetry "greats" and lesser-knowns. Outside of arcane manuals that long ago provided instruction to craftspeople, little has been published in book form on the subject, so Ramond's volume may stand alone as an introduction to a magnificent but comparatively obscure woodworking specialty. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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My perspective is from a person wanting to learn techniques and use this book to learn. I do like this book very much and will finish it (cover to cover). But going through, I think there are some challenges with the depth of the descriptions in some places. It may well be a situation of trying to cover too many things at once. I also have the 3 volume set by Pierre Ramond and that is much better from a picture perspective. I'm finding there is more technique information within this book such as with dyes. He also used some extracts from the Roubo book (To Make as Perfectly as Possible) which I have also studied. I would say his use of this reference improved my understanding. I found some of the pictures where students were working to be of lower quality. It's just that the pictures didn't really demonstrate in a way that clarified the text. That's what I was hoping for. If I did not look at the 3 volume set, I would probably have rated this book as 5 stars. I'm ignoring the price (yes, it's very expensive) because I haven't found any other books to be at this level of quality (knowledge and information).

I imagine that writing a single book on a subject as complex and difficult as marquetry is a task nearly as difficult as the craft about which it is written. Pierre Ramond has created a book that reflects his experience and expertise, succeeding in giving a wide view of the subject without being either facile or dwelling on a particular area while neglecting another. This is exactly the sort of work that is expected of someone who has spent a lifetime devoted to the subject. This is not a "how to" book, but it has a great deal of practical information provided in a clear format that will make an experienced woodworker feel that it is reasonable to make an attempt, filling in gaps of detailed information with his or her own knowledge and experience. That is the greatest thing about this book: it shows us examples that most of us couldn't possibly hope to reproduce, but they become inspiring rather than forbidding. These examples are provided within the proper historical context, which is also important, because we get a sense of the craft of marquetry as it moves forward.

There are detailed descriptions of methods and materials that would now be impractical and even unethical, as well as examples of modern thoughts on materials and processes. After taking all of this in, a woodworker starts to get a very real sense of how he or she might start to tackle the craft. A brilliant introduction and a great reference for the expert; if you are only going to buy one book on marquetry, this is the one to get!

Marquetry is impressive if you are making a simple flower or a project as ornate as the examples that are given in this book. Covering the art form from the early adopters in France and Italy, he explains in detail the procedures, as well as the tools that are used. When you see some of the pictures of the projects, you will think that you need a lifetime of practice to get to those levels, and maybe you do. They are so elaborate and ornate that you will appreciate what can be done in the art form. The book is large and is something worth featuring on a shelf. It is wonderfully illustrated, and they don't short you on the full color photographs. The chapters are; Veneer Decoration, History, The Marqueters Workshop, The Materials, The Instruments, The Drawing, Preparation, Procedures, Frisage and Jeux De Fond, The Construction of Cutting Tools, and Conclusion. The book is 14" x 10" and every page is packed with beautiful color photographs, and at the very least a drawing. Makes for an interesting read, as well as seeing what is being explained in full color. With so many full size color photos, you can see why the book is more expensive than a standard book. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned practitioner in the art form, this book will capture you. See the highest forms in the art, chosen by the top museums for display. All in all a first class reference. Highly recommended.

Great book. Beautiful condition. Quick delivery

Excellent Publication, Hefty price....however I feel smarter but just having it in my Library. Very well presented and all in all a wonderful book to have and pass down to successive generations. If you are in anyway interested in Marquetry, whether doing or collected this is a definite necessity as a reference.

If can find one of these, it is definitely worth the purchase. I can't imagine how much time and effort it took to make the items shown in this text. Simply Amazing!

This book helped me differentiate from inlays and inspired ideas using both methodsIn wood

projects. I love the book!

History and examples are good, but the how too information is disappointing.Too bad there was not a preview on this web site.

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