Siminoff Banjo and Mandolin Parts
PO Box 2992 • Atascadero, CA 93423 • USA
siminoff@siminoff.net • www.siminoff.net • 805.365.7111

Instructions	
Binding tape	
Rev: 8/15/09	Pt# 460

Siminoff binding tape is a non-adhesive tightly-woven cloth tape that is used to secure binding in place during binding installation. The tape provides a positive means for applying pressure against the binding and forcing it into the binding groove. While glue may stick to the binding tape, the tape is easily resulable for hundreds of subsequent applications.

Fig.1, #460 Binding tape, 8 yards

Securing the binding in place

1) Ensure that the binding notches are deep enough, fully routed, and free from sawdust and debris. Use Duco Cement® when affixing celluloid binding. For other types of binding, test the glue and binding you have purchased on a separate piece of wood.

2) To achieve clean, well-rounded bends, emmerse the celluloid binding in a pot of boiling water. Then remove the binding from the water with long-nose pliers or surgical forceps and bend the binding to its approximate shape. Working smooth bends in the air provides for cleaner, smoother curves than if you were to bend the binding against a form.

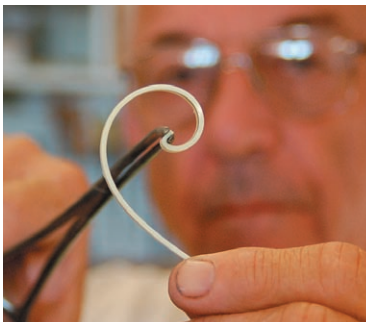
Fig. 2, Bending the binding.

3) Carefully cut the corner where the binding will meet the ajoining binding. Anticipate the mortised angle that the two binding pieces will make. Cut the binding with a single-edge razor blade. Press down hard, with the binding resting on a smooth board or firm support.

4) Anticipate the direction in which the binding tape will be pulled (Fig. 3). <u>The binding tape should always be wrapped around the instrument in a direction that lets the binding tape pull the binding down into the binding notch</u>.

Fig. 3. Note the knot used to lock the binding tape into the scroll. This is the correct direction to wrap the binding tape to pull down the binding between the two body points. However, it would be the wrong direction to wrap the binding tape if it was going to hold down the binding closest to the camera (this direction would pull the binding up from the binding notch).

5) When doing large sections, such as the long run from the body scroll to the lower point, the binding tape will interfere with gluing the entire length at one time (Fig. 4). Do NOT cut the binding to its final length yet. Work as far as you can. Let the cement cure, remove the binding tape, and glue and secure the remaining portion of the binding (Fig. 5).

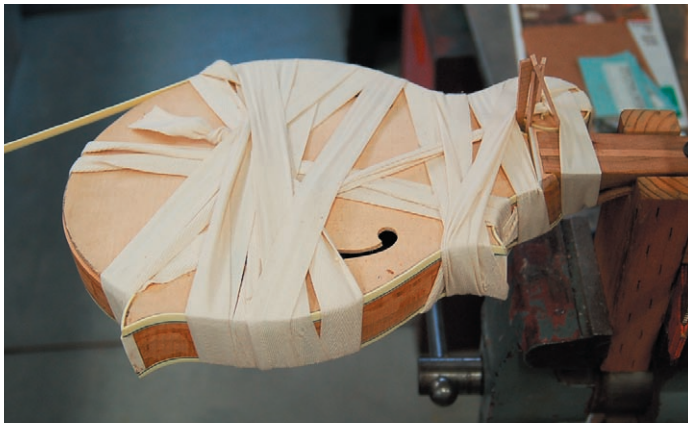
Fig. 4. Since the binding tape is wrapped around the entire instrument, some binding pieces - such a the long piece from the scroll to the lower point - will have to be glued in sections. Work a far as you can. Let the cement cure, then complete the binding.

6) When you remove the binding tape and are ready to glue the remaining segment of the binding (Fig. 5), ensure that you get glue under the binding where the protruding piece of binding last received cement in the previous operation.

over -->

Fig. 5. After the cement cures, the final length of binding can be glued in place. Note that the free end of the binding tape is secured by simply tucking it into some of the wraps.

7) When working in stages (as in paragraph #5 on previous page), carefully check the length of the binding in preparation of the final gluing and attaching. It is best to cut the binding LONGER than you anticipate so that you can snug it in place. Also, the thin bead of cement will make the binding length to be slightly longer than you anticipate (which will make the binding end up short of the joint).

Fig. 6. Small wedges are used to hold the binding in place in the tight spots.

8) In the tight spots, such as inside the body scroll and peghead scrolls, use small wood wedges to hold the binding in place (Fig. 6). Do not push the wedges in so hard that they bend, dent, or deform the binding.

9) Plan ahead when using binding tape. Some wraps are very simple, such as when securing the curved binding from the headblock to the first point (Fig. 7).

10) Allow the Cement to dry for at least 3 hours before removing the binding tape.

Fig. 7. Securing the short piece below the lower point, or the S-shaped piece from the headblock to the first point, is a fairly simple wrap. Be sure to wrap in the direction that will pull the binding down into the groove.