Siminoff Banjo and Mandolin Parts
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Assembly Instructions	
Rib (rim) set, F5, F4, H5	
Rev: 10/26/08	Pt# 300, 1300

Note:
To ensure maximum reliability and stability of the mandolin/mandola rim, we use a proprietary steam-bending method to coax the maple in to its final shape. Through this method, the cells of the wood are actually bent into a smooth, new form rather than being ruptured as often occurs in the dry heat bending process. After steam bending, our rims are cured to a moisture content of 15% to 18% before they are removed from their forms to assure a reliable, life-long shape and structural consistency.

Some things you should know about steam-bent rims:

1) The steam bending process ensures that all of the fibers and cells of the wood are being reshaped and not stressed into their new form. In addition, steam bending assures that there are no permanent burn marks on the wood´s surface.

2) The wood will not return to its original shape unless it is re-steamed or heat-bent.

3) If major re-shaping or bending is needed for any reason, traditional heat bending methods can be used (especially since the wood´s cells are in their natural, but bent, structure).

4) The “S” piece that goes from the upper point to around the headblock ends at the neck joint. It does not continue on the bass side of the headblock.

5) A body fixture should be used to hold the rim in its precise shape until the soundboard is glued on. Do not remove the rim assembly from the fixture until the soundboard has been glued to the rim, blockset, and lining.

6) The steam bending process may cause the curly grain to be obscured from view. Often this is caused by the surface of the wood not having a sheen after it is bent. The curly grain will again be apparent when the rim is scraped or sanded.*

7) When finishing and coloring the instrument, the use of traditional “contrast building” techniques will bring out the curly figure. For more information on building grain contrast during finishing, consult *The Ultimate Bluegrass Mandolin Construction Manual*, Hal Leonard Publishing, Milwaukee, WI.

8) For our F5/F4/H5 rim sets, the extra rim wood needed for the bottom of the lower point can be taken from any left over portion of the other three pieces.

9) Some small fibers of wood may raise on sharp bends. This is normal and can be sanded away. (We will not ship defective rim sets.)

10) You might want to fabricate a sanding block as shown on the reverse side, using 60- or 80-grit sandpaper to sand the rim, kerfed lining,

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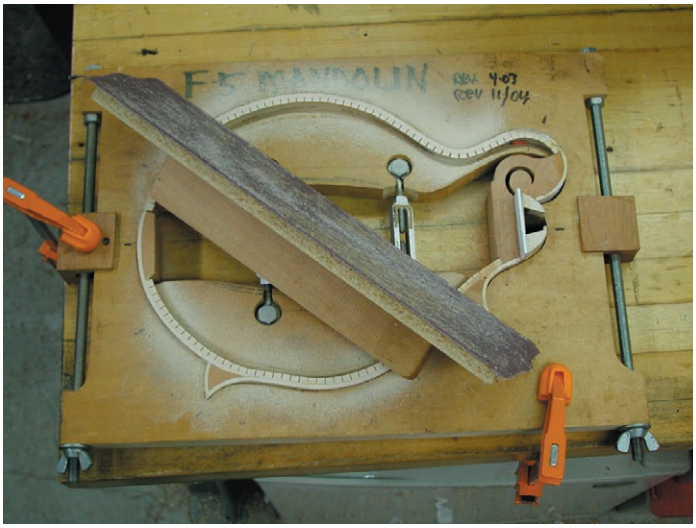
* For matching purposes, we occasionally check the grain by scraping or sanding along the outer surfaces of the pieces.

Continued on reverse side ---->>

and block set flush to each other after they have been glued up in the body fixture.

The sandpaper can be glued to the sanding block using rubber cement (apply to both faces, allow cement to dry, press together).



For complete instructions on 15 steps for assembling the rim, you can download an instruction sheet entitled *Assembling Rims in Body Assembly Fixtures* from our website at: http://www.siminoff.net/pages/siminoff_downloads.html