

Tambour Installation Instructions

Upon receiving tambour – it must immediately be placed in a controlled environment. Failure to do so could result in buckling/warping issues with the natural wood.

We recommend rolling the tambour panel (- curve it/flex it inward and outward –“C shaped”) prior to installing. Don’t over stretch it, just enough to put a medium tension on it and hold for 5 seconds. This helps create a small spacing between the slats which will allow room for expansion and contraction due to humidity and temperature variations, as well as finishing with stain/sealer/varnish/paint.

Tambour may be bonded to any clean, dry, structurally sound and rigid surface. Do not apply over furring strips. The surface should be flat and true. All surfaces including the tambour back must be free of dirt, grease, loose paint, etc.

Installation area must be heated/cooled between 65 and 80 degrees and under 55% humidity 24 hours before installation and 48 hours after installation. Panels should sit in area to be installed 24 hours to acclimate them (48 hours for solid tambour). If the material is kinked where it was folded or rolled this can be relieved if you loosen the material by rolling it up concave and convex to the flex the backer at the V-groove.

Recommended adhesive for wall covering is any high-quality construction mastic in caulking type tubes. Adhesive and all surfaces must be at least 65 degrees prior to installation. Do not drag tambour sheets across other sheets as this can mar the finish. Cut all panels prior to installation and “dry fit” to ensure proper fit. Apply a ¼” bead within ½” of all edges of panel and continuous bead across the panel every 4”. Apply panel to wall, pull loose and reapply. Press and knead repeatedly to insure contact. Place ¾” board over panel and rap sharply with hammer over entire surface. Do not butt panels tightly. Enough spacing must be allowed for expansion and contraction due to change in humidity and temperature based on the conditions when installing. Brad nails can be used to help hold the panel on the wall while adhesive cures. You can then either remove nail or set nail and putty. Trim options are up to each individual.

Total coverage (trowel application) adhesive, PVA adhesives, Epoxy, or contact cement may be suitable. Different types of adhesives have been found satisfactory for bonding Tambour. In all cases, refer to manufacturer of the adhesive instructions and recommendations.

Cutting

Tambours may be using normal woodworking techniques. An overhead trim saw is recommended to help avoid chipping the veneer surface material or delaminating the aluminum/veneer surface material. If using a table saw we recommend a sharp carbide tipped fine tooth blade. Set the blade height to just clear the tambour and place a board on top of the tambour and hold down tightly. This will help reduce chipping of the veneer or lifting of the aluminum.

Finishing

Prior to finishing/painting - tambour should be rolled to help with expansion/contraction before finish is applied. This is done by “rolling” the material inward and outward with a light pressure. This will create some space between the slats allowing for changes in temperature. (See highlighted section.)

Wood tambours may be finished using normal wood working techniques. Sample material is available in most cases to work up finishing procedures to the desired effect for your application. Refer to finishing product for exact specifications and directions.

Actual Tambour Door

Veneer tambour can be folded back 180 degrees to double the thickness for larger doors. Line up the grooves and glue with contact cement. The tambour still will bend and is now twice as stiff and balanced to prevent warp age. The back layer should be notched short so that only one thickness goes into the grooves. If you don’t wish to double up the whole door, doubling some of the tambour at the start and at the end will also be beneficial.

A solid wood leader may be added to solid wood or veneer Tambour by attaching to the face of the first couple of slats or more. Leave the leader short of the groove and glue and mechanically fasten from the back.

Routed grooves are recommended to be a minimum of 3” radius and plus about 1/8” over the thickness of the tambour (example: solid wood 5/16” thick, groove 7/16” , veneer and metal type 5/32” thick, groove ¼”)

All instructions are recommended and are not meant to imply a warranty or guarantee for which we assume any responsibility. Users must undertake testing and verification as to specific applications to determine suitability for them.