

Beautiful border frames a sunburst tabletop

BY MARK ARNOLD

Depending on the design, the border around the veneered center of a tabletop can have a strong voice, or it can serve its purpose with a whisper.

I'll illustrate how you can use contrasting veneer to increase the "wow" factor of even a piece as dramatic as a sunburst tabletop (see "How to Veneer a Sunburst," pp. 72-79). By cutting the border, also known as crossbanding, with

either a concave or convex curve where it meets the sunburst, you can produce two very different looks: A concave edge produces a floral motif, while a convex curve creates the look of a spider web.

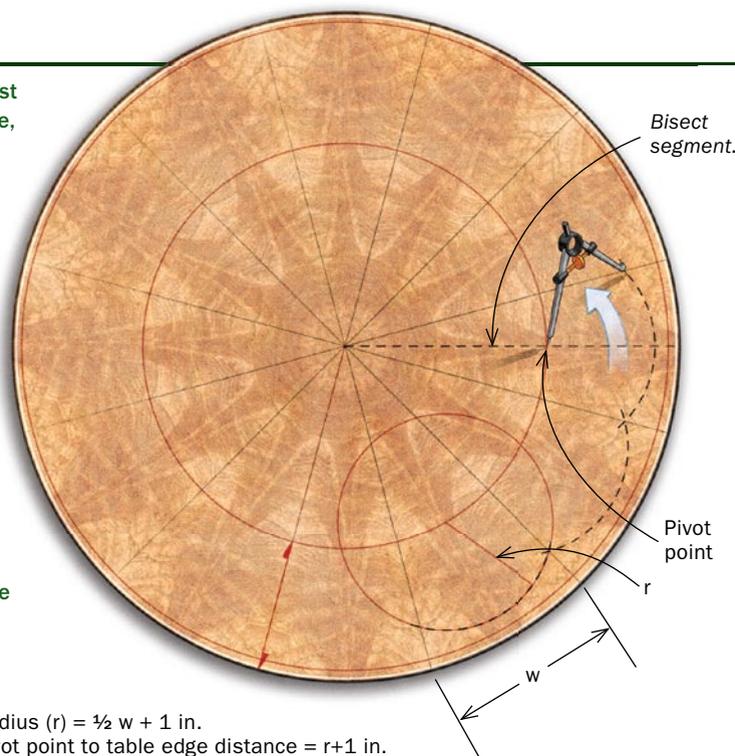
I'll describe how to make the floral motif in this Master Class, but you can learn how to create the spider-web border at FineWoodworking.com/extras. Each method uses the radial seams in the sunburst pattern as the

CREATIVE CURVES

The radius at the end of each sunburst segment is a matter of personal taste, but the following formula is Arnold's favorite:

Calculate the width of a segment (w) at the edge of the circle. The radius (r) is half this width plus 1 in. Set a compass to this distance. To find the pivot point in each segment, draw a line that bisects the segment and measure in from the edge the distance of the radius you just calculated plus 1 in. Gently set the point of the compass on this spot and mark where the pencil crosses the two seams of that segment. If the two marks are an equal distance from the edge of the table, you're good to go. Mark the pivot point with a pencil.

Radius (r) = $\frac{1}{2} w + 1$ in.
 Pivot point to table edge distance = $r + 1$ in.



Draw the design. After deciding on an attractive radius, mark the pivot point in the center of each sunburst segment, and use a compass to draw the arc across the end of each segment.