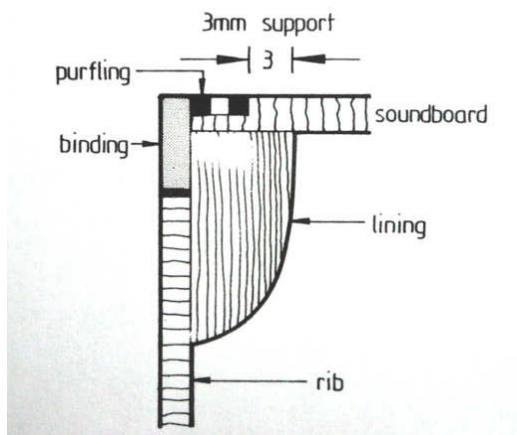


PURFLING AND BINDING

When the main structure of the guitar is complete, work can begin on binding all the exposed edges of the soundboard and the back. Although one purpose of applying binding around the guitar is for decoration, the most important function is to seal the exposed end-grain of the back and soundboard. This will prevent damage from chipping, and also slow down any absorption of moisture. The complete edging of the guitar consists of two components – purfling and binding. These are glued into a rebate that is first cut around the periphery of the soundboard and the back



Typical design for the purfling and binding

PURFLING

Purfling describes the decorative lines that are set into the soundboard and the back. Their colour contrasts with that of the soundboard and the back so that a line of visual definition is created all round the guitar. The simplest soundboard purfling consists of one thin strip of dark veneer. For a dark back, a light-coloured veneer strip would be used. More elaborate purfling can be made by gluing together alternating colours of veneer strips. Typical combination would be black/white/black, or white/black/white. Some makers also incorporate herringbone or other designs taken from the rosette motif.

BINDING

Binding describes the strip of wood that is glued into a rebate cut around the periphery of the guitar. It is usually the same thickness as the ribs (around 2mm), and between 4mm and 7mm deep. The lower edge of the binding (visible on the rib) often has an additional strip wood glued to it which may match the purfling.