DrumStroke – Installation instructions for drumwraps

There are several methods to apply a wrap to a drumshell or to a drumhoop. Those here described are our preferred methods. If you have questions, observations or suggestions about this, feel free to contact us.

Warning! With some of the required tools (such as the drill and the utility knife) you can hurt yourself. If you are not sure of your capabilities, you should ask the help from an expert person.

The drumshells

Required materials and tools:

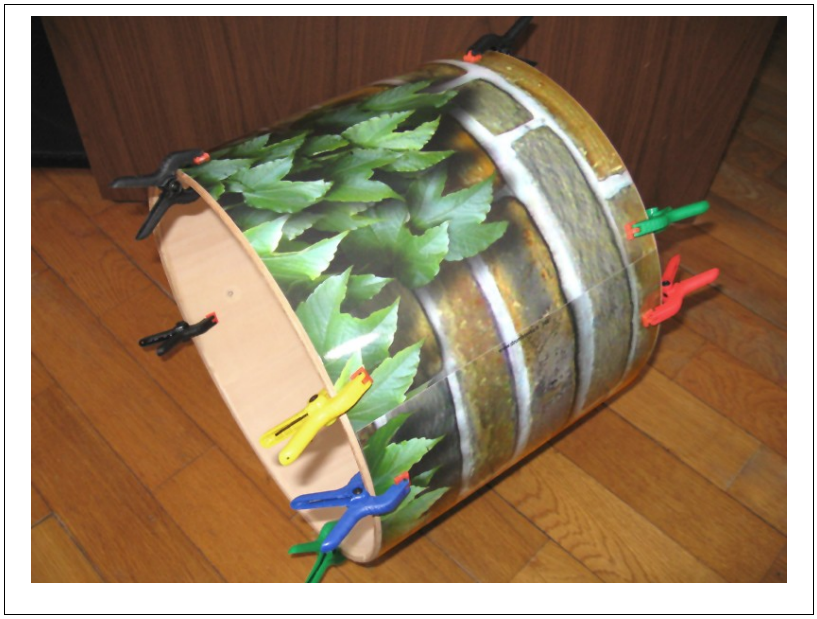
- the wrap, trimmed to size;
- the drumshell;
- small spring clamps (clothespins work as well);
- a drill, with bits of the necessary diameters.

You might also need a sharp nail or screw, paper masking tape, a thin tip marker, strong scissors or an utility knife.

DrumStroke's trimmed wraps are usually supplied with two strips of double-sided adhesive tape applied on the back (unless the customer requires a different installation method). The strip marked with number 1 will be attached directly on the shell; the strip marked with number 2 is of a high strength type and will be attached partially on the shell and partially on one edge of the wrap, creating an overlap.

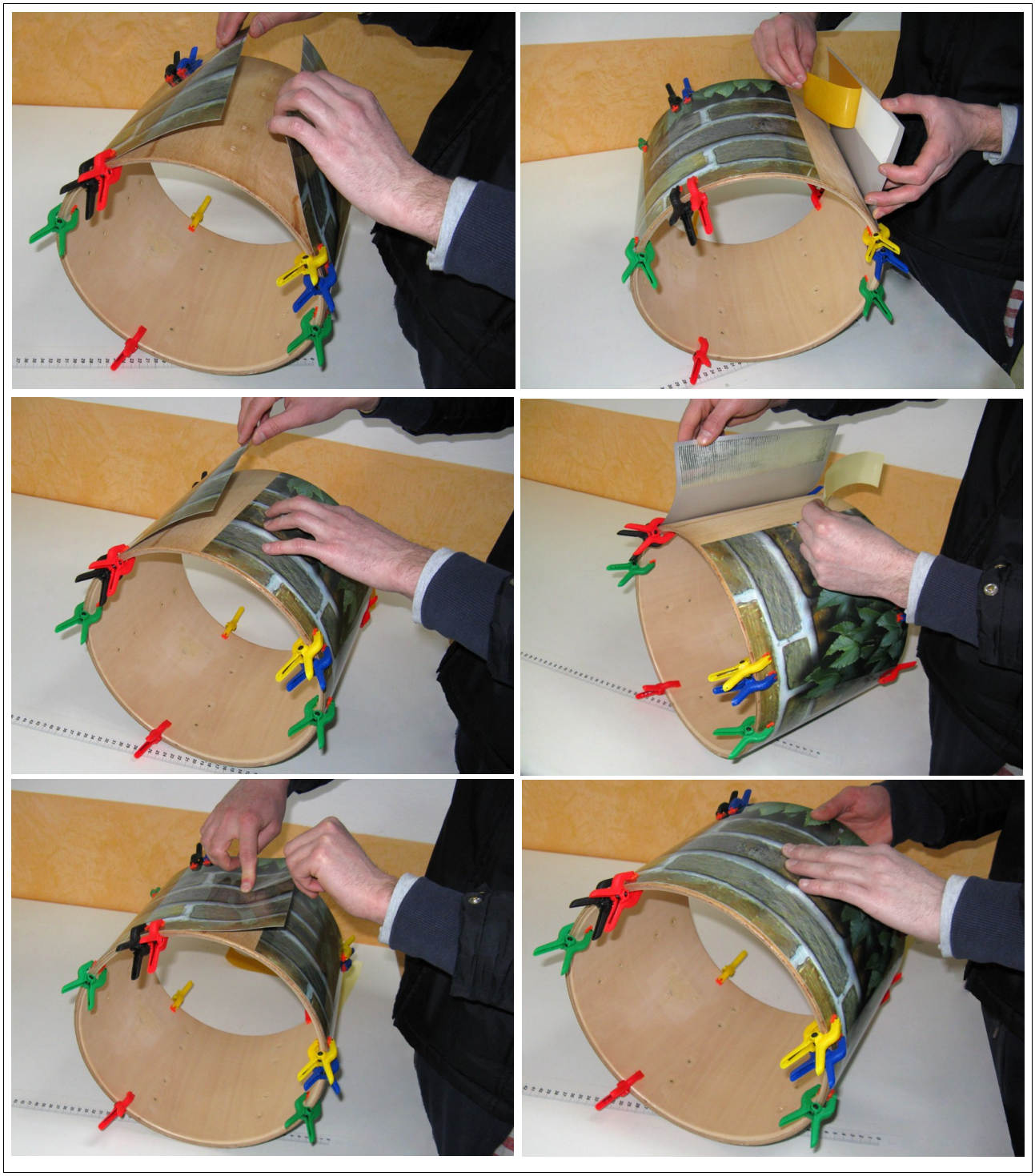
The overlap is circa two centimeters wide; for maximum strength and to minimize visibility, it is located along the line of two lugs.

The wrap is placed around the shell, securing its edges with the spring clamps. An effective method to make it adhere properly to the shell is to slide multiple times with the fingers along the entire circumference, repositioning the clamps each time, until a snug fit is achieved. If the shell is already drilled, you need to make sure that the overlap corresponds to the lug holes.



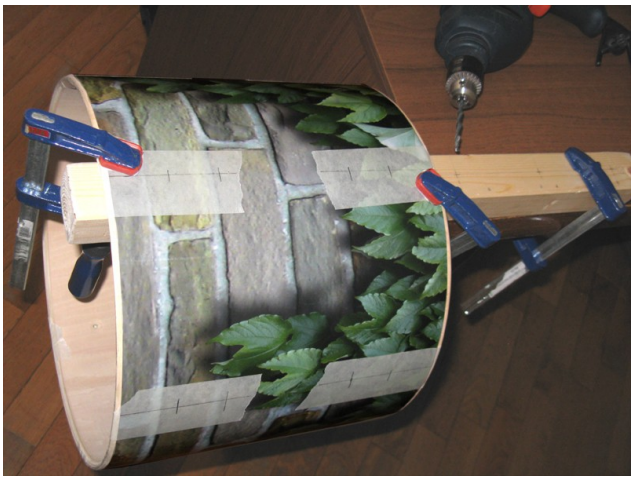
It is convenient to order the wrap a little narrower than the shell's height, so that on each side 3÷5mm of the shell will not be covered. These bare areas are necessary to avoid interference between the wrap and the drumheads; in the end they will be not be visible, because they will be hidden by the drumheads' rims. If some extra trimming is necessary, later in these instructions it is illustrated how to do it. It is worthwhile to take the time to make all the required adjustments and make sure that the wrap is in the correct position.

Then, the spring clamps are removed in the overlap area; if enough clamps have been applied in remaining parts of the shell, the wrap will not loosen. The backing paper is removed from strip number 1, which is made to adhere to the shell. You do not need to apply a strong pressure; it is sufficient to press with the fingers on the entire surface of the strip.
Then the backing paper is removed from strip number 2, which is made to adhere in a single point by pressing with a finger. This is enough to keep the wrap in position while you check one more time all the details. If something is wrong, the second edge can be carefully lifted and repositioned. If everything is correct, the strip number 2 can be definitively applied by pressing on its entire surface.



It is time to bore the required holes.

If the shell is not already drilled, you mask the external surface with paper tape and mark the drilling points using the drum hoop and the drum lugs as a reference (please note: in our photos we used an already drilled shell for illustration purposes, because we did not have a raw one handy). Do not forget the vent hole! The holes are made with the drill, placing scrap wood under the drilling point in order to avoid splintering.



If, instead, the shell is already drilled, the existing holes will act as a guide. With a sharp nail or screw you pierce the wrap, from the inside to the outside, keeping the shell on a relatively soft surface like old newspapers or corrugated cardboard. It might be helpful to tap lightly with a hammer. Using these small holes as a guide, the actual holes are made with the drill.
For bigger holes, like for example that of a bass drum mounted tom holder, it is more practical to cut along the diameter with an utility knife.

Drilling at he overlap will be a little more difficult, because there are two layers of wrap and two layers of adhesive tape. Small sticky balls may form, which might stick to the shell. In order to remove dirt from DrumStroke's wraps you just need to wipe them lightly with a

cloth slightly dampened with water or, in the most demanding cases, with denatured alcohol. Please note: denatured alcohol might not be appropriate for other types of drumwraps. Since many types exist, made form different materials, it is best to get information on the products that can be used in every specific case.

The last thing left to do is to screw the hardware to the shell and the work is complete!

How to trim the wraps

If you need to trim a wrap, we suggest two methods.
In both cases you start by marking the cutting line with a thin tip marker. On DrumStroke's wraps, the lines can be drawn directly on the surface; at the end the ink can be easily removed with a cloth slightly dampened with denatured alcohol.

The most immediate method simply consists in cutting along the marked line using a pair of strong scissors, with steady hand. The result will be a little less accurate compared to the second method, but the irregularities of the edge will be hidden once the drumheads are mounted.

The second method consists in locking the wrap to the work surface together with a guide, such as a drawing ruler, and use a sharp bladed tool, for example an utility knife. It is convenient to put some expendable material, like thick cardboard, between the work surface and the wrap. Everything must be firmly clamped. The best results are obtained by cutting in a single resolute pass, using a well sharpened blade.

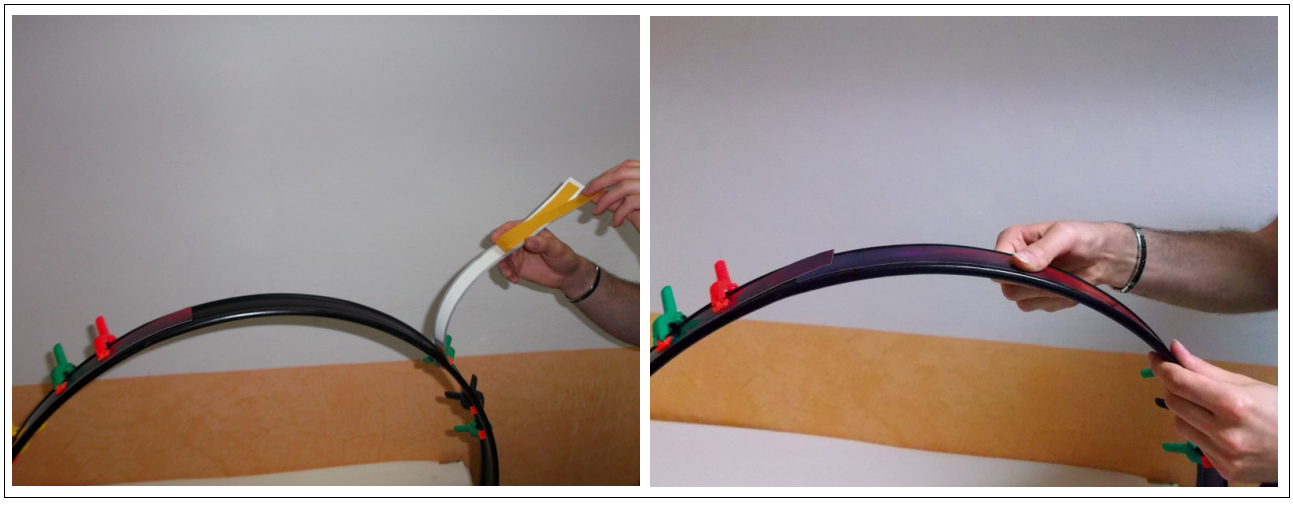
Every wrap produced by DrumStroke has a serial number written along the overlapping edges. The writings are in small characters, so as to be noticeable only up close. The serial number is useful to identify the wrap's design at any time; this allows, for example, to add-on to a drumkit with the same look of the already wrapped drums, even years later. To avoid losing this possibility it is advisable not to trim the overlapping edges, or at least to trim only the edge that will be covered by the overlap.

The drumhoops

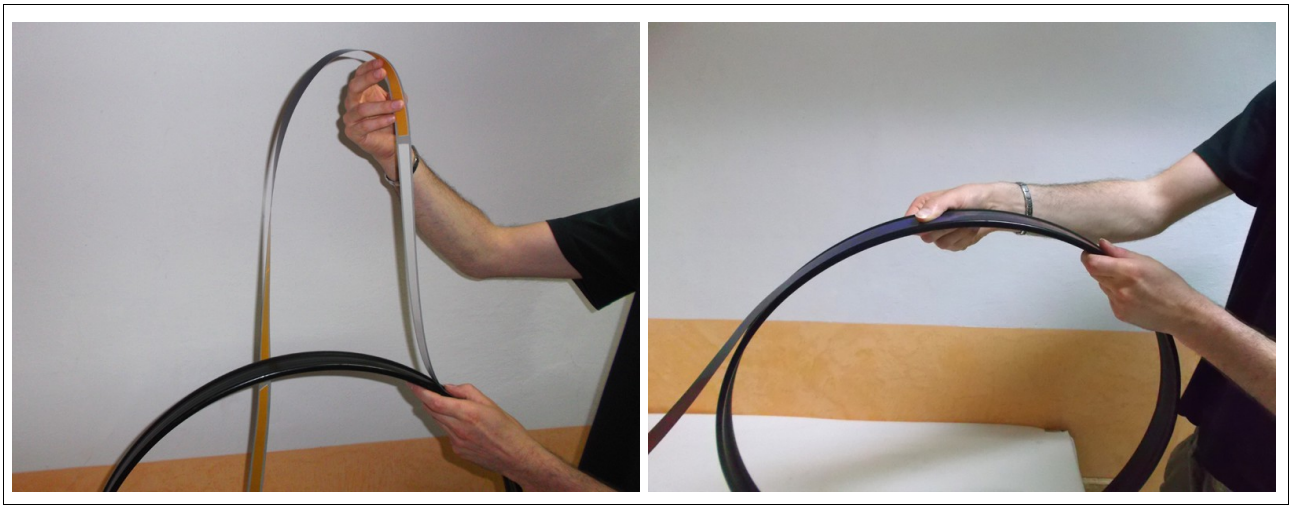
Wrapping drumhoops requires different methods, compared to wrapping drumshells, because there are no lugs to keep the wrap adherent to the hoop.
There are two types of drumhoops. One type has a groove in which the wrap is inserted; the other type has a plain external surface.

For grooved hoops we usually use the double-sided adhesive tape method.
When placing the order of the wrap for this type of hoops you need to specify the exact width of the groove.

The wrap is placed around the hoop, securing it with plenty of clamps.
DrumStroke's wrap is supplied with segments of double-sided adhesive tape applied on the back. When you are sure that the wrap is in the correct position, you remove the clamps in the overlapping area and peel off the backing paper from one of the segments at an extremity.
You place the wrap back on the hoop, without pressing it. If the wrap is not perfectly centered in the groove, it can be carefully lifted and repositioned. When you are positive about the position, you fix it in place by sliding repeatedly with a finger towards the strip's end.



Then you remove the remaining clamps, peel off the backing tape from the adjacent segment and fix it in place like the first one. This time, however, you'll need to slide the finger in the opposite direction (that is, starting from the already fixed part towards the free part).



You repeat the process for the remaining segments and you are done!

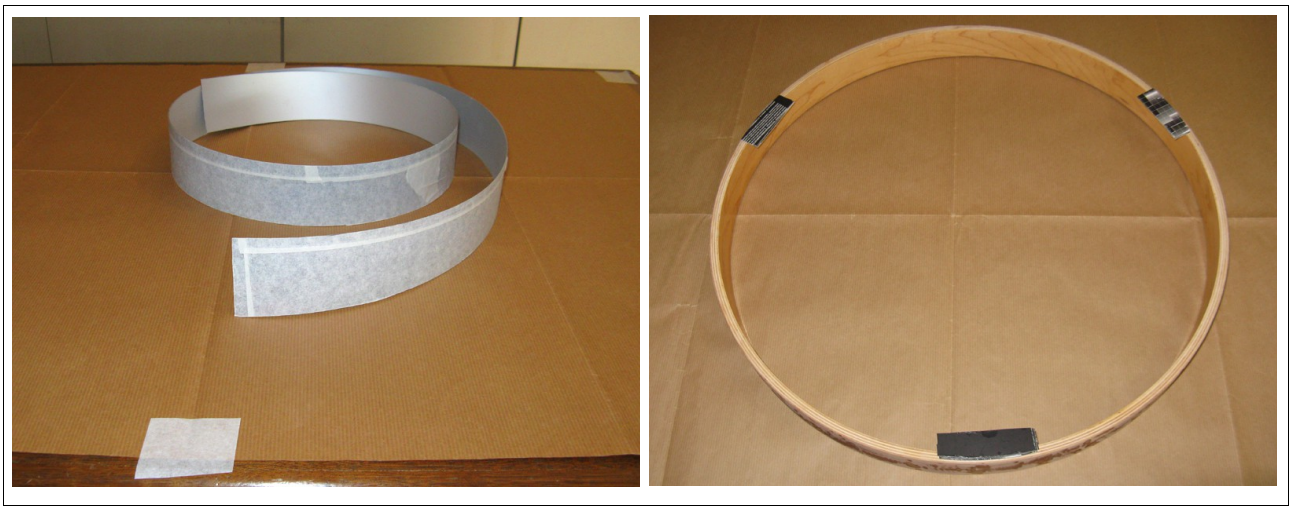
For the second type of hoops (those with a plain external surface) you need to resort to gluing. The glue normally used for this type of work is called “contact adhesive”.

Warning: this installation method, if well executed, produces good results. If executed badly it can ruin the object that is being glued and, even worse, the health of the person who performs the gluing. In addition to the cautions that we already recommended, you need to be aware that contact adhesives are easily flammable and can cause dizziness, drowsiness or allergic reactions. Thus, we strongly recommend to be very careful, read and respect the directions reported in the glue's package, and in case ask the help of an expert person.

With this installation method you need to order the wrap strips 5÷10mm wider than the actual width of the hoops. The wrap will be glued slightly sticking out on both sides of the hoop; the excess wrap will be trimmed later.

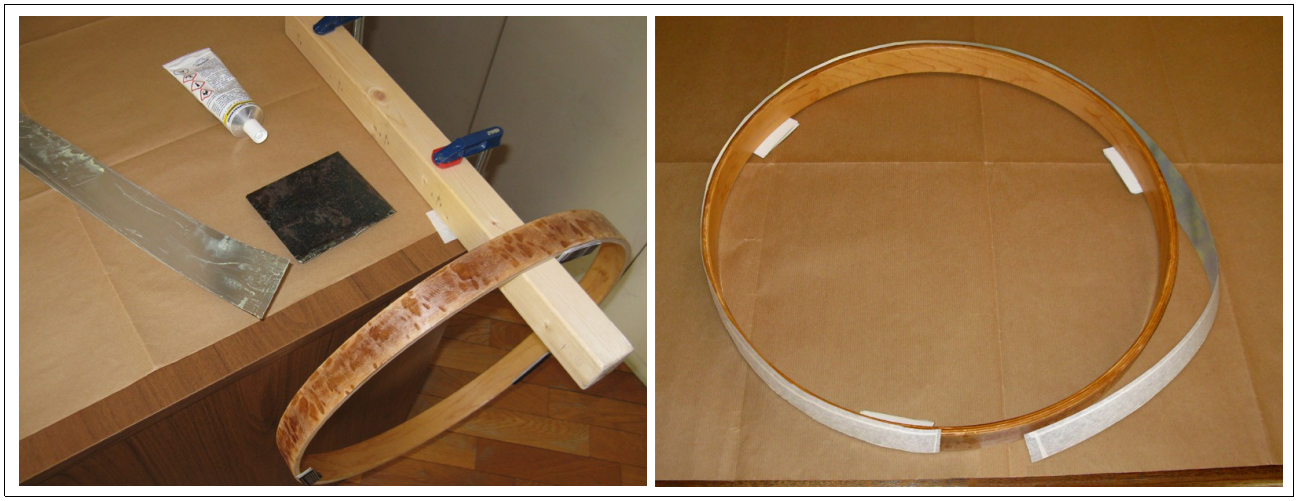
The external surface of the hoop must be cleansed of all residues of previous paint or glue jobs that could chip off. In the example of our photos we used a hoop whose original wrap was removed with indelicate methods, leaving dents in the surface, and then painted. We sanded the paint, obtaining a regular enough surface, though without completely eliminating the dents.

Since contact adhesive is difficult to remove, you need to apply masking tape to the external face of the wrap and cover the work surface with paper.



It is also convenient to make three little supports by gluing together layers of cardboard. These supports will be attached with double-sided adhesive tape on one side of the hoop and will keep it lifted a few millimeters from the work surface when the wrap is applied. It is important that the little supports do not protrude outside the circumference of the hoop.

A thin layer of glue must be applied on both the surfaces to join. We suggest to use a metal or plastic spatula. The glue becomes unworkable quite quickly, so it is best to spread it with the spatula subsequently in relatively small areas. There must be no unglued zones. Once the glue is applied you need to wait in order to let its solvents evaporate. The waiting time is reported in the glue's package, and is generally between 10 and 30 minutes. When the waiting time is over it is necessary to apply a new layer of glue if one of the supports is porous (it is the case of wooden hoops).



Contact adhesives cannot be repositioned, so it is essential to apply the wrap in the correct position at the first try. We suggest to place the hoop on the work surface on the little cardboard supports and attach one extremity of the wrap to the hoop, making sure that the lower edge of the wrap touches the work surface; then slowly envelop the wrap around the hoop, still keeping the lower edge on the work surface.

Once the circumference is complete, the extremities of the wrap will overlap by a few centimeters. With a pen or a thin tip marker you mark the joint, then you cut off the excess part with strong scissors.

In order to make the bond efficient you need to apply a strong pressure for a few seconds on the entire glued surface. The simplest method to do it is by using a wooden rolling pin, rolling it slowly along the entire circumference while pressing on the work surface. To better distribute the pressure it is best to place an old newspaper or magazine under the hoop.

The excess wrap on the sides is trimmed with a sharp blade. The edge can be further smoothed out with sandpaper or an electric router/trimmer, paying attention not to remove more material than necessary.

And here is the result.

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