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Subject: Sealing MDF

Posted by [NWCgrad](#) on Thu, 28 Apr 2011 17:14:11 GMT

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I am in the process of constructing three 4 Pi speakers out of 3/4" MDF (with a 1 1/2" front baffle - depth adjusted to account for internal volume decrease).

I am moving soon to a very HOT and HUMID environment (Cambodia) and understand that MDF is moisture sensitive. Therefore, I plan to seal the enclosures inside and out with two or three coats of Zinsser BIN primer/sealer to help with moisture resistance and to harden the enclosure. I will be covering with paper-backed red oak veneer via the hot iron method.

Will the BIN primer/sealer cause any problems with applying the veneer? I will be using Better Bond Heat-Lock Veneer glue.

Thanks,

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Subject: Re: Sealing MDF

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Fri, 29 Apr 2011 02:13:23 GMT

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If using MDF as described I'd apply veneer inside and out with contact adhesive which is one of the few water-proof glues.

OTOH, given a choice in Cambodia (!), I wouldn't touch MDF and go straight to Marine Plywood made with water-resistant adhesive.

Are we talking the Cambodia formerly ruled by Pol Pot and currently at war with Thailand? We Americans are really xenophobic and this one is having a hard time picturing a high-end sound system there.

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Subject: Re: Sealing MDF

Posted by [NWCgrad](#) on Fri, 29 Apr 2011 03:06:19 GMT

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Yep, that Cambodia! I will be there for two years. Not sure about my housing - but I am fairly hopeful it will be air conditioned.

Already have the MDF all cut ready to glue (will use Titebond II). I am hoping that by using a shellac-based sealer/primer both inside and out of the cabinet the MDF will be adequately protected from moisture.

I have no experience with veneer and the hot iron method seems to be the easiest. However, I

could paint as I would not be going for a piano gloss finish.

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