



## Board Basics

Justin Knickerbocker

1.



Glue strips of vaneers to start creating a board.

2.



Put strips of vaneers in a mold.

3.



Press the mold.

4.



Measure and draw a centerline and trace a pattern on the "wafer."

5.



Cut the pattern out on the jigband saw.

## Skateboards created in classroom

Margaret Parsons

For the week leading up to semester exams, Tech Education students were given the opportunity to make skateboard decks thanks to PS Stick Skateboard Company.

"Skateboards are a lot more complicated than kids think they are," said Scott Diment, Tech Ed instructor. "I want [the students who like to skateboard] to know that when they're out skating a lot went into what they're riding on."

East Junior High was chosen as the "pilot" school for a new program, sponsored by PS Stick, called "Create A Skate".

"Create a Skate" is a program that is aimed toward students interested in skateboards and technology. This is the first time any program like this has been offered to anyone in the country.

The project took off after many students had mentioned to Diment that they would like to make skateboards.

"I remembered in the past that students had said that they would like to make boards, but because [this project] is so hard to do, I wasn't sure if we would be able to do it," he said.

But instead of letting the idea fade away, Diment decided to contact other skateboard companies, before being directed to talk to Paul Schmidt, a professional skateboarder from the 1980's who runs PS Stick.



Mr. Diment instructs students in how to make skateboard decks. Photo by Justin Knickerbocker.

Schmidt then donated materials to EJH that would make enough supplies for about 180 people, making the total cost for the project around \$3,600.

All students seemed to be "excited" about making the skateboards. They were all pretty surprised Diment would agree to do a project like this.

"I thought it was really cool," said one 8th grader in the class. "I've never heard of a teacher wanting to make skateboards."

Jason Schwartz, '08, agreed, saying that he thought it was "really cool" that they would get to do something so unusual.

Making skateboards is a complicated process that includes gluing thin pieces of wood and together, which are then placed in a mold to dry

in the shape required. Students were then required to use high-powered saws to cut out the oval shape.

Students participated in this new project for just over a week and According to Diment and his students, the final product was very rewarding. Diment, who still skateboards with his children, admitted that he is a bit of an "adrenaline junkie".

"I'm an old skater myself," said Diment, "so it was really fun for me to do also. Also I just love doing projects the kids like doing."

"Create a Skate" is just one step to what, Diment hopes, will be a lasting partnership with PS Stick.

6.



After cutting out the design, rough sand it on the belt/disk sander.

7.



Hand sand the board; starting with a rough grit and ending with a fine grit.

8.



Then the sanded board is polyurethaned. Paint the board to your liking.