The following is a list of **supplies** used in the process:

- ~2 Board Feet of Mahogany - at least 18" in length, 3/4" thickness
- ~2.5 Board Feet of White Maple - at least 18" in length, 3/4" thickness
- Wood Glue
- Sanding Paper
    - 220 Grit
    - 320 Grit
    - 400 Grit
    - Belt Grit 120 and 180
- Steel Wool [#0000]
- High Gloss Tung Oil
- Disposable rubber gloves
- Cloth Rags
- Old News Paper

I also made some preliminary plans in a CAD package, which will remain nameless for lack of paid advertisement. < grin > . Get the DXF here.

You'll need to decide what size you want your board to be. "Typical" size boards have either 1 3/4" squares or 2" squares.

This board was made with the 1 3/4" squares. Making the playing surface of the board 14" square. Your border width can be determined later. You may decide not to have one.

Below is a list of some of the tools used:

- Bar Clamps
- Pipe Clamps
- Belt Sander
- Palm Sander
- Block Sander
- Table Saw
- Band Saw
- Jointer

Let me briefly describe the method.

A chessboard consists of an 8x8 array displaying two different alternating shades of wood. Therefore we'll need nine [9] "with the grain" strips, four of one shade, five of the other. You'll need an extra square that will eventually get cut off. The strips are laid down in alternating shades. Glued. Then stripped at 1 3/4" "cross grain". The new strips, with alternating 1 3/4" squares, are then shifted to oppose the shade beside them. Glued. And then the extra is trimmed off.

Visualize it or practice with paper.

Above are the results of the first cuts.

Here we see the alternating shades.

The board length has to be a few inches **longer** than the width of your playing surface.

Notice the extra light shade [maple].

Here we've made our first pass at gluing the strips together

I used three pipe clamps here; they helped eliminate any gaps between the strips.

With some well-placed advice, I used wax paper between the pipe and surface. The metal and glue sometimes can cause reactions and discolour the wood. I also used scrap wood in between each clamp jaw and the edge.

Here we see the clamps off. [I just love my digital camera].

Actually at this point, if you decided that you'd never be a Grand Master at Chess... this would be a good time to make that cutting board for your mom or wife. < Grin >

Here I've set the fence on the table saw to 1 3/4" and stripped the "cutting board".

If you count, you'll get 11 strips there. Since I only needed eight [8] I chose the ones with the best grain patterns in them.

Sorry, I didn't realize there was sawdust on the lenses here.

Now is a good time to blow the sawdust out of your nose.

Here, I've made the "shift". Now it's starting to look like a chessboard.

I've re-organized the strips for the "best-fit" with minimal gaps. I still have the "extras" shown. They will *not* be included with the others when I glue and clamp next.

Same as before. Almost.

The crucial step here is to make sure the corners of each square meet their diagonal counterpart.

Wipe off extra glue.

Take a break.

Neat huh?

Now it's more obvious where that extra strip gets cut off.

So next, trim those edges off. Careful, don't trim too much off, keep your squares... well, square!

In this "step" I've sanded the board down with gradual grades of paper.

I started out with the 120-grit belt sander. It's easy to get carried away with those babies, huh?

180 grit belt sander was next.
Then the 220 and 320 sanding paper on a block.

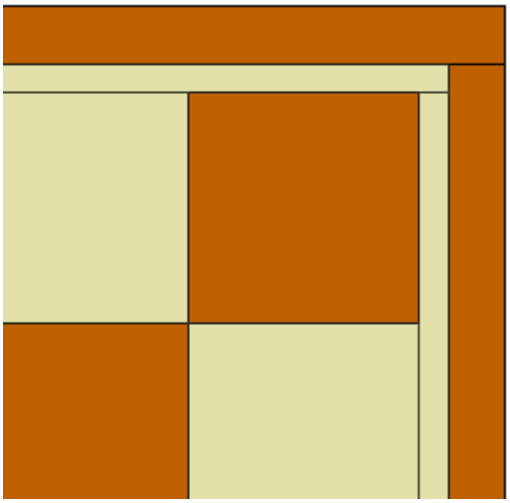
By now you've probably noticed the variation in the darker shade, in the mahogany. I assure you this was not as noticeable at the mill where I picked this wood up. But if nothing else, it adds character. So one pointer... try to take it all from a single board.

Ah yes, the border.

I chose the simple and easy-to-match corner approach. SQUARE. No angles.

I made a "double" border. The first with a 1/4" wide strip of the same maple, and the same depth of the board [3/4"].

The second with a 3/4" wide strip of the darker mahogany.



Here I used the bar clamps, less cumbersome, but sufficient.

I also rushed things thru here. Allowing only 10-15 minute dry time on each side. I hope this doesn't come back on me some day.

Here, all four sides are glued. I sanded these sides down flush with the board before adding the next border.

The maple was harder than the mahogany, so it took more brow sweat to sand it down.

Here I'm adding the 3/4" border of mahogany.

This border is one [1] inch deep. The board is only 3/4". I did this to give it "legs" so the bottom of the board would not be sitting on the 'table' during play, only the borders would.

When you glue this border, make sure to remove the extra glue that got squeezed out on the bottom.

Again, use scrap wood on the edges.

Here's the last border in place.

One last time down thru the grits.

220, 320, and 400.

Wipe it off with a soft rag to remove the dust.

Now it's ready for your finish of choice.

I used High Gloss Tung Oil.

Other finishes might include but are not limited to:

- Low Gloss Tung Oil
- Poly [Satin or Glossy]
- Butchers Wax.

I used the steel wool in between each coat as recommended by the container. I have about 7-8 coats on it.

I bought my pieces off the net. I just picked up a cheap set to get me up and running. I've now decided to 'turn' my own on a lathe.

So you'll have to come back and see my pieces.

So now you're ready to play!