Natural Rattan Webbing

Safety, Installation and Maintenance

Rattan & Rattan Stiffener Safety

The preparation and assembly of a rattan stiffener should only be performed by licensed professionals or individuals with experience in do-it-yourself woodwork. All instructions and guidelines must be read entirely prior to any assembly of a stiffener. Always wear the proper personal protective equipment.

Saw Safety: Cutting wood on a saw creates a number of potential risks, including (but not limited to):

- Exposure to an active and sharp sawblade
- Wood dust becoming airborne
- Potential kickback of material during cutting
- Small fragments of wood becoming hazardous

Always wear approved gloves, dust masks, eye protection and hearing protection when operating any saw. See our safety guide for more information:
https://doddownload.s3.amazonaws.com/Designs_of_Distinction_Safety.pdf

Scissor Safety: Always wear proper eye protection and approved gloves when cutting any rattan material with scissors.

⚠ Proposition 65 for Wood Products

WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.

Recommended Supplies for Rattan Stiffener

- **Backer Board:** https://low.es/3Jm6EQs
- **Border Pieces:** https://low.es/3HF4J99
- **Toggle Clamps:** https://bit.ly/45oQazN
- **Peg Board for Rattan Template**: https://low.es/3UuZBHE

How to Build a Rattan Stiffener

Step #1: Begin Stiffener Layout

Your Rattan Stiffener can be any size you'd like it to be. For this example, the device will utilize a backer board measuring 24"W x 24"L. Ideally, the backer you choose should be at least 3-4 inches longer than the desired size of the final rattan panel you're looking to produce – meaning the 24"W x 24"L backer can accommodate a rattan panel template of about 20"W x 20"L.

The backer board should be strong and resilient enough to withstand applied pressure, drilling and some amount of moisture exposure without taking too much compromising damage.

Utilizing standard-grade plywood, commonly found in most home improvement stores, should suffice. It is recommended the plywood be at least .75" in thickness and not contain any sort of paint or finish.

Once you've chosen the board you'll use, assure the board is as free of extremities as possible – meaning the board may need to be sanded.

Step #2: Prepare Border Pieces

The border pieces will ideally be narrow but have a similar thickness as the backer board. They should also be wide enough to accommodate the eventual attached of toggle clamps (see step 3). For this example, 1.5” W x .75” T pieces are being used.

These pieces are typically available in pine at most home improvement stores and are sold in 8’ lengths.

Cut the border pieces to match the border lengths of the backer board. In this example, the border pieces were cut to border the backer flush.

Attach the border pieces to the backer board’s border using screws of ideal length. In this example, 1” L wood screws were used to assure the screw made it the entire way through the border piece and penetrated an adequate amount into backer board. Applying a screw every 6-8 inches should provide the proper strength of attachment.

Failure to utilize long-enough/application-appropriate screws may compromise the attachment of the border pieces and the stiffening process.

Step #3: Attach Toggle Clamps

Attach the toggle clamps to the border pieces. It is best to have at least one clamp on every size of the border. For this example, toggle clamps were attached to directly at the middle of each border side.

Using fewer toggle clamps than necessary may compromise the pressure applied during the rattan stiffening process.

How to Stiffen Rattan Using a Rattan Stiffener

Step #1: Prepare Rattan Piece

The stiffening process will require the use of more material than what the final panel will contain. Meaning, a final, stiffened panel of rattan measuring 20”W x 20”L will require the use of material measuring at least 22”W x 22”L. This is in order to compensate for necessary waste during the process of stiffening.

Always compensate for necessary waste when purchasing rattan. Add at least 2” to every measured dimension when planning.

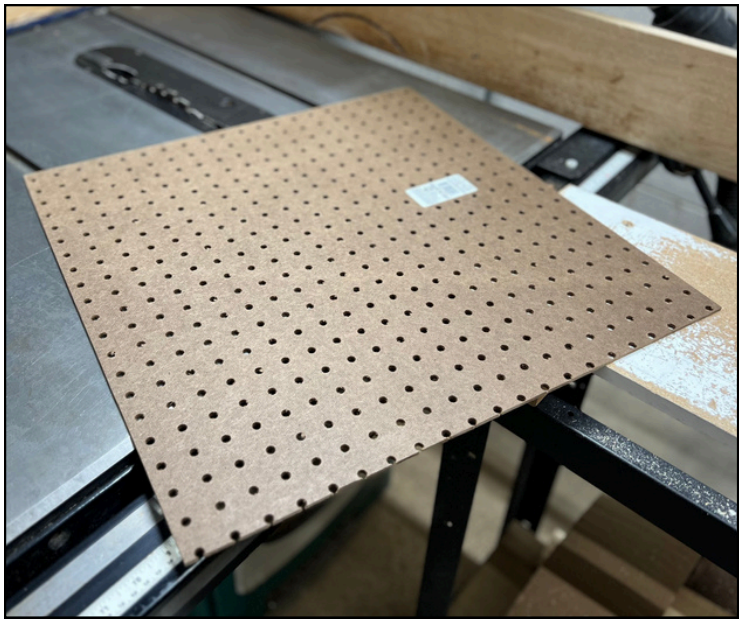
Step #2: Prepare Template Board

The template board should be cut to at least the size of the final rattan panel you're looking to produce. Meaning, if your final piece of rattan piece should be 20"W x 20"L, the board should be this size as well.

The board can be slightly larger (if the rattan stiffener allows for it) to allow for error and more room for cutting once stiffening is done.

The template board should fit within the stiffener with a slight amount of wiggle room – this is in order to compensate for the rattan while it dries.

The template board can be a peg board material to allow for airflow when drying. It is not required but highly recommended.



Step #3: Soak the Rattan

Using some form or bucket, tube or tub, submerge the roll of rattan in warm water. The water should be warm noticeably warm but not hot. You should be able to freely submerge your hand within the water without pain or burning.

If your bucket is not tall enough, you can flip the roll to assure both ends are properly soaked.

Rattan should be soaked for at least 30 minutes.

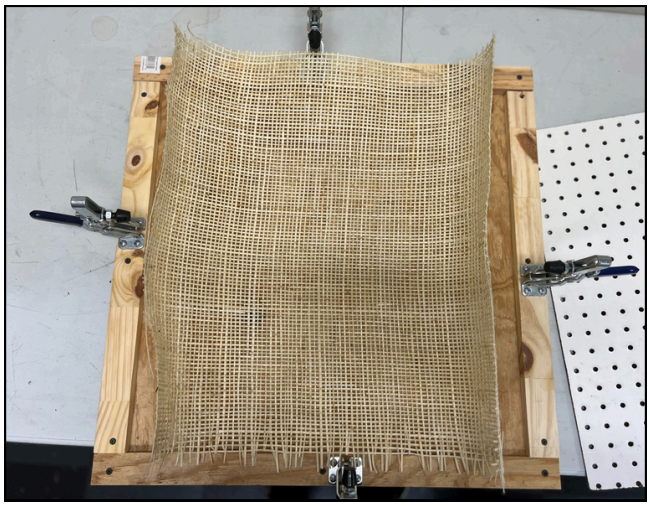
If flipping the roll to soak it, assure both ends have been soaked for at least 30 minutes and fully submerge both ends prior to the next step.

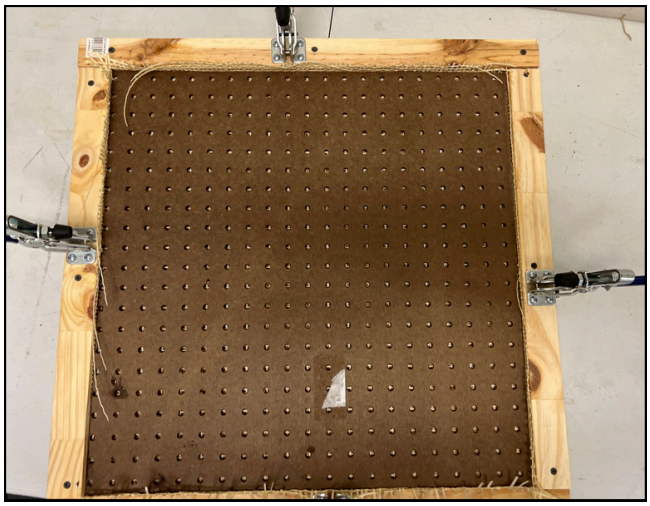
Step #4: Place Rattan and Board on Stiffener

Lay the rattan directly on the surface of the stiffener. It should slightly cover the border of the stiffener around it.

Place the template board on top of the rattan within the stiffener. Do so by assuring the rattan slightly goes beyond the size of the template.

The rattan may catch onto the clamps. Adjust the material appropriately.





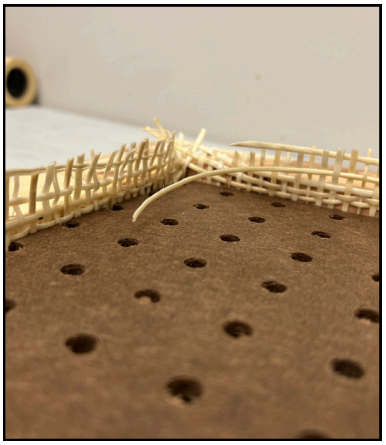
Step #5: Add Pressure to the Rattan/Template Board

Push the board into the stiffener with the rattan beneath it. The board should go within the borders of the stiffener, with the rattan sticking out beyond the sides of the board, with reasonable pressure. The hold should be tight but not so tight as to break the template board.

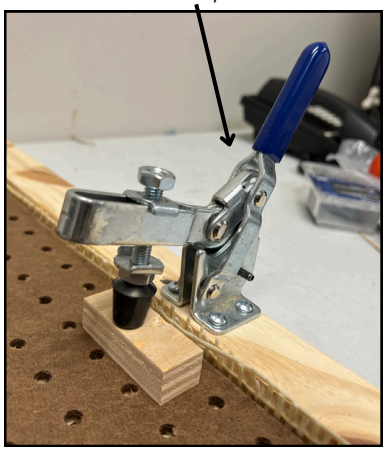
You can then use the pressure clamps to apply additional pressure on the template board. You can use small pieces of wood to assist with this if your clamps sit too high.

You may have to adjust the height of the pressure clamp. The lever should make a locking “pop” when the proper pressure is applied.

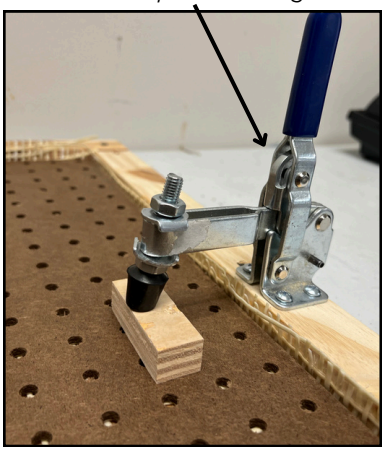
Assure the template board is tightly set into the stiffener. This is necessary for the rattan process.

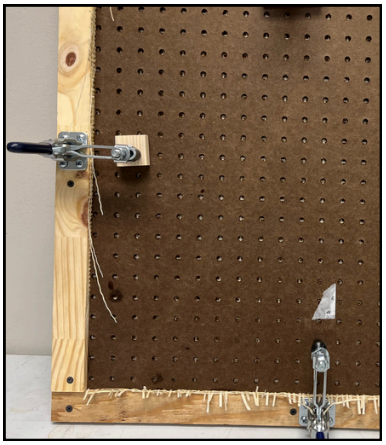


Pressure clamp too lose



Pressure clamp has ideal tightness



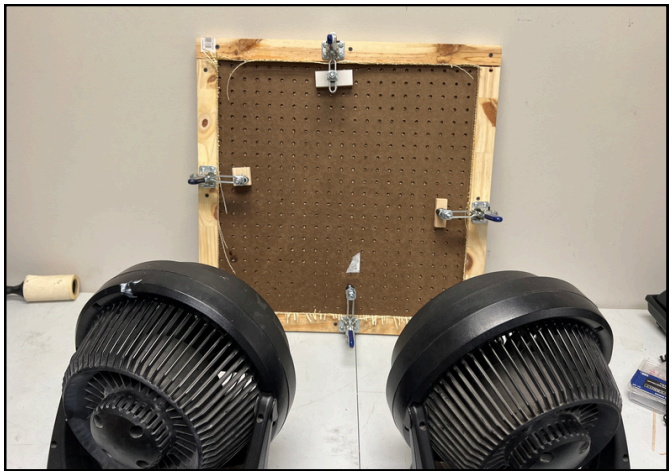


Step #6: Allow Rattan to Dry

The rattan will need at least 12 hours to properly and fully dry.

DO NOT remove the rattan or relieve pressure during the drying process. This may misshape the rattan or compromise the stiffening process.

It is also recommended you utilize fans or allow the rattan to dry in a dry, warm environment (such as a garage or warehouse).

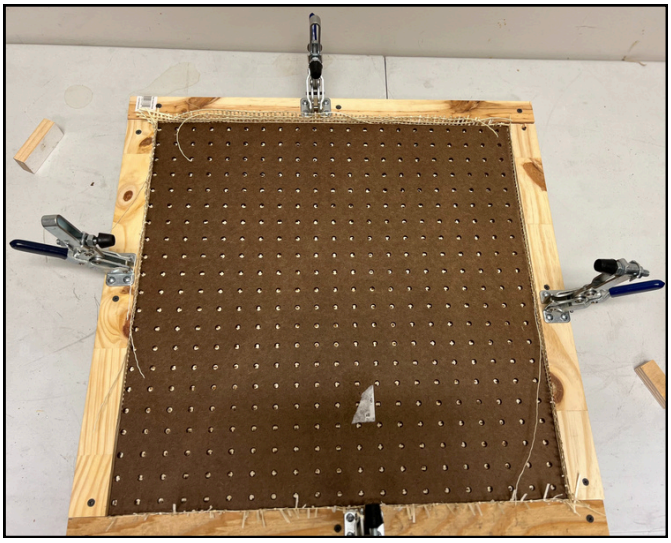


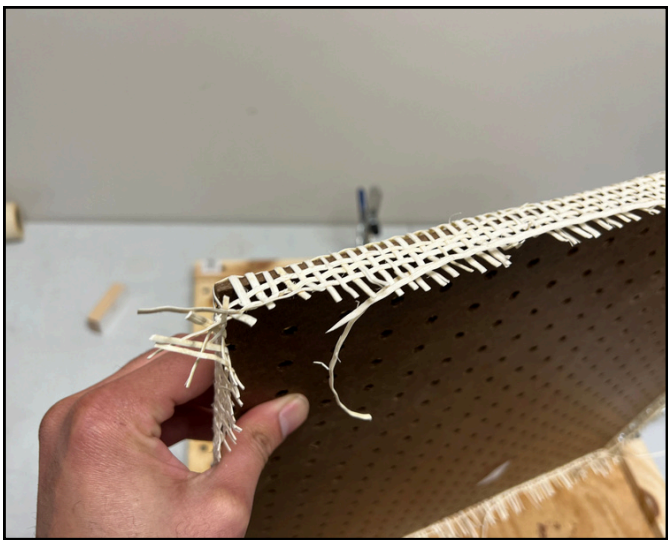
Step #7: Remove Rattan from Stiffener

Carefully deactivate the pressure clamps and gently remove the template board/rattan from the stiffener.

Your rattan should be completely dry and should have formed to the shape of the template board.

Be sure to move slowly and avoid damaging the rattan.



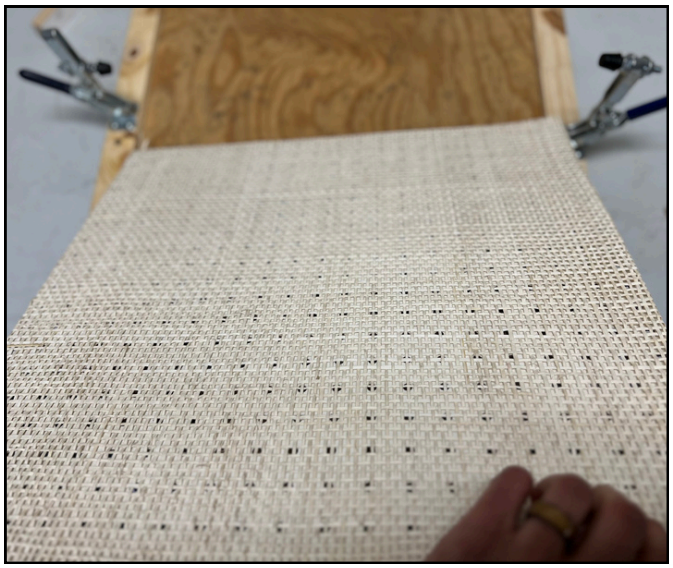


Step #8: Check and Cut the Dry Rattan

Check the rattan to assure it is fully dry and that it has properly stiffened.

A proper stiffening should mean the rattan strands are not loose and the rattan itself is able to lay mostly flat.

Using scissors, carefully cut the excess material from the side of the rattan. **DO NOT** cut more than the excess that is sticking up from the drying process yet.

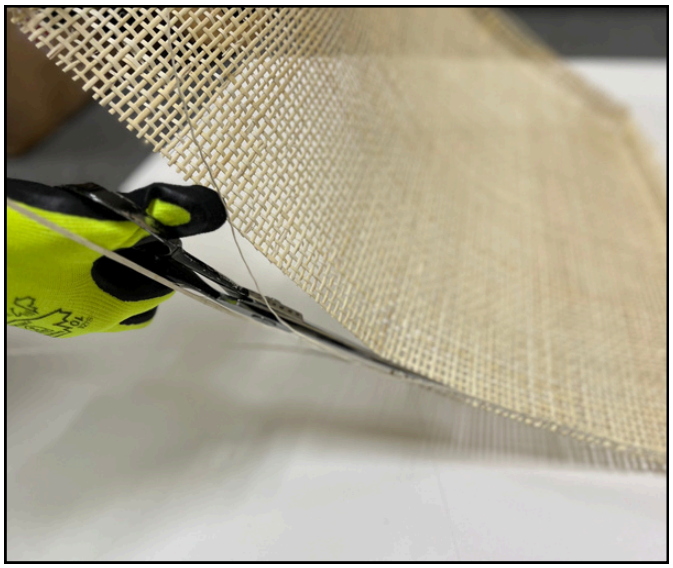


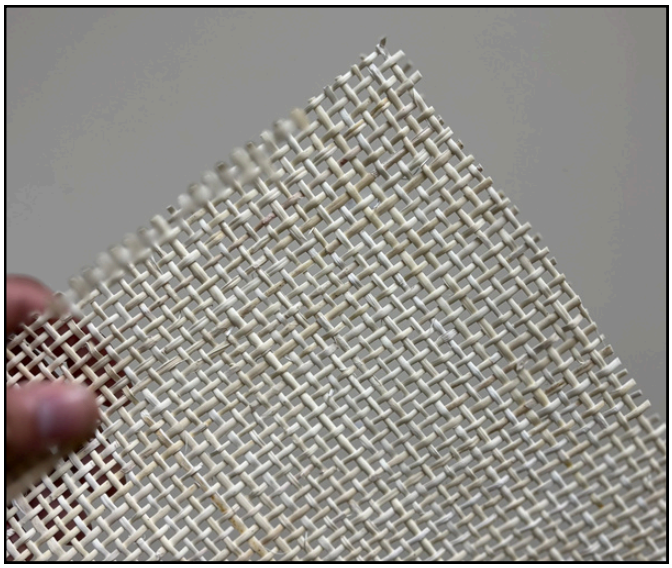
Step #9: Cut Rattan to Final Dimensions

Measure the dimensions of the dried rattan piece. Compare it to size you're looking to have in the end.

Carefully cut away materials to get the rattan to be the size you want. DO NOT cut more material than is necessary.

Your piece should be ready to install.





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Storage and Pre-Installation

Natural Rattan Webbing is made from naturally existing materials and will need to be treated as such. When storing rattan, be sure to keep in temperate environments free of exposure to extreme temperatures or humidity. It is best to keep rattan in its packaging up until the point of cutting, stiffening or installation. If allowed to be among unideal elements, rattan may alter in color, integrity or shape – thus impacting the product's usefulness in projects. Never store rattan near a direct heat source, open window, ventilation openings or any other source that may impact the area.*

Installation Care

Rattan should be installed with some form of backer and/or covering material (such as glass). If left on its own, rattan likely will fade, loosen and deteriorate due to its natural characteristics. Exposure to sunlight and other potential elements could impact the material and permanently alter it. Understand that rattan **WILL CHANGE** over time, but taking the appropriate steps can assure the changes are more subtle and don't happen as quickly.*

Maintenance

Rattan can be maintained with careful cleaning – by using light dusters or cotton cloths. Lightly touch the surface of the rattan when cleaning. DO NOT use any form of liquid or chemical to clean the surface of the rattan. DO NOT use compressed air.*

Treating

Rattan can be given a clear-coat finish using water-based sealers. However, the rattan **MUST** be in its final installation condition (meaning already cut/stiffened) before sealing can take place. The sealant **MUST** dry quickly to avoid any damage to the rattan. It is recommended all sealing be done in very light layers and extra effort be made to dry the material (a dryer device of some sort should be used).*

**Once Rattan has been stored, sealed, cut, stiffened and/or installed by the purchaser, Brown Wood, Inc.® no longer assumes warranty over the product – meaning any deterioration, discoloration, peeling warping, installation failure, etc. are not covered by our warranty terms. Always assure condition of rattan as soon as it's delivered.*