Build the rim

Goal: turn the bent sides into a square, stable rim with well-fitted blocks and continuous lining surfaces.

Class: 3 hr | Home: about 2 hr | Mold stays in use



Kerfed lining clamped slightly proud of the side.

WORK SEQUENCE

1. **Refit the sides.** Seat both sides against the mold without forcing them. Confirm the centerline at neck and tail.
2. **Trim to final length.** Fit the tail joint first, then the neck end. Keep gaps small and the rim symmetrical.
3. **Fit head and tail blocks.** Sand the curved mating faces until both sit fully against the sides. Leave easy clamping surfaces where possible.
4. **Glue the blocks.** Use the instructor-specified adhesive and cauls. Check that nothing slides as pressure comes on.
5. **Fit the linings.** Glue continuously around the rim, slightly proud of the side profile. On the back, allow about 1/16 in (1.6 mm) extra at the waist for sanding.
6. **True the rim.** Sand the top flat. Sand the back to the class's 15-foot radius.
7. **Verify neck geometry.** The ukulele side at the neck joint must be flat and 90 degrees to the soundboard plane.

STOP & ASK

Before trimming either side to final length, before block glue-up, and before sanding the neck end.

BUDDY CHECKS

- [ ] Neck and tail seams land on the centerline.
- [ ] Blocks contact both sides without rocking.
- [ ] Linings have no long gaps or reversed sections.
- [ ] Top rim is flat without twist.
- [ ] Back radius is continuous.
- [ ] Neck face is square to the top plane.

HOMEWORK

- Clean only reachable, approved squeeze-out.
- Sand the inside faces to the instructor's stopping grit.
- Prepare side reinforcements if the class uses them.
- Update block, lining, and adhesive materials.

READY FOR SESSION 7 WHEN...

The rim sits flat in the mold, plate edges contact the linings all around, and both centerlines remain visible.