



**Karran**<sup>®</sup>

INSTALLING QUARTZ Q-350 SINKS  
IN LAMINATE COUNTERTOPS

AUGUST 2014



## STEP 1

Mark the sink center line on the particleboard substrate of your countertop.



## STEP 2

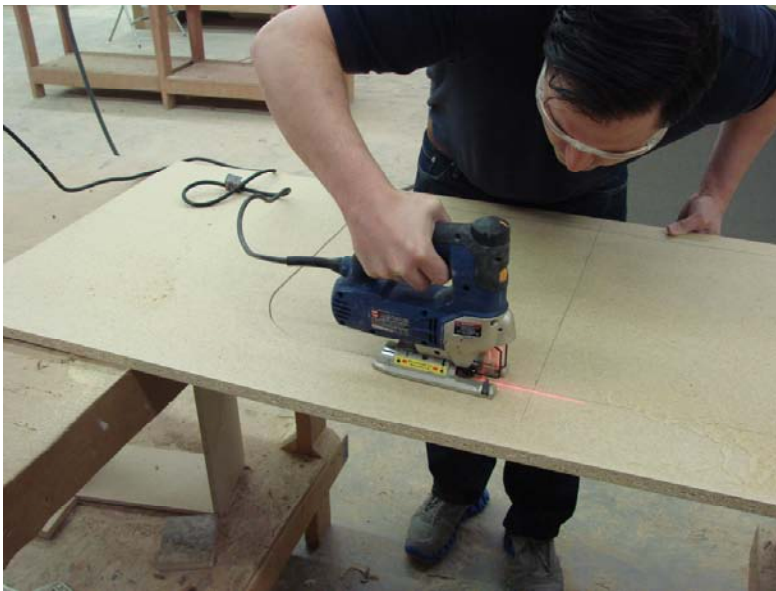
Mark a line 2" to 2-1/2" back from the front edge of your countertop. Locate your sink upside down on the substrate with the front outer edge of the sink on the line and centered on the sink centerline marked on the countertop.



## STEP 3

Trace the outline of the sink onto the substrate. Keep your pencil vertical so that the cutout line is offset by about 1/8".





#### STEP 4

Use a jigsaw and make your sink cutout. Cut on the line.

If you have a pre-made template, you may use this along with a router and the appropriate pattern bit.



#### STEP 5

Lay your laminate over the substrate, which has been cut to size with your standard overhang around the perimeter.



#### STEP 6

Trace the sink cutout onto the back of the laminate.

This is done so that when you spray your contact adhesive, you can cover this marked area with the sink cutout to prevent contact adhesive being sprayed on this area.





#### STEP 7

Cut a full width support board. This would be the same dimensions as the front to back dimension of your countertop and about 10" to 12" wider than the sink.

Mark a cutout line  $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller than the sink cutout already made in your countertop. Make cutout using a jigsaw.



#### STEP 8

Glue support board to the underside of the countertop. Make sure it overhangs the cutout hole evenly by the  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Note: Consider leaving 12" behind center of sink free of support where faucets will be installed. This will leave your countertop  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick here to allow for the installation of Faucet Hole Seal Rings. Otherwise if countertop is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " thick with support, consider using FHSR's on top side and bottom side of drilled faucet holes



#### STEP 9

From the underside, staple the support board in place.



#### STEP 10

Flip the countertop over. Place the sink carefully into the opening. The sink will now be resting on the 1/2" overhanging support board.



#### STEP 11

Using a straight edge check height of sink rim. It must not be lower than substrate. Take your time to make sure the sink is perfectly level with the substrate. If it needs to be raised to level it, use screws inserted through the support board. This allows you to tighten screws slowly thus raising sink in small increments. Alternatively place a thin strip of vertical grade laminate between support board and underside of sink rim to raise the rim where needed.

Leveling the sink to the substrate will reduce belt sanding time in Step 14, as this quartz material is very hard and does not sand easily.



#### STEP 12

Fill gap between the sink rim and the substrate with Bondo.





#### STEP 13

Sink and countertop after Bondo application. Allow to dry for 15 minutes.



#### STEP 14

Belt sand the rim of the sink and the Bondo until it is all level and flush. Use a coarse grit sandpaper like a 36 or 50 grit.



#### STEP 15

Using a straight edge, check that the sink rim, Bondo and substrate are completely level. Re-sand areas where needed.



## STEP 16

Tape off wall of sink with Karran Protect Plus tape. This prevents solid surface seam adhesive dripping down and bonding to the wall. If that occurs, it can be difficult to remove. A good technique when taping is to overhang the tape by 1/4" then cut the excess off with a sharp blade. Two rows of 2" tape are recommended to protect the top 4" of the bowl walls.



## STEP 17

Place sink cutout over the marked area on the back of the laminate. This protects the area where the sink will attach from contact adhesive. Spray contact adhesive.



## STEP 18

Place the cutout over the sink. Spray substrate with contact adhesive.





#### STEP 19

Wipe the sink rim thoroughly with denatured alcohol and a clean white rag.

**WARNING:** Do not use any kind of solvent such as lacquer thinner or denatured alcohol on the sink bowl walls. It will change the finish. Restrict its use to cleaning the rim prior to adhesive application.

Note the two rows of Protect Plus tape to ensure the bowl walls are well protected from seam adhesive drips.



#### STEP 20

Prepare a tube of Karran Solid Surface Seam Adhesive. Purge tube before applying tip and squeeze one full tip of adhesive into a garbage can prior to beginning application onto the sink. Apply solid surface seam adhesive. The bead should be applied close to the inner front edge of the sink, and should be 1/4" to 3/8" in width.

Karran Brown adhesive is recommended on all laminate countertops, however should you wish to use an adhesive that matches the sink color, this would also work.



#### STEP 21

Apply the laminate.





STEP 22

Roll the laminate with a J-roller.



STEP 23

Place one or two pieces of substrate over the sink area while the seam adhesive dries, about 30 minutes. You may simply place these substrate pieces loosely over the sink, or they may be lightly clamped.



STEP 24

Trimming of the laminate back to the bowl wall should be done with a Karran 10° bevel bit with oversized bearing. Start with the router bit set high in the adjustable plunge router (bearing running just below the laminate). Make a pass to remove the laminate.





#### STEP 25

Remove the tape and adhesive drips. Lower the router bit slightly in the router and make another pass around the sink. Check how much laminate remains. If you feel you can take slightly more laminate off with the router, lower slightly then make another pass.

You must avoid cutting the sink with the router bit. This type of damage is difficult to repair flawlessly. A good suggestion is to always begin your first pass on the front wall. This is the least visible area if errors are made.



#### STEP 26

Once the laminate has been trimmed as close as it can be with the router bit, begin hand filing. Use flat and half moon files to file the laminate flush to the sink wall. It is a good idea to tape the bottom of your file, or place your hand underneath it, to prevent the sharp file hitting the bottom of the sink during filing.

A orbital sander can also be used at this stage provided just the laminate is sanded and not the bowl wall.



#### STEP 27

Close up of the edge of the laminate after filing.





## STEP 28

A little sanding will likely be needed to smooth the laminate edge. Use a 80 or 60 micron paper. Focus your sanding on the upper 1/4" of the bowl wall and the laminate only.

**WARNING:** Do not use any kind of solvent such as lacquer thinner or denatured alcohol on the sink bowl walls. It will change the finish.



## STEP 29

A little Karran Polishing Paste applied with a rag helps to finish the edge. Use only if needed.



## STEP 30

The final stage is always scrubbing the upper wall with water and a bristle brush. This removes all dust particles that have become embedded in the matte finish of the bowl wall.



For a little extra shine on dark colored sinks, once the sink has been cleaned, wipe it down with a little Karran Luster Pro cleaning oil.



## TOOLING LIST

- Tape measure
  - Pencil
- Straight edge
  - Jig saw
- Wood glue
- Staple gun
- 1-1/4" staples
  - Bondo
- Bondo applicator pad
  - Belt sander
- 36 or 50 grit sanding belts
- Karran Protect Plus tape
  - Denatured alcohol
  - Clean rags
- 10:1 Seam adhesive applicator gun
- Brown solid surface seaming adhesive with mixing tip
  - J-roller
- Adjustable plunge router
- Karran 10° bevel bit with oversized bearing
  - Flat file
  - Half moon file
- Sandpaper - 80 micron and 60 micron
  - Karran Polishing Paste
  - Bristle Brush
  - Karran Luster Pro oil