

Carving Texturing and Coloring



Having been a production bowl turner for years I needed to come up with efficient time saving methods in order to produce as much as possible in as short a time as possible.

I have carried this way of thinking over into my current line of work and after spending a week or two turning forms, will spend a month or more carving, texturing, burning and dyeing them.

In A Nutshell

- Design imagery
- Print out to correct diameter
- Attach design with spray glue
- Trace through design with burning pen
- Remove design with solvent
- Carve out all areas you want recessed
- Refine carving with burning pen
- Texture other areas as desired
- Apply black ink or dye
- Sand off black ink or dye
- Apply colored dyes or stains
- Apply spray lacquer

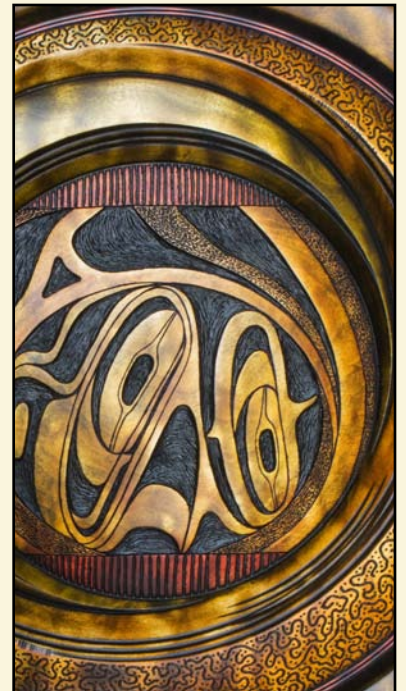
Dyes or stains can be applied by brush or airbrush or a combination of both depending on the look you are after.

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Unlike other clear finishes which need to be sanded between coats to achieve a mechanical bond, lacquer needs no sanding because it creates a chemical bond by "melting" it's layers together.



Enhancing a turning with carving, texturing, burning or coloring is a very creative process. No matter what you are making you need to start with good form, especially if it is a simple form. Experiment and have fun.



Process

After the piece has been turned, decide what kind of design you would like for it and either draw it or print it out to the correct diameter of the center design area. Spray the back of the design with spray adhesive and after deciding which way the piece will be viewed (ie. which way is up) press it down onto the wood.

Using a knife edge wood burning pen, trace over the design, transferring it onto the wood.

Brush on whatever the solvent for the spray adhesive is onto the paper and let it soak in for a few minutes to dissolve the glue, then lift off the paper.

Decide which areas will be negative (carved away) and which positive. Using various rotary carving bits, carve away all the negative areas.

Liberaly apply black india ink over the entire piece.

After the ink has dried sand off most but not all of the ink from the high areas leaving black in all the negative areas.

Apply dye or stain in whatever color you wish to various areas.

Apply spray lacquer in stages until a uniform sheen is achieved.



Supplies

With the internet it is now easier than ever to source out supplies. Not only to find them but to price compare. Some companies charge a lot for shipping so don't forget to add this in as it can sometimes add significantly to the overall price.

Sources of Supply

- Vacuum systems
 - www.oneway.ca
 - www.islandwoodcraft.ca
- Micro motors, carbide burrs, carving tools, etc
 - www.mhcrafters.com
 - www.islandwoodcraft.ca
 - www.riogrande.com
 - www.treelineusa.com
- Rotary chisels (3 point carbide cutters)
 - www.rotarychisel.com
- Wood burners
 - www.detailmasteronline.com
 - www.nutmegwoodworking.ca
 - www.mhcrafters.com
- Colored dyes and stains
 - www.mohawk-finishing.com
 - www.islandwoodcraft.ca
- High speed air drills
 - www.nskamericacorp.com
 - www.powerairtool.com
 - www.treelineusa.com
- Bristle discs, carbide cutting wheels and shapers
 - www.chippingaway.com
- Inspiration
 - www.everywhere



When thinking about buying dyes or stains, remember that you can mix any color with the primary colors of red, yellow and blue.