

Bandsaw Inlay for Platters

Drawing - Draw your design full size, making all the necessary adjustments on paper first – i.e. placement of lines, proportions, balance etc. Begin with a simple pattern. Take into consideration that the adjoining edges of the pieces must be sanded. For example, I try to design a pattern that will be fairly easy to sand - smooth and flowing curves with no tight corners.

Tracing - Transfer the full size drawing onto tracing paper so that it can be easily transferred onto the turning stock. Wood must be dry, in boards 1" to 2" thick. Using carbon paper, trace the pattern onto the blank.

Cutting - Using a bandsaw, cut on the lines you have traced, discarding the pieces that will be replaced with a contrasting wood. You will now have a pattern, like a puzzle, with open spaces where the inlay will fit.

Sanding - Sand the edges of all the pieces with an oscillating spindle sander (for the inside curves) and a disc sander (for the outside curves). Be sure to leave no kerf marks and no wobbles as these will show in the finished plate.

Making the Inlay Pieces – Once the pieces have been sanded, create a paper pattern of the “inlay” areas. Fit the pieces together, like a puzzle, on a piece of heavy paper. Trace the edges within the empty areas. To be as accurate as possible you will need to move adjacent pieces to get your pencil line into tight spaces. Cut out the paper patterns leaving the pencil line visible. Glue these onto your chosen inlay material. Cut them out on the bandsaw (safely, use push sticks) and sand. Don't worry if they don't fit perfectly – the epoxy will fill in any gaps.

Assembly with Epoxy – Once all the pieces are cut and sanded, they can be glued together. Arrange the design (as you wish it to go together), on a piece of waxed paper to protect the working surface and to ensure the project won't be glued to the work bench. Mark “witness lines” across the parts, to use as a guide when things get messy. Also, number or mark each piece so that the “up” side is easily visible.....again invaluable once gluing gets underway. Mix the epoxy (refer to Guidelines for Epoxy Handout) in a ratio of 5 parts resin to 1 part hardener, add the 410 filler (to thicken the mixture) and your chosen color (artist's oil paint as a pigment). Remember to dispel the bubbles by spreading the mixture onto a flat surface first. Beginning with the largest piece, apply the epoxy with a tongue depressor to all edges that are part of the design. Place on waxed paper. Do the same to the adjacent pieces and squeeze them into place. I coat only one side of two pieces that are going together. Since the epoxy mixture is fairly thick, the blank will not require any clamping. A large hose

clamp can be used if you wish the lines to be very thin. Allow to set up – usually overnight. Turn as normal.

A SIMPLIFIED DRAWING

