

Ruminations on Color and Texture

Dennis Belcher April 2019

Color and texture decisions always start with the wood!

1. It's the wood – woods with natural color Ambrosia Maple, Bubinga, Cocobolo, Box Elder, burls etc.
 1. Use an oil finish to highlight the natural color of the wood. Avoid oil finishes that yellow the the wood.
 2. Key part of finishing strategy is to diminish the impact of UV rays on the wood.
 1. Krylon UV Resistant Spray
 2. Chroma Craft Clear Acrylic Spray Lacquer
 3. Make your own tung oil finish with pure tung oil, mineral spirits and gloss spar varnish
 1. American Woodturner 29.1:44-45, and 33.1:22-23
 3. I typically use Watco Danish Oil, Waterlox, or self made oil finishes. In recent times my finishing sequence will include UV protection.
2. **Wood with natural conflicts** – Curly Maple, Birdseye Maple, Tiger Maple, Crotch Wood.
 1. Dyes will highlight the natural beauty of the conflicts in the grain.
 2. Water based aniline dyes appear to be more light fast.
 3. Water based dyes are absorbed into the pores of the wood.
 4. Each application of a water based dye will react with previous applications of dye allowing for more complex color patterns.
 5. Alcohol based dyes have little reaction with previous dye applications
 6. I will use 12 to 18 coats of Wipe On Poly as to create depth in the finish
 7. Several application of Krylon UV Resistant Spray, or diluted gloss spar varnish address sensitivity to sunlight.

Plain Woods – hard maple, cherry and oak

1. Canvas can be used for relief carving
2. Use of inlays
 1. Create multiple levels on the surface to allow for complex color by stamping or carving
 1. Stamping with things in your shop
 2. Carving patterns
 2. One color approach - Old Fashioned Milk Paint will react with cherry to recreate a bronze like patina
 3. Two color approach involves creating multiple levels on the surface and the application of two complimentary colors of milk paint. Abrading away the milk paint color on the high points, creates a third color on the surface. Old Fashioned Milk Paint Chocolate and Butternut or White with Federal Blue are good combinations.
 4. Old Fashioned Milk Paint is water soluble. I use Krylon Matte spray as a final coating to provide water resistance.