

Rotary Texturing Tool

By Mike Peace www.MikePeaceWoodturning.com

Here is how I made an inexpensive rotary texturing tool similar to the Henry Taylor Decorating Elf. The idea for making one of these in this way is not mine, but Bob Aldea's.

Basically it is 5/16" Dremel burr mounted into a handle using two 1/4" bronze Oilite bushings (3 would provide better support) with a rare earth magnet to keep the cutter from falling out.

Here are the components:



Components	Source	Comments	Cost
Handle with a brass plumbing part for a ferrule	Shop made from wood and brass ferrule part on hand	Copper coupling a cheap ferrule alternative	0
Bunting Bearings DPEP020404 1/8" Bore x 1/4" OD x 1/4" Length Powdered Metal Dri Plane (C) Flange Bearings	Amazon	\$2.08 each and two are needed. Probably the best alternative if you can't find the cheaper bushings below with a lower shipping	4.16 incl free shipping
1/8 Nom. I.D., 1/4 Nom. O.D., 1/4 Lg., Bunting Bearings, SAE 841 Bronze – Oil Impregnated (2 – 3 needed) also called Sleeve Bearings – Self Lubricating also called bunting bearings	I got a couple of these from Bob.	They are tricky to find. Amazon had them for about \$0.38 each but shipping was \$9.25	
1/4" dowel	On hand	This goes into the nipple first, followed by the magnet and then the two bushings	
Red Brass Pipe Fitting, Nipple, Schedule 40 Seamless, 1/8" NPT Male X 4" Length	Amazon	This goes into the handle about 1 1/5" inch. You may want to turn off the threads. I actually cut my section from a longer nipple.	\$1.57 incl free shipping
Dremel Ball cutter, #114, 5/16-Inch-Diameter, 1/8" shank	Amazon	This is the one I bought	5.77 incl free shipping

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Gyros 46-20114 HSS Cutter (For Dremel Type Tools), Ball, 5/16-Inch-Diameter #46-20114	Amazon	Knock off of the Dremel #114 ball cutter. I would have bought this had I seen it when I was ordering.	\$3.82 incl free shipping
Dremel 5/16" #124 flame HSS cutter, 1/8" shank	Amazon		\$5.77 incl free shipping
Dremel 5/16" #115 cylindrical HSS cutter, 1/8" shank	Home Depot or Amazon	Most suitable for texturing in a cove	\$9.98 for a pair
Gyros 46-20115 High Speed Cutter-Cylindrical, 5/16-Inch Diameter, 1/8" shank	Amazon	knock off version of the Dremel #115 cutter.	\$4.49 incl free shipping
1/4" Rare earth magnet 30 Neodymium Magnets 1/4 x 1/16 inch Disc N48	Amazon	I had some 1/4" magnets on hand. You only need one but this package contains 30	6.99 incl free shipping

The dowel should be flush with the bottom of the pipe and long enough to support the magnet and bushings so they will be about flush with the top of the pipe. Glue the magnet to the top of the dowel with CA or epoxy. Add some epoxy to the dowel and slide into the pipe.

Wrap the two bushings with some tape so they fit snugly in the pipe since the pipe ID is a bit larger than 1/4". Put a few drops epoxy on the outside and slide into the top of the pipe.

Alternatives:

Buy a kit from [Highland Woodworking](#) for about \$30 that includes bearings instead of bushings and includes the Dremel #124 flame cutter.

Buy a Ron Brown's Best Rotary Texturing Tool with all three cutters for \$59.99 from [Peachtree WW](#)

Buy the Henry Taylor Decorating Elf for about \$68 with all three cutters from [Craft Supply](#).

How to Use:

You can cut at, above or below center for slightly different effect. Hold the tool somewhat upright. Phil Colson suggests 500 and 1500 RPM lathe speed. Nick Agar suggests a lathe speed of about 800.

Here is a [YouTube](#) video on how to use.