

Adding Pizzazz with Spiraling and Texturing Handout

By Mike Peace <http://mikepeacewoodturning.com/>

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General Spiraling and Texturing Tips:

- Dry hardwoods with close even grain like Bradford Pear, cherry and maple are ideal. Avoid open grain woods like ash or oak.
- Spiraling and texturing wheels are scrapers so use in negative rake
- Turn beads and texture before you hollow inside of bowls or platters so they will run true
- With lathe on, draw a pencil line to ensure running true on bowls and platters
- Mark area to texture with a pencil. Fame areas of texturing and spiraling w/ beads or Vee grooves or elevation
- Set tool rest height to bring cutter on center and parallel to surface being textured
- Lathe speed 400 – 600 for most spiraling and texturing tools
- Use spiraling wheels bevel side up
- Scotch Brite abrasive pad, brass brush or toothbrush to clean up frizzies or 320 grit sandpaper lightly

Knurling Tool (Wagner tool \$40, knockoffs at CSUSA and Peachtree WW for \$30)

- 1/4" x 16 tpi for smaller areas with harder woods; 3/8" X 12 tpi for softer woods and larger areas to texture
- Use at center for diamond, below or above center for swirls
- Tends to be predictable on end grain so great for box tops, bottoms and inside lid
- A good lathe speed for texturing is about 400 - 500 RPM.
- Center cuts: start with light pressure until it tracks and increase pressure. Key to use is to hold for perhaps 20 seconds for a deep pattern.
- Apply light machine oil with each use

Mini Texturing Tool with Dremel Burr see handout on my website on how to make one and alternatives

- Lathe speed about 800 RPM
- Cut at left edge of cutter, not center at approx. 45 degree angle
- Keep handle lower than the Dremel burr or it can be pulled out while texturing



Chatter Tool

- End grain only

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- Cutter tips: spear, round, concave, flat. Grind one from an old butter knife.
- Set tool rest above center and use tool as a negative rake scraper
- Speed 1000-3000. Slower speed gives a finer pattern than a higher speed. Try both!
- Push hard till it Squeals! Then move from center to 7:30 on a clock
- Highlight pattern changes with Vee grooves
- Felt tip markers at slow speed (150 -200 rpm)
- Dark colors on outside to frame and Black accent rings to emphasize the color

Coloring Waxes

- Seal wood with shellac or spray lacquer before applying wax
- Rub N Buff: Michaels, Amazon, Art Supply stores

For a top surface coat, apply with fingertip. First, rub between finger and thumb to thin out so you can still see fingerprints before applying. Clean off excess with Norton Non-Woven Sanding Pad, White, #0000 and a little Renaissance wax.

- Liming Wax available at Woodcraft, Craft Supply and Packard

DIY recipe for patinating wax: Mix a pigment, such as titanium oxide for white, and mix with a Popsicle stick into some soft paste wax with a ratio of about 1:3. Try paste shoe polish.

Apply Coloring Wax sparingly with a cotton cloth or pad, rubbing well into the grain and removing any excess. Use circular overlapping strokes until the surface is evenly covered. Wipe across the grain with a clean pad, leaving the wax in the pores. After about ten minutes, remove surplus wax from the surface by gently burnishing along the grain with a dry cotton cloth.

Vendor Sources

Knurling tool like Wagner Texturing Tool available at Craft Supply

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com> or Peachtree Woodworking <http://www.ptreusa.com>

Harbor Freight 5 Pc M2 HSS Mini Tool Bits #40641 \$5; The cutoff tool makes a great small parting tool or chatter tool tip.

Hartville Tools <http://www.hartvilletool.com/> is a low cost source for spiraling and texturing wheels for DIY tools. Crown wheels are less expensive than Sorby.

<https://www.mscdirect.com> Excellent source for 1/4" x 8" HSS Tool Bit Blanks; #383-7015 for point tool or vortex tool. I prefer the 5/16" x 4 1/2" blank Model #383-7020 for a point tool.