

Troywood Intarsia Artistry

An enduring gift designed with feeling & TLC



■ This presentation will demonstrate how I make intarsia and show you some of the tools I use in the making of this form of wood art. My subject is a small hummingbird. The woods used are White Pine and Western Red Cedar.



scrollsaw



bandsaw



drillpress

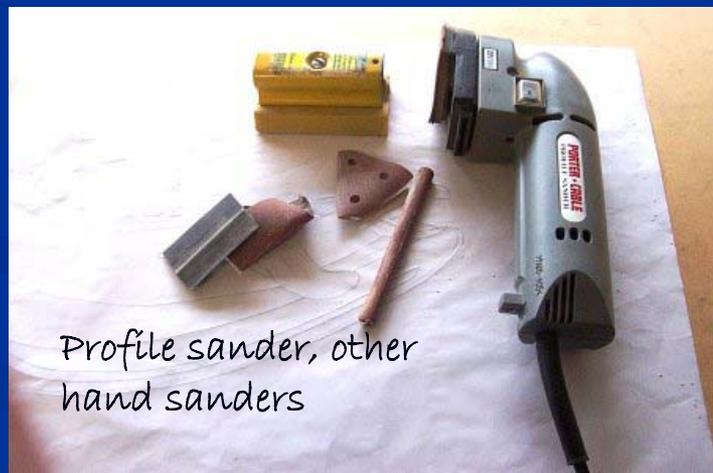


thickness planer

These are the tools that I find indispensable when making Intarsia Wood Art.



1"x30" belt sander



Profile sander, other hand sanders

I use the carbon paper method for transferring my pattern to the wood. A stylus is the tool of choice for doing this. Here the pattern has been transferred and I am ready to begin the cutting process. The wood I have used for this layout is 3/4" thick.



Having transferred the pattern to $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood and since this is a small Intarsia project, I use my thickness planer to reduce the thickness of the wood to a $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Now I am ready to start cutting.





Here the cutting out of parts from the white pine is almost complete.

Here the cutting of all parts of the hummer is complete. They are assembled to ensure all the necessary parts have been cut out and that they fit properly. The next step is to use double sided tape to tape groups of parts to backings in order to sand them.





I have separated the parts into 3 groups and put double sided tape on them. The large group on the right consists of the body, head and wing. The next group on the left is the tail feathers and above that are the legs, feet and upper wing. I'll now flip the parts over and stick them to the sanding templates. Of course the legs and feet are so small, that they must be sanded individually.



With the head, body and wing taped to the sanding template, I like to mark a line all around at a $\frac{1}{4}$ " height. This is done as shown with a marking gauge. I'll now rough sand the hummer into shape not sanding below the line. In other words there is always an edge of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " thickness.



This is the best time to drill the $\frac{1}{4}$ " eye hole. This hole is drilled across 2 pieces, so the point of the brad bit is centered between the top of the head piece and the lower part of the head.

For shaping my intarsia I use pneumatic drums mounted in my drill press, exclusively. This one is the large size with an 80 grit sleeve.



This is the small drum with a 220 grit sleeve for finish sanding.

These drums and sleeves were purchased at Lee valley Tools.

All that remains to be done now is to cut the wing and tail feathers, then sand the legs and feet. Next would be to cut and shape the eye from a piece of 1/4" dowel.



The wing feathers have been cut and sanded, the legs and feet sanded and an eye cut and shaped. The top end had been burned with a wood burner to darken it.

Next.....on to the finishing process.



Applying the 1st of 3 coats of old Masters Gel Varnish. I prefer to apply the finish before the parts are glued to the backing. I believe in this way the finish is more thoroughly applied since you can do all the exposed edges. Then when the pieces have been glued down, there will be no finish dried between the edges of the project.

Some prefer the quicker method of gluing down first then applying the finish and blowing out the excess from the edges. Even though I have a compressor, I still prefer the longer process explained above right.

At right, applying Old Masters Pickling stain to the white parts of the hummer.





All the parts have had 3 coats of finish applied and are now ready to be glued down on the backing.

Glue-up is complete. I use a glue called "Weldbond". Made in Canada and probably available in the U.S. This stuff is like no other that I know of. It dries crystal clear, you use water to clean up and it is used for among other things, as a bonding agent for concrete. As you can see, I pour it from the large container into a squeeze bottle. Works well!! When the glue is set-up, all that's left to do is put a hanger on the back.





The completed Small Intarsia Hummingbird

Approximately 10" wide by 6" high and 41 pieces