

# Valley Woodwork

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## MORE Decorative Details

May 21-25, 2012

There are so many ways to decorate your work that Marc and I thought it would be a good idea to introduce a new batch of techniques and expand upon a few others whose surface was just scratched in Decorative Details. We'll start with a review of simple line work but quickly move on to some of my favorites.

Over the course of the week, and as time allows, we'll look at:

- Stringing a brief review followed by some additives such as double and treble stringing and some innovative ways to handle corners.
- Lettering. Inlaying dates and initials to personalize your work.
- Advanced bandings – making those lunettes, arrow banding, and perhaps a few more.
- Making a fielded panel with a complex border.
- Ornamental ovals – tackling simple pictorials.
- Adding a little brass, copper and other metals into your borders and linework.
- Hammer Veneering curved aprons and bordered fronts.
- Sulfur Inlay – what's that awful smell?

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. It will be a great class!



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## Tool List For MORE Decorative Details Course - 2012

In addition to a basic set of tools (chisels, block plane, screwdrivers, hammer, dovetail saw, combination square, dead blow mallet, adjustable bevel, etc.) . . . .

- X-acto knives with extra blades #11.
- A decent compass and a set of dividers.
- Automotive feeler gauge – strap type. We are using this to back stringing when bending it. If you wish to buy a .003 feeler strip or thin brass shim stock, that will work just fine.
- Cabinet scraper with a file for sharpening it.
- If you have trouble focusing on very small objects, purchase a set of reading glasses. Much of our work will be detailed.
- A slicing gauge. Lie-Nielsen, Lee-Valley and most other companies offer a slicing gauge. We will be using it to slice veneers. Lie-Nielsen is offering the slicing gauge that I designed. A Master Airscrew Balsa stripper is very inexpensive tool that does a nice job when combined with a 1” c-clamp and is a nice place to start. See <http://www.hobbylinc.com/htm/mas/masma4000.htm>
- 12” straightedge. Combination square blades work fine.
- Utility knife or veneer saw if you have one. Don’t buy one if you don’t.
- A roll of clear 2” packing tape.
- Carving chisels—if you have them—especially small, tight sweep gouges. Palm chisels work great.
- If you have a burn-in knife for touching up shellac, please bring it. As a substitute, Jo-Ann Fabrics sell a Clover mini-iron for about \$29. I will be bringing irons that we can share so hold off if you do not have one.
- Long tweezers for sand shading. Once again, we’ll set up sandshading stations and you can see what we use for a set-up in terms of heat source, tweezers, etc. and then purchase your own at a later date.
- Veneer hammer. There are several hammers available on the market and in a pinch, a chunk of a dense hardwood such as maple, (roughly 1 ¾ x 4 x 4) can easily be made into a workable tool. I will bring a couple veneer hammers as well to share.

For doing inlay by hand:

- Lie-Nielsen radius inlay cutter. IN-RC and 3” extensions IN-RC-EXT. Purchasing this tool will save a great deal of workshop time.
- My complete set of inlay tools is available from Lie-Nielsen. Although they would simplify the process for doing inlay by hand, if you are experimenting with inlay, I suggest you hold off buying the complete set. I will provide an overview of tool making and provide the necessary materials.

For doing inlay with modern tooling:

- Dremel rotary tool with a router base. Any fixed or variable speed dremel unit that spins at 35,000 rpm should work. I use a model 395. I have heard negative reports on the 400 series. Do not get a cordless version. Also, I would highly recommend purchasing the router base #5260 from [www.Stew-mac.com](http://www.Stew-mac.com). This is an excellent tool that is very well made. Do not buy the dremel router base. It defines “garbage.”
- Two small 1” c-clamps to secure a fence to the router base if you bring one.
- Although it is not necessary, I would recommend purchasing the Deadman Foot Switch # 1301 available at <http://www.ptreeusa.com/routerControls.htm#20266>. This is a good switch selling for about half the price I’ve seen it elsewhere.
- I will have the 1/32 endmills for inlay available for sale. Do not buy the bits from Stew-Mac. Last time I checked, they were three times my price.

I intend to cover both hand and dremel inlay techniques because past experience has shown me that most folks enjoy both methods and their many related applications. Although most of my inlay is done by hand, the dremel and stew-mac router base are used regularly. It is a versatile combination with many applications other than inlay.

If any of the above seem costly and you are not sure if this type of ornamentation will become a regular part of your work, hold off on purchasing and we can share. I have seen too many instances where great amounts of money were spent on tools that were never used.