

Valley Woodwork

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Today's Stringing: Pushing the Boundaries of Inlay with Steve Latta May 16-17, 2020

When most folks think of inlay, what comes to mind is period American or English furniture with a standard catalog of equally traditional designs. In this class, this age old form of ornamentation will be put to the side and instead we will gain firm footing in the twenty-first century. Pattern inlay involves creating designs executed with modern tooling combined with traditional materials. Through the use of simple and sometimes complex patterns, contemporary line work designs can be set into the wood. Floral patterns, animal forms, geometric or random designs are a few of the applications we'll look at. We'll spend time gaining an understanding of the basic materials and techniques and then see where our imaginations take us.

- The fundamentals of modern inlay including tooling and materials.
- Working up designs and learning how to set them as inlay.
- Making patterns for both simple and complex shapes.

Please bring one, two at most, walnut or mahogany slabs, 3/4" x 11" x 17", as well as an assortment of smaller scraps, to experiment with. Please make sure your material is tight grained and not "fuzzy" which is notorious to work. We will begin working in MDF and may not even get to the hardwoods. That will be up to your comfort level. Some folks dive right into working on these while others choose to work solely on the scrap pieces preferring to practice the techniques over and over again. Keep in mind that this is a technique, rather than a project class and technique will be the emphasis rather than a finished panel.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly. Looking forward to it.....

Sincerely,



Steve Latta

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Tool List For Contemporary Inlay Course

In addition to a basic set of tools including chisels, block plane, combination square, multi-screwdriver, adjustable bevel, card scraper, etc.....

- X-acto knives with extra blades #11
- A decent compass and a set of dividers.
- A set of French curves for design work.
- A detail or mill file for shaping ½" MDF.
- If you have trouble focusing on very small objects, purchase a set of reading glasses or an Optivisor. Much of our work will be detailed
- Sands Level & Tool SLASE24T Professional Straightedge/Ruler, 24-Inch x 2-Inch x 3/16-Inch or equivalent. This is about \$12 on Amazon and a very useful tool.
- Swiss made gouge #2 - 12 or equivalent for cleaning corners. 05B04
- 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've had little luck with soldering irons, even with a regulator.
- Dremel rotary tool with a router base. Any fixed or variable speed dremel unit that spins around 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 and do not get the quick change chuck.
- Router base #5260 from www.Stew-mac.com. This is an economical tool that is very well made. A plunge base is easier to use but not necessary and costs considerable more. Options include the Stew-Mac 5806 or the Veritas 05J65.01 Do not buy the dremel router base. It defines "garbage."
- Lee Valley Groove Cutter/Chisel Set, 0.032" 05K12.32 Not required but they will come in handy.
- I would recommend purchasing a Deadman Foot Switch such as # 1301 available at https://www.ptreeusa.com/scrollsaw_footSwitch.html. Make sure you get a true deadman and not a click on, click off. Avoid variable speed.
- I will have the 1/32", 3/64" and 1/16" endmills for inlay available for use and sale. Do not buy the bits from Stew-Mac. They are a great company but last time I checked, they were more than twice my price.

There will be an additional fee for specific inlay materials that I will provide.