

## “INTARSIA 101”

Supplies: Scrollsaw (magnifying light and footswitch a must)  
Drill press (drum sanders)  
Dremel tool  
Sander and sandpaper  
Spray adhesive (Duro All Purpose) **repositionable**) Wal-Mart  
Glue Stick – **repositionable**  
Clear mailing tape (cools blades and helps hold down pattern)  
Baltic birch plywood, ¼ inch for backer and spacers  
(Rucker Building Supply, 2807 Main Ave, Groves 962-8442)  
¼' \$12.74 5' x 5', 1/8" \$8.50 5' x 5'  
Finish Minwax polyurethane spray clear gloss or satin  
Hanger

Safety: Eye protection  
Dust mask or respirator

Setup: Be sure all saw and sander tables are SQUARE! Use a belt cleaner often on sanders.

Pattern: Choose a simple pattern to begin with to master techniques. Number each piece on the pattern for placement. Some patterns do this for you. Make about 5 copies of the pattern. Circle pattern pieces on each page so that you don't have 2 pieces touching, until you have all the pattern pieces circled. (This is why it takes about 5 copies.) Cut around all the pieces leaving as much margin as possible. The patterns are usually marked for wood color, L, M, MD, D, W and have an arrow for grain direction. Put pieces in color piles and begin choosing woods. Putting them in piles will give you an idea of how much wood you will need for each color.

Layout: Some intarsia patterns can be enhanced by using specific grain patterns in the wood. Be watchful for these unique wood grains in your color selections at home and at the lumber stores.

Using a box for spraying, spray a light coat of glue to the back of your pattern. Don't spray glue directly on wood. Wait 5-10 seconds for glue to gain a stickiness like tape, then position pattern on wood. Use a scrap stick of wood to rub out air from pattern piece to ensure all edges are secure. (The box catches the overspray. You don't want this all over your shop as it gets sticky.)

- Cutting:** **CUT SLOWLY FOR ACCURACY!** Always try to stay in the middle of the line. If you cut accurately you **WILL** save time sanding and fitting later. Sand the bottom edges of the piece to remove burrs and write the piece number on the bottom of the wood. Leave the paper pattern in place for the time being. The patterns sometimes have special sanding instructions. Place finished piece on the pattern and check for fit.
- Shaping:** Shaping is what makes each finished piece unique. This can range from just rounding the edges on all the pieces so the basic finished project is flat, to a completely 3-D contoured shape. Most of the patterns are designed so that they can be left flat. Shaping and sanding are usually done with a disc, belt or drum sander and a lot of hand sanding and PATIENCE. A Dremel tool also is handy, as well as small pieces of dowel wrapped with sandpaper.
- Backing:** As you size each piece to fit, the full finished project may no longer fit exactly on the overall pattern. Assemble finished pieces on the baltic birch plywood. Carefully trace around them. Remove the pieces and draw a line about 1/8 inch inside the traced line. Cut out the backer on this second line. If you are cutting accurately you can also trace the master pattern onto the plywood and cut 1/8" inside that line. Try both ways. Sand the backboard and stain both sides a color that matches the project. The stain may hide any gaps or make them less noticeable when finished and hanging on the wall.
- Gluing:** Clean all pieces of pencil lines, sawdust and tool marks. Place finished pieces on backer checking for fit. Begin with larger pieces around the edge if possible. Spread a light coat of wood glue on the bottom of the piece and place on the backer. Do this with just a couple pieces and let them set for about 20 minutes. This will keep everything from shifting and moving around as you add more pieces.
- Finish:** Gloss or Satin polyurethane? – your choice. Apply a couple coats. Lightly sand all over to remove burrs. Blow off with compressed air or tack cloth. Apply a couple more coats for good measure. To apply a hanger to back hold the project between thumb and forefinger to see where the balance point is and mark the spot on the back. Apply the hanger. You may want to sign and date the back, and even list the woods. Put it on the wall and stand back and gloat. You deserve it!

Take a picture of each finished project just for your records! You may want to keep a list of finished projects and whom they went to. I can assure you that your finished pieces will disappear right off your wall.

## **DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT!**

Look for patterns to use your scraps. Look at the pattern books over and over again. You may see something different and give you ideas. Try and visualize the pattern in different colors

[www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com) #15025 1" turner's tape \$15.99  
#27k04 wall hanger (10 pc) \$2.99  
#07T51 smooth cut riffler file set (10 pc w/case) \$19.99

<a href="http://www.intarsia.com">www.intarsia.com</a>	patterns
<a href="http://www.scrollerltd.com">www.scrollerltd.com</a>	patterns
<a href="http://www.woodenteddybear.com">www.woodenteddybear.com</a>	patterns
<a href="http://www.wildwooddesigns.com">www.wildwooddesigns.com</a>	patterns
<a href="http://www.seyco.com">www.seyco.com</a>	equipment – saws and sanders
<a href="http://www.scrollsawer.com">www.scrollsawer.com</a>	magazine - good
<a href="http://www.woodworksandcrafts.com">www.woodworksandcrafts.com</a>	magazine - good
<a href="http://www.foxchapelublishing.com">www.foxchapelublishing.com</a>	Excellent source for pattern books

Barnes and Noble and Books-a-Million in Beaumont have scroll saw pattern books and a few for intarsia. Take time to go browse.