

Alan Wesley's Decorating Ideas

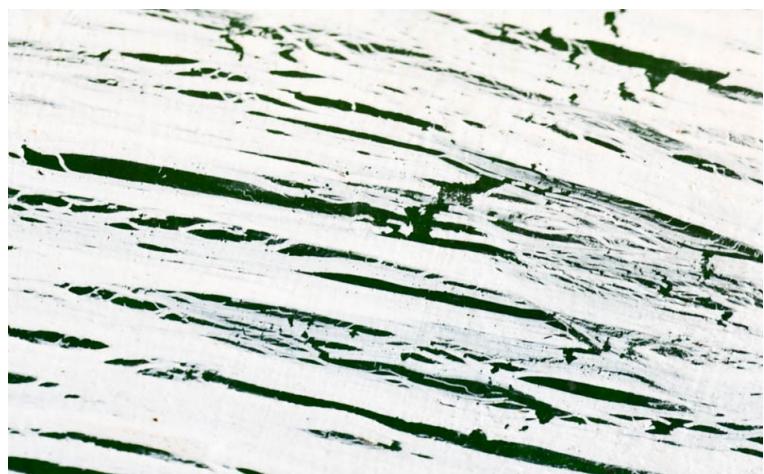
Based on Alan's demonstration at South Downs Woodturners on 12 May 2016

Alan's bowls / platters were sealed before decorating and finished with spray lacquer.



Leaf Bowl in Beech

Draw and then pyrograph a leaf pattern on your bowl and colour with Liberon water based dyes.



Crackle Detail

Create a crackle effect with a base layer of acrylic (any colour - in this case black). Then paint on random strokes of PVA glue. Before glue dries, paint on a contrasting top coat. Leave to dry and the crackle should appear.



Artificial Spalting in Sycamore

Create your own spalting effect with a Stabilo Write-4-All pen.

Blue Rimmed Beech Bowl

Paint on base coat (two layers) and leave to dry. Then apply a second colour of thin

paint - lay it on as thick as possible. Lay on scrunched cling film and lift the film to show a random pattern (can be done twice).





Marbling on Sapele disc

Half fill a small dish with water and drop your combination of the coloured inks onto the surface. Move the inks around with very fine toothpick to form a pattern. Dip in your work, shake off the water, and leave to dry. Kit bought from Curtis Ward (best price).

Blue Ceramic Style Pot in Sycamore

Leave the work in the chuck on your lathe, and coat the outside with white Gesso Turn on the lathe immediately (whilst wet) to create movement in the Gesso to form texture. Repeat as many times as you want to build up a base layer. Over-paint with your choice of colours. Then sand back to show through patches of the white Gesso under the paint.



Tangle Pattern Bowl in Cherry

Draw a series of random black overlapping lines with a black ProMarker pen. In-fill with coloured ProMarker pens.

Sunflower Petal Platter in Beech

Draw on a sunflower petal pattern with a pen or pyrography machine and colour with Libron water dyes. (Use your indexing feature to ensure it is consistent.) Texture the dark areas with a pyrography machine.





Don't forget to finish the underside of your bowl or platter as well.

Here Alan has refined the chucking point to make a foot and applied a series of concentric rings before adding his trademark in the centre.



Tangle Pattern in Tulip Wood

Divide the area to be patterned using the indexing facility on your lathe or chuck. If you don't have an indexing option you can make your own (instruction can be found on Google or YouTube). Create a random tangled overlapping pattern with a black pen, then texture the spaces between with a pyrography machine.

Red and Black Tulip Wood Platter

Create a dramatic effect on a platter with spirit dyes (in this case red) and burnt pyrography infill.



added interest. Here Alan used a Sorby spiralling tool to create a standard spiral in the central band. The outer band was created by holding the texturing tool at 45 degrees left, then at 45 degrees right to produce a crosshatch pattern.

Consider creating some texture on the underside of your bowl or platter for



Sycamore Painted Bowl

Use buff coloured acrylic paint as a base layer. When dry, sponge over with black acrylic paint (use a natural sponge to obtain this effect).

Use Jo Sonja paints, which can be obtained on-line. Alternatively use any other good acrylic paint from suppliers such as Hobby Craft.



Spin Painting Bowl in Sycamore

Use black acrylic paint as a base layer. When dry, re-mount the platter on the lathe and dab on some Jo Sonja Iridescent coloured paint. Turn the lathe on and vary the speed to control the movement of the paint. Ensure you have a cardboard guard around the platter or you risk a paint stripe all over you and your workshop.



Create some interest on the underside with a Decorating Elf tool, and delineate the edges of the area with a point tool. Burn a line in the groove by holding a piece of formica in the groove with the lathe on.



Creating a Basket Weave Structure for colouring later



Turn a platter or bowl with a flat or gently curved area for decoration. Cut evenly spaced beads with a beading tool. Mark radial lines using the indexing facility on your lathe. Subdivide segments as appropriate for your design. Pyrograph the grooves to make them stand out more. The grooves between the beads can also be burned using a piece of formica. Now you are ready to create your coloured pattern.

Basket Weave Bowls in Beech



Colour pattern using Faber Castell Pitt Brush Pens (Curtis Ward are cheapest).



Basket Weave Bowl in Lime



In this deeper bowl the basket weave pattern is primarily on the outside, with a smaller accent ring on the inside.



with a formica burned border.

Star Platter in Beech

Draw a 10 point star pattern and colour.

Experiment with different geometric patterns and spacing.

Choose different colour palettes to see how they affect the overall design.

Consider how different coloured woods affect the final piece.

Colour Trail Bowl in Ash



Paint your bowl with a variety of colours using Liberon water based dyes. When dry apply a random dribble of hot melt glue where you want the pattern to be revealed. Overpaint with a contrasting colour, spray black in this case. When dry peel off the glue to reveal the colours underneath. The ring inside is gold paint



Koi Platter in Sycamore

This image was drawn onto the sealed platter using a mechanical pencil before colouring with Letraset ProMarker pens.





Plum Blossom Platter in Sycamore

This oriental style image was freehand painted using Letraset ProMarker Brush pens.

The underside was decorated using a series of grooves.



Bamboo Platter in Sycamore

Google is a great source for ideas.

Printed images can be transferred to your wood with Saral Transfer Paper.

This image was freehand painted using Letraset ProMarker Brush pens.



Top Tip

Keep a drawing pad and / or notebook handy so that you can record where you have found that interesting thing that you will never find again.

Doodle and develop ideas for future projects. I add a title, notes and a date on mine, together with details of the inspiration or source material so that I can readily develop the idea further later if I decide to.

Further Information

If you would like to know more about any of the above techniques, ask Alan Wesley.

Potential You Tube searches:

- Harvey Meyer (Woodturner)
- Zentangle or Tangle Patterns
- Gary Lowe Woodturner
- Martin Saben Smith
- Colouring on Woodturning
- Basket Illusion Patterns

Sources of Materials

Mechanical Pencils for drawing (0.3 to 0.7mm leads) £4.99 for 14 on eBay

White wax pencil - Stabilo Aquarellable (also in other colours)
Use instead of liming wax

Fine Black pen - Staedtler Triplus FineLiner

Black Pen - Stabilo Write4All permanent (Hobby Craft or WH Smith)

Pens for Basket Pattern:

- Faber Castell Pitt Brush Pens - all colours - Curtis Ward / W H Smith
- Liberon Water Based Dyes - Gardner & Scardifield / Lancing Paint Shop

Freehand Painting Pens - Letraset ProMarker Twin Tip - all colours

Acrylic Paint - Jo Sonja - Pegasus Art or On-Line

Acrylic Paint - The Range Worthing

Acrylic / Metallic Paint - Hobby Craft

Natural Sponge - The Range Worthing

Polar Graph Paper – On-Line

Saral Transfer Paper – Amazon or Woodworks Craft Supplies (the one in Wales)

Pyrography Machine - for burning lines and texturing backgrounds

Marbling Kit - Curtis Ward or Amazon

Turning by Alan Wesley May 2016