

Basket Illusion Supplies

Polar Graph paper for designing the patterns:

<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/graphmaker.html>

free demo version will print a demo watermark on the graph paper or pay 19.99 for a registered copy to eliminate the watermark or use web based program at: <http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/polar/>

Software

Inkscape - www.inkscape.org

Beading tools

<http://www.d-waytools.com/tools-beadiing.html>

available in 1/16", 1/8", 3/16", 1/4" and 3/8".... 3/32 recently added
1/8" and 3/16" are used for this project. Tools come unhandled – I use them unhandled
D-Way Price is about \$50 each (plus shipping).

Burning pens:

Optima pyro (PJL Enterprises) is now making a very nice pen, 1/8" pen is 21AEF, 3/16" pen is 21BEF. \$31 each. Call Pat Lamusga on 320 594-2811 and tell him you need a Basket Illusion pen. <http://www.carvertools.com/>. Optima pens have a male RCA jack on the end of the pen. You will need the proper connection cord if you have a different brand of burner.

Any woodburner power supply is suitable. I prefer and use the Optima 1 (\$107).

Optima 1 available at <http://www.carvertools.com/> and other suppliers.

Colored Ink Marking Pens

I prefer Faber Castell Pitt artist pens – these pen use pigmented India ink and are lightfast and archival quality – available at dickblick.com.

I use 2 nib sizes “brush” and “superfine” of each color.

Colors: Black, Sanguine, and Sepia are the main colors that I use but there are 8 more colors that have the right nib sizes.

Alcohol dye markers (Prismacolor, Sharpie, Copic, etc) may have better color/tip selection but care must be exercised when applying finish. The dyes must be tested to be sure it does not dissolve with your choice of finish. If it reacts with your finish, the colors will smear. I sometimes use Copic Original markers – 2 pens needed for each color – 1 pen with the standard fine nib and the other with the optional superfine nib. Available at dickblick.com. Note – alcohol markers may be permanent, but they are not lightfast. They also have a tendency to bleed.

Scalpel:

For fixing a mistake, you can shave away the color with a scalpel. From ebay you can get a box of 100 scalpel blades and a handle. I prefer #11 blade. Be extremely careful using scalpels or your pieces will have extra red coloring.

Miscellaneous:

Krylon Acrylic Matte Spray #1311

Maroon Scotch-Brite pad

The Basket Illusion Platter

- 1 – Start with a good piece of kiln dried 8/4 hard maple or other suitable dense hardwood. Light colored wood is preferred.
- 2 – Cut a recess on one side of the blank (the side that will be the front) and expand the chuck jaws into the recess. You may also use an “internal tenon” to hold onto rather than the recess. This allows you to work on the back side.
- 3 – With the blank held by the recess or internal tenon, put a tenon on the side that is now the back of the platter. Then shape the back of the platter to a nice gentle flowing curve.
- 4 – With the beading tools, score the lines for a 3/16” bead at the rim, and then score lines for contiguous 1/8” beads all the way until the tenon is in the way. Then cut the beads using the beading tools.
- 5 – Using thinned formica or heavy paper backed sandpaper, burn the valleys between the beads by spinning the piece as fast as safely possible.
- 6 – Reverse the piece so that the chuck is holding the back of the platter by the tenon. Beginning at the rim of the platter, thin the face side to final thickness of about ¼” for a distance about 1/4 to 1/3 of the radius. Then, using the beading tools, score lines for the 3/16” bead at the rim, and then score lines for as many 1/8” beads as possible. Cut only the 3/16” bead with the beading tool.
- 7 – Using a negative rake scraper, round over the rim edge of the platter so that the 3/16” bead on the back meets the 3/16” bead you just cut on the front. This gives the platter an overall rounded rim.
- 8 – Cut the remaining 1/8” beads that were scored. Then thin face of the platter for the next ¼ to 1/3 of the radius to final thickness of about ¼”. Score lines for 1/8” beads with the beading tool, then cut those beads.
- 9 – Finish turning the face of the platter to final thickness and score and cut the remaining 1/8” beads.
- 10 – Burn the valleys between beads using thinned formica or heavy paper backed sandpaper.
- 11 – Reverse the piece and remove most of the tenon – leave a small tenon to hold the piece while indexing. Add more beads to the backside if necessary to suit your pattern.
- 12 – Gripping the piece with the remaining small tenon, use an index wheel, and a method of holding a pencil, where the pencil is on dead center, draw index lines on both sides of the platter for as many segments needed for your pattern.
- 13 – The rest of the work is done off the lathe in your easy chair. With a woodburner and Optima 21AEF pen, on both sides of the platter, burn the lines over the beads by following the index lines you penciled in.
- 14 – Burn a weave pattern over the rim of the platter (optional step for beginners).
- 15 – Using India ink markers, color in the squares called for in your pattern. Do this on both sides.
- 16 – After all dying is finished, spray both sides of the piece with Krylon Acrylic matte finish (#1311)
- 17 – Enjoy your basket illusion platter!!