

## Wood Preparation

### Prior to Carving:

- Sand the wood ending with at least a 400 grit.
- Apply shellac wash coat. Let dry 10 minutes before carving.
- Check sanding by applying and removing accent material. Redo if necessary by sanding and applying new wash coat and retest accenting.

### After Carving:

- Erase all marks.
- Lightly sand with 400 grit.
- Apply shellac wash coat. Let dry 15 minutes before accenting.

### After Accenting:

- Apply shellac wash coat to seal in accenting
- Use final coat(s) of choice (e.g. lacquer, varnish, acrylic, etc).

### Preparing Shellac Wash Coat

Liquid shellac is normally a '3 pound cut'. Use 'clear' unless you desire the 'amber' hue. Mix equal portions of the liquid shellac and denatured alcohol (1 ½ pound cut). Apply with a cloth pad.

### Attaching paper patterns with cellophane tape

- Place alignment marks on wood and pattern.
- Attach pattern to wood with small pieces of tape. Fold over tape end for easy removal.

### Special Notes for Accenting Walnut

After sanding and applying the first shellac wash coat, apply a coat of cocoa accenting and then wipe off with a flat piece of wood. Then apply a coat of shellac wash coat. Then test by applying the spackle to assure that all "blotching" has been eliminated.

## Accenting Materials

### \* Preferred accent materials

**General Note:** I do not advise using any accenting material which includes red pigment. I find that the red pigment is difficult to control and results in poor definition of the vertical cut and removed chip.

**\*Cocoa as Accenting Material:** Use dry, edible cocoa powder. Mix cocoa with mineral oil (baby oil). Mineral oil is the vehicle to allow spreading of the cocoa powder over the carving.

**\*Spackle as Accenting Material:** Spackle is a commercially available material for filling nail holes. The base white can be colored with acrylic colors.

### Accenting Procedure

- Accent material can be cocoa for light woods and spackle (white or colored) for dark woods.
- Apply accent material to carved area.
- Use razor blade to remove excess.
- Use dry cloth on wood (1" or 2" cube) to remove remaining excess.
- Final cleaning of flat space: Use cloth on wood square dampened with mineral oil (cocoa, coffee and spackle) and mineral spirits (brei wax).

### After Thoughts

- Water and alcohol expand wood. This reduces the effect of accenting.
- A yellow shade works well (walnut and cherry) and white (walnut).
- Always test accenting (especially color) on a scrap piece of wood before accenting your carving. Make necessary modifications to get the effect and color you desire.

**Wood preparation is necessary for successful accenting !!**