Surface treatments on a budget

Heat gun toasting

- There is a high risk of cracking, so it works best on spindle turnings, such as a tall bud vase or a utensil handle, ect.
- 1. Use aluminum foil and / or a small cardboard box to make a little oven.
- 2. Hold the heat gun about an inch away. Keep the nozzle moving and don't let it touch the wood for about 5 to 10 minutes depending on how big your turning is.
- 3. The results might be a bit blotchy, so you can sand down the darker areas and smooth out the gradient effect. Start with 320 grit, and adjust from there.

Woodburning pen

- Can be a good way to add a maker's mark to your works.
- Draw your design on the work with pencil first. Organic, loose designs work best. Avoid straight lines and geometric shapes because it's harder to render precise lines and angles with such an improvise tool.

Dye

https://www.dharmatrading.com/dyes/dharma-fiber-reactive-procion-dyes.html

Dharma Trading Co. "Fiber Reactive Procion Dyes" Powdered dye - 2 oz size.

- Lighter colored woods work best for vibrant colors. Avoid oily tropical species
- Dyes are water soluble and can be mixed for new colors and tints.
- 1. Make your piece on the lathe and finish sand to 220 grit, wet it to raise the grain and resand.
- 2. Wear gloves to mix up dye with water and spread it on your workpiece.
- 3. Fully dry it again. Final light sanding with 400 grit or higher if needed. You can add more dye if the sanding took too much off.
- 4. Finish with an oil or alcohol-based sealer. Acrylic is water-based and will redissolve some of the dye. Apply 2 coats before sanding it smooth and adding more coats of finish. *Glossy finishes make the color more vibrant.

Copper Tape

- Sold in rolls of various widths, uncoated.
- Works best on a flat area or on curves that are not complex.
- Apply a hard finish to the work to hold the copper down and prevent tarnish. Don't use an oil finish because it will dissolve the adhesive.
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