

Signing your Woodturnings

For a while I hated signing my woodturnings. I was using a sharpie to sign the bottom and felt the end results just made the tuning look cheap. Several people suggested using a Dremel engraver, but I was leery since I had used the engraver bits in my Dremel and was not happy with the result. I bit the bullet and bought the Dremel engraver for about \$20 at the local Home Depot. I was incorrectly assuming that the engraver worked like the rotary tool. It does not, the tip of the engraver works in a vibrating action and is much easier to control.

Some time later some one told me that Cindy Drozda used a Metallic colored wax to highlight the engraved signature. I originally tried Rub N Buff but found it difficult to remove form the area around the signature. I contacted Cindy to find out what product she used. She told me the product she was using was no longer being made but suggested I try a product made by Liberon for repairing Gilt picture frames. I found two products that seemed to fit the description Liberon Gilt Filler Sticks & Liberon Gilt Patina Pencil. I ordered Gilt Filler stick in a silver color and the Patina Pencil in a Gold color and they seem to work equally well. In fact they seem to be the same product just the Filler Sticks are a large size.



I completely finish the piece (including buffing) before engraving the signature. I have the vibration level on the engraver set right around the middle setting usually but may turn it up for harder woods or down for softer woods. After engraving the signature simply rub the wax stick against the engraving and buff off the excess wax with a soft cloth. You may want to lightly sand the signature with a high grit paper before doing the wax fill.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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