

## Coloring or How to Make A Piece Look Pretty!

### I. True Coloring

#### a. Wood Selection

- i. Any light colored wood, but Ash or softer woods will produce easier surfaces to get scratch free. Any scratch marks left on the piece will be highly visible when finished.

#### b. Supplies Needed

- i. Alcohol based coloring dyes/stains (using alcohol based dyes will not raise the grain as much as would water based dyes)
- ii. Rubber gloves
- iii. Gloss spray lacquer
- iv. Sandpaper up to at least 400 grit
- v. Denatured alcohol
- vi. Paper towels

#### c. Process

- i. Sand through the grits ending at least 400
- ii. Spray denatured alcohol on the surface to be colored and let dry
- iii. Using a paper towel & wearing rubber gloves, wipe on the base color of your choice making sure you have total color coverage if desired
- iv. Now you have a choice - is the piece going to be one color or multi-colored
  1. If one color
    - a. Lightly sand with at least 400 grit
    - b. wipe lightly with a paper towel to remove excess dye
  2. If multiple colors
    - a. always start with the darkest color working to lightest color - remember two colors on top of each other will produce a different color (yellow and blue in any order will produce green)
    - b. sand off most of the base color with 400 grit so that the color remains in the grain areas and a hint is left in the non-grain areas
    - c. using a paper towel, apply the subsequent color selections to the non-grain areas, and grained areas if desired, either with a dabbing or wiping motion
    - d. if desired, using a paper towel moistened with denatured alcohol, wipe the colored areas to blend in any harsh lines
- v. Finish the colored area with at least 5 light coats of clear gloss lacquer letting each coat dry thoroughly and sanding with 400 or 600 grit after the 2nd and 4th coats

d. Sources of coloring agents

- i. Craft Supplies - Artisan Coloring Dye Sample Pack (6 2 oz bottles - good to start, but not an intense coloring)
- ii. [www.jimmyclewes.com](http://www.jimmyclewes.com) - Chestnut brand Spirit Stains from England (8 oz bottles at about ½ the price per oz as Craft Supply, and much more intense colors)

*BE CREATIVE and EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT COLOR COMBINATIONS and AREAS TO BE COVERED. IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE END RESULT, YOU CAN USE A SHEARING CUT TO REMOVE THE COLORS and START OVER!*