



Matt Harber

facebook.com/infinite.thread

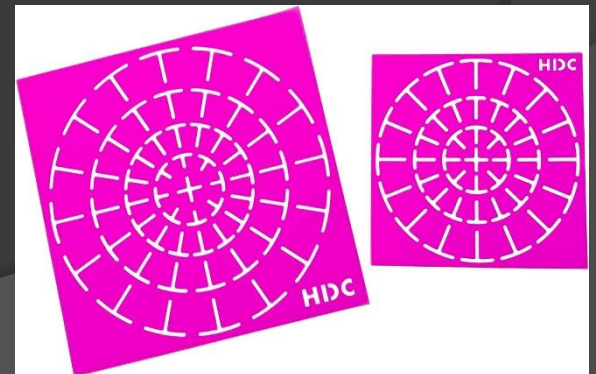
mharber@mail.com

(248) 320-1958

BASIC DOT PAINTING FOR WOODTURNERS

Tools/Supplies:

- Tooth picks – thin lines and very small dots.
- Q-Tips – can paint with these, but usually used for cleaning paint or watercolor pencil lines.
- Mixing sticks for mixing paints
- Watercolor pencils – used to sketch designs, draw indexes with stencils.
- Skewers – stylus, larger dots.
- Ball stylus dotting tools (Amazon).
- Larger Dotting Tool Set (The Dotting Center).
- Stencils (circular) – silicon works better.
- Silicon rods for larger dots. I made my own from wood dowels (sealed).
- Plastic pallet for holding/mixing paints.
- Paper towel for cleaning.
- Water (in a cup).
- Plastic cups....



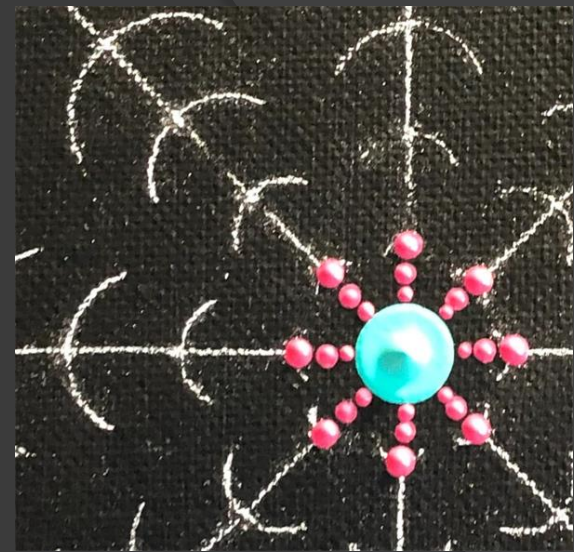
Paints:

- Use acrylic paints - craft, stencil, artist's tube. Clean up with water.
- The right consistency is important. You want the paint to form a smooth consistent drop. You do NOT want it to leave a peak or spike when you pull your tool out of it.
- Usually you will have to use a paint thinner. Liquitex pouring medium is supposed to work well. I am using Floetrol. Thinner helps the paint last longer, appear more glossy, and form drops better.
- The more accomplished dotting artists are using quality acrylic paints that comes in tubes. This paint is usually pretty thick and requires more thinning than craft store acrylics.



Basic Steps:

1. First, create your “canvas” for painting and seal it. This could mean turning a box lid or a platter with a wide rim.
2. Decide on a general layout. Possibly sketch it out, or lay it out with stencils, or a compass... use the watercolor pencils for design points and lines.
3. Decide on paint colors. Mix your paints.
4. **Begin dotting....** Use a paint pen or a dotting tool to begin lay out your design. Typically, these patterns are begun at the center of the design and expanded outward.



Dotting Techniques:

- Dots, large and small. Dip the tool of choice into the paint and gently place the dot onto the “canvas”. Do not go all the way to the surface.
- Walk the dots – usually done with ball tools, each successive dot placement uses less paint so the dots get progressively smaller.
- Swoosh – place a dot, then pull it along the “canvas” to create a cone.
- Curved swoosh – curve the swoosh.
- Top dotting – painting another dot on top of an existing already-dry dot.
- Combine any and all of these techniques to create designs.



Demonstration Notes:

- In my demonstration, I plan to use the plastic pallet to hold my paints, the small ball styluses, toothpicks, and my larger lathe-made dowels. I may use a stencil for basic layout.
- Note that I have some experience with laying things out by hand/sight and painting, so I can get away without using stencils much of the time – but if you have any questions about whether you are laying things out correctly, use stencils... they give you a much cleaner end result.
- When walking the dots, I will usually make a starter dot and swirl the paint slightly to create a LARGER starter dot. Then I can just cleanly and consistently walk the dots on either side of the larger starter dot.
- If you need to, you can paint or dye your “canvas” before painting, depending on the paint colors you want to use and how you want the paint to stand out.