

Rick Urban Woodturner

Changing the way you think about wood... One piece at a time!

Adding Color (abbreviated)

How to use the dry brush method with acrylics to add life to your work.

Demonstration Companion Guide

Primary Audience: Beginner to Advanced

Time: About 1 hour

Prerequisites: None.

Objective.

This demo will prepare you to add color to textured objects with acrylic paint using the dry brush technique.

Preparation.

The form to be used should be finished, textured, and ready for color.

Introduction.

To illustrate this process I will show you the materials and offer alternatives you need to add color using acrylics. I will then show and explain how I mix colors for a palette. Finally I will apply color using the dry brush technique to achieve gradual hue changes and highlights to make the design stand out.

Supplies.

Paints. There are lots of acrylic products to choose from. They are not all equal, but sometimes it doesn't matter.

- Fluid acrylics.
- Heavy body acrylics.
- Acrylic medium.
- Thinning: Acrylic medium vs water.
 - Modeling paste.
 - Flow medium.
- Qualities: Student, Studio, Artist, House Paint.
 - Labeling.
 - Durability / Consistency.
 - Pigment concentration.
 - Golden, Liquatex, Utrecht, Hobby Lobby/ Michael's, Hardware Stores.
- Formulation by brand can be specialized for the marketplace. Best not to mix brands.
- Opaque vs transparent.
- Matte vs gloss Drying time, Extenders.



Rick Urban Woodturner

Changing the way you think about wood... One piece at a time!

Tip. Beginners can go by the price tag.

Palette.

- Primary colors plus white and black.
- Palette paper, plastic or enamel tray, white plastic food container lids.

Miscellaneous.

- Brushes.
 - Stiffness.
 - Size.
 - Shape.
 - Bristles.
- Palette paper, specialty trays, plastic lids
- Water containers (2-3)
- Waste water container.
- Bucket with water for palettes if you clean and reuse.
- Paper towels.
- Color wheel (optional but helpful).

Process. I divide the process into 2 primary activities.

- **Mixing colors.**
- **Application technique.**

- **Selecting colors**

- Mixing brands... Best not to
- Try it first
- Mixing vs Buying
- Can't avoid some mixing to achieve graduated color changes

- **Mixing a color palette.**
- Blue, yellow, black, white, fluid medium.
- Dries very quickly. Don't have a fan blowing across it.
- If you think you need to add „this much“ of a color, do only half that.
- Red is powerful.
 - Use sparingly.
 - When you lighten red you get hot pink.

- **Application technique.**

- Dry brush technique
- Start with a totally black form.
 - Scrub in the paint to get all the recesses.

Rick Urban Woodturner

Changing the way you think about wood... One piece at a time!

- An old toothbrush works well.
- If you miss spots, repeat.
- You can reduce the viscosity with india ink (water proof).
- Work from dark to light.
- **No GLOBS!**
- **Pressure** like you are dusting the original dead sea scrolls.
- Change brushes when the color in the brush overpowers the color you want to use.
- Highlights progress from nil in recesses to max at leading edges.

Artists. (Just a few for starters.)

- Donna Banfield
- Melissa Engler
- Laurent Niclot
- Graeme Priddle
- Peg Schmid
- Jacques Vesery

Vendors. (not promoted, just listed)

- Blick (art supplies), <https://www.dickblick.com/>
- Create For Less (craft supplies), <https://www.createforless.com/>
- Hobby Lobby (craft / art supplies), <https://www.hobbylobby.com/>
- Michaels (craft / art supplies), <https://www.michaels.com/>
- Home Depot, <https://www.homedepot.com/>
- Lowe's, <https://www.lowes.com/>

Are you color blind?

- The X-Rite Color Challenge and Hue Test
- 1 in 255 women and 1 in 12 men have some form of color vision deficiency.
- <https://www.xrite.com/hue-test?PageID=77&Lang=en>

For more information visit my website

<http://RickUrbanWoodturner.com/>
or email me
RickUrbanWoodturner@gmail.com

