

Metal Inlay Effect with Epoxy Resin and metal Powder

In this guide we demonstrate how to inlay some timber with epoxy and metal powder.

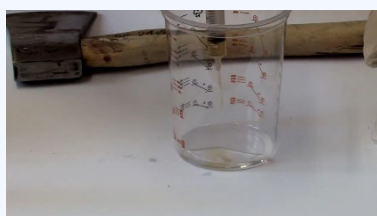
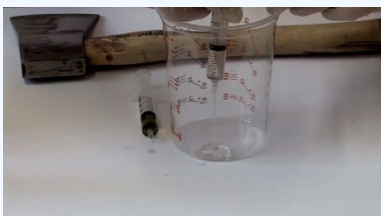
here we have a leaf design that's been filled with epoxy and copper powder to give a copper look and the lettering has been done with an epoxy and brass powder.



We started off by drawing on the lettering and design, then routed this out with a Dremel tool using a fine diamond tip. We only routed down approx. 2mm in depth into the timber.



we're going to use west system epoxy slow cure <https://www.ecfibreglasssupplies.co.uk/west-system-epoxy-resin-a-packs-12kg> for this project. First of all, we start by adding our epoxy into our measuring container then we the hardener to the correct dosage, in this case it's a 5:1 mix. We then give it a good mix.



Then we add our metal powders which can be found here..

<https://www.ecfibreglasssupplies.co.uk/metal-powders-cold-casting> we do various types

such as bronze, brass, copper and aluminium. it's always best to add this 1:1 by volume, so 1 part powder to 1 part resin and hardener mix by volume.



Once we've masked off the area that we want to keep clean, we can start to fill the design with our mixture.



For this step you can use a toothpick or any pointed tool small enough to fit inside the void. When applying the resin into your lettering, make sure the resin is proud of the surface, so that you have something to sand back.



Now your lettering has been filled, cover it with masking tape being careful not to trap any air. The reason for the tape is so we can turn the project upside down and keep all that heavy powder from sinking to the bottom of the resin.



Then leave the resin to cure overnight to reach full hardness.

Then it's time to sand back and reveal the design. Start off with a heavy paper, something like a P40, and start sanding over your lettering, just to take the thick of the epoxy down. Once you start to see your design, use lighter grade paper to sand the rest. (120). After you're done sanding, use a wire wool just to bring back the shine in the resin from the metal powder.



When you have finished with the cutting back and are happy with the finish



you can then varnish or lacquer the wood, this will protect the wood but also prevent the metal from going dull due to oxidization.

