



Turning, Texturing and Coloring an Egg

This project is one I often turn at public demonstrations because it is fast and easy to complete while they watch. It is also an easy way to practice with the skew to get a finish right from the tool that doesn't need to be sanded.

When I first saw a demonstration of the Sorby spiral and texturing tool I bought one to add something a little extra and quick to spice up a simple turning like this. I had been turning finger tops along with chatter and coloring like the other turners at our demonstrations and since I have always turned a lot of eggs as boxes or solid, so I tried this textured and colored version. It became very popular as a demonstration that the children as well as their parents enjoyed to watch and if you let them pick their own colors and give it as a gift to them when finished they will have something to remember the day by.



You will need a special tool for this project, the Sorby texturing tool. If you are handy at making your own tools taking a wheel from a star grinder wheel dresser and making a shaft to install it on can achieve the same effect. I saw this done recently while I was teaching turning to a small group. Some people are ingenious. I use a skew for most all turning on the egg and a 3/8" spindle gouge for the cove cut.



I start with a 1 3/4" to 2" square of maple in a four-jaw scroll chuck that is long enough to make two eggs with

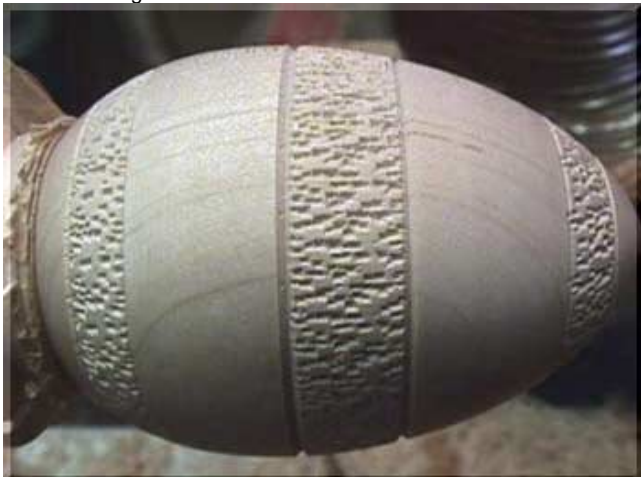


I usually rough these squares round with the skew and shape the egg.



Define the areas that are to be textured with V-cuts on either side. I usually make three textured rings. To use the texturing tool you have to slow the lathe speed to 500 rpm or less and move the tool rest back so the wheel will not contact it while rotating. **Keep your fingers clear of the spinning wheel.** Keep the wheel vertical and at 90 degrees to the surface of the wood or if you slant it very much you will get a diagonal scratch pattern instead of the dimpled texturing.

The texturing wheel is not a sharp tool. It is beveled on both sides and the end of each spoke is square and depresses the wood to create the pattern. Slowly slide the tool back and forth over the area you are texturing to create a random pattern. I pull the tool back away from the wood and reintroduce it several times to make sure I have good random coverage.



Close up of the texturing. I lightly skim the skew over the textured area to remove any wood fibers that may be raised. This is not sanded but straight from the skew.



When the wheel is held hard against the wood and slowly moved sideways you could create an evenly spaced line effect.



To color the textured areas and to make thin lines on the eggs I use Crayola Flexible Brush Tip markers, which they have discontinued but any marker will work. The fine tip ones I like because I can vary the line width beside the textured areas.



Coloring is simple with the lathe spinning the egg; just hold the marker where you want to color.



Close up view of the colored bands



Here is the egg ready to be parted off and enough wood left in the chuck to turn another.

The texturing from a distance like this reminds me of lace. These are some of the patterns that can be created with this tool and a little turning time. The spiral patterns were done with the spiral cutter wheel but that is another lesson.

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