

Sand Carving



Sand carving is done by blasting a surface with images cut from resist material on it and removing the resist to show images defined by the textured background created by the blast media.

The process of sand carving has lots small steps..

Cutting images in the resist

- Make or find image
- Convert to B&W in photo editor
- Refine lines and size in photo editor
- Copy the image to the resist
- Cut the images and weed the waste

Turned form

- Choose wood – consider the blasted area look
- Turn form
- Plan layout and numbers of images
- Create the surface you want in the resist covered areas
- Apply finish, paint, stain, dye etc

- Make any alignment marks with watercolor pencil you know will come off with water
- Apply the resist images
- Squeegee the images in place
- Do the sandblasting
- Apply any finish/color to the blasted area using the resist to mask the unblasted areas
- Remove the resist
- Remove any adhesive
- Finish form

Sand carving the form

You can get started and do all the sand carving with the essential equipment and supplies listed below. If you decide to do a lot of sand carving the “nice to have” become essential.

Getting started equipment

- Compressor - 27 gallon
- Sandblast cabinet - HF
- Dust mask - n100 or p100
- Eye and hearing protection

Essential supplies

- Blast media – coarse ground glass
- Sandblast resist- Anchor BlastLite™ Stencil #T226, 22 mil
- Exacto knife

Nice to have equipment

- Vinyl cutter – Titan 15"
- Computer with photo editor
- Compressor 60 gallon or larger
- Airbrush
- Pressure pot – ALC

Nice to have supplies

- Transfer tape- ORATAPE HT55 High Tack
- Air brush paints
- Spirit stains
- Leather dye

A small medallion is created in steps illustrated below:

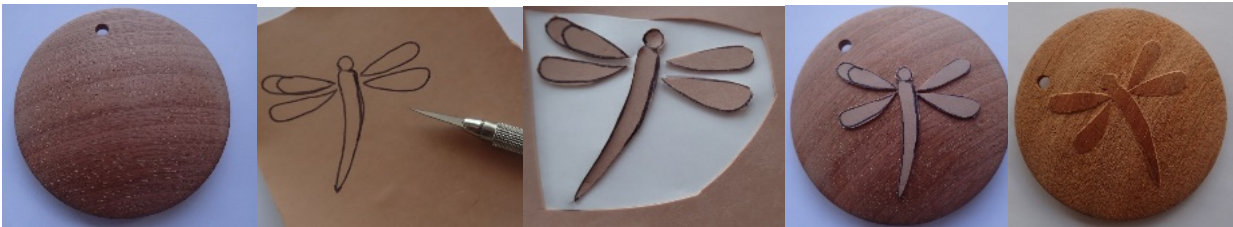
Turn and sand
the object.
Finish the
surface.

Draw and cut the
image in the
resist. Don't cut
the backing

Weed the waste
from the resist.

Apply the resist
and sandblast.

Remove the
resist and apply
the finish of your
choice.



Blast Media

There are many choices of Blast media. Ground glass and glass beads are good choices for woodturners. Coarse ground glass (25-40 grit) has a good aggressiveness for most woods. Glass beads (with less aggressiveness) are available in extra coarse (50-70 grit), coarse (60-120 grit), medium (70-140 grit), fine (100-170 grit), and extra fine (170-325 grit.) Glass is not known to pose a health hazard and does not contain the free silica or carcinogens found in other blast media. The glass media can be reused as many as a dozen times and it does not tend to imbed itself in wood.

Sources

USCutter.com

Sandblast resist- Anchor BlastLite™ Stencil #T226, 22 mil (15"x30 ft roll about \$60)
Transfer tape- ORATAPE HT55 High Tack
Vinyl cutter

Grainger.com I order on line and pick up at the store (check your local sandblast supply stores)
BALLOTINI Blast Media, Ground Glass (50lbs about \$55)

Harbor Freight

Blast cabinet (\$90 on sale with a 20% off coupon from the Sunday paper)

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