

Wooden Bangles

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A bangle, wooden or otherwise differs from a bracelet in that it does not open. A bangle should slide over the hand snugly. My favorite materials to make bangles from are: maple, cherry, ash, European beech and Sepele. Any thickness will work, my personal preference is around 1 ¼". I usually start with a 3" diameter piece of material (unless you are making a much larger bangle this will work). For coloring and finishing there are a wide variety of products available.

Sizing bangles: A general method is to place the thumb under the palm and try to touch the pinky finger at the base, then measure the widest part of the hand (you can generally make the bangle slightly smaller than this: example, a 2 5/8" interior on a bangle will generally fit a 3" hand measurement).

Lathe tools:

- Four jaw scroll chuck with pin jaws (I prefer the Vic marc with the mini pin jaws).

- Chuck with jumbo jaws (Cole jaws)

Turning tools:

- 3/8" bowl gouge
- 3/8" spindle gouge
- Small parting tool
- Sorby micro texture tool with optional wheel
- D-Way beading tools (I usually use 1/8" or 3/32")
- Wire burner with handles

Finishes/Coloring:

- Sandpaper (120 through 400)
- Scotchbrite (green)
- Airbrush (I use Paasche)
- Small compressor
- Alcohol dye markers
- Liquid alcohol dyes (or in aerosol form)
- Liming wax

- Gilding
- Sealer/lacquer
- Tung oil

Directions:

- The following will describe how to make several different types of bangles. These are some of the varieties I like to make. Hopefully this will inspire you to create your own version!
- For all of the different varieties I essentially start with the same process.
- Select your material and thickness, cut a 3" circle on the band saw.
- Drill a hole with the drill press about 3/8" deep using a forstner bit that will accept the pin jaws (I use 1" for Vic marc mini pin jaws).
- Mount on chuck with pin jaws and turn to desired shape with bowl gouge.
- For any bangle other than the totally beaded bangle you will need to sand.

Beaded bangle:

- Using the D-Way beading tool of your choice bead the entire bangle (or what you like). I start on the left side and sometimes leave a small flat on the end. (The flute will face the work with the handle held down, rock the tool back and forth slightly to complete the bead). If you go too far you will rip off the top of the bead. This tool is about finesse.
- Once you have beaded the bangle use the bowl gouge to even up the sides for uniformity.
- Clean up/sand the edges of the bangle.
- The following can be done in almost any order:
 - Wire burn in between beads
 - Using the texture tool with the optional v wheel, texture in between the beads. (I do not run the lathe over 500 rpm when using any of the micro texture tools.
 - Using the texture tool with finer tooth flat wheel, texture the top of the beads.
 - Using a piece of Scotchbrite clean, sand lightly over the textured surface to smooth over.
 - Using the alcohol dye markers with the lathe

running slowly (less than 500 rpm) apply color/s as desired with a light touch.

- Finish with lacquer, Tung oil or leave natural (finishes will change color slightly)
- Hollow out (this is for all bangles described here) using a small parting tool.
- Hollow out using a stair stepping method to avoid pinching
- I hollow out leaving some extra material so when you it comes off the blank this extra will trimmed away in the next step.
- Place bangle on jumbo jaws, using spindle gouge clean up about halfway through. Sand. Reverse and clean up other side, final sand.
- I finish the inside with Tung oil regardless of the exterior finish.

Airbrush/Aerosol bangle with gilding

- Once you have the bangle to the desired shape and sanded, texture, bead, wire burn, embellish as desired. (When using the gilding I like to have a groove or separation from the airbrushed part to try to avoid getting the gilding where I don't want it.
 - Aerosol:

- Spray the aerosol color or colors while the lathe is turning slowly or you spray it with the lathe off depending on the desired effect
- Finish with lacquer
- Airbrush:
 - Once you have the bangle to the desired shape and sanded, texture, bead, wire burn, embellish as desired. (When using the gilding I like to have a groove or separation from the airbrushed part to try to avoid getting the gilding where I don't want it.
 - Using the tool rest to help control the airbrush, airbrush your desired colors starting with lighter colors working your way to darker colors. (Alcohol dye colors will blend creating new colors when overlapped).
 - Apply lacquer finish in several light coats, I use a rattle can.
 - Apply gilding wearing latex gloves to desired areas careful not to get gilding into the texture or airbrushed area.
 - Apply lacquer over top for a final finish using very light coats.

- Hollow out as per beaded bangle.
- Liming with markers
 - Once you have the bangle to the desired shape and sanded, texture, bead, wire burn, embellish as desired.
 - Beading is more difficult to use with liming, I generally just use texture.
 - Using the alcohol dye markers color as desired. Let dry for several minutes.
 - Apply the liming (white is my favorite) with the lath off using latex gloves rubbing the liming to fill the texture.
 - Wipe off with a paper towel by hand. Run the lathe slowly using a paper towel to remove extra liming.
 - Liming will change the color and or tone.
 - Leave natural or finish with lacquer or desired top coat.
 - Hollow out as per beaded bangle.