

Intarsia Woodworking Patterns

Contributed by Derryck
Tuesday, 27 February 2007
Last Updated Monday, 26 February 2007

I'm out on the net most days trawling for woodworking patterns and projects for my workshop to build and sell. Till recently I'd never heard of Intarsia. That was until I found this web site <http://www.freeintarsiapatterns.com/>. So I turned to the trusty Wikipedia and researched Intarsia a little. Here is their definition.

"Intarsia is a form of wood inlaying that is similar to marquetry. The term is also used for a similar technique used with small, highly polished stones (see *pietre dure*). The technique of intarsia inlays sections of wood (at times with contrasting ivory or bone) within the solid matrix; by contrast marquetry assembles a pattern out of veneers upon the carcass. The technique of intarsia is believed to have developed in the Islamic world; introduced into Europe through Sicily the art was perfected in Siena and in northern Italy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, spreading to German centers and introduced into London by Flemish craftsmen in the later sixteenth century. After about 1620, marquetry tended to supplant intarsia in urbane work.

It is the craft of using varied shapes, sizes and species of wood fitted together to create an almost 3-D inlaid, mosaic-like picture. It is thought that the word 'intarsia' is derived from the Latin word 'interserere' which means "to insert" and that it was originally developed in Siena Italy in the 13th century by crafters using inlays of ivory inserted in wood as well as inlays of wood inserted into wall murals, table tops and other furniture (See : *Duomo di Siena*)."

Intarsia appeals to my sense of wood art. Look at this peice.

It makes a picture of wood in 3D. This wolf's nose almost looks like you could reach out and touch it. Check out the other patterns at http://www.freeintarsiapatterns.com/Download_Free_Intarsia_Patterns.htm they are not exactly beginners pieces but well worth a look.