

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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Gilded Sputnik Sea Urchin Ornament

Part 1: Prepare the Shell:

- The Sea Urchins that I use are called Sputnik. I like these because they are symmetrical and not very fragile. They will come apart at the seams unless they are sealed with something. My preferred sealing method is to paint the shell inside and out with Mod Podge or PVA glue diluted with water.
- The openings in Sputniks are not round or uniform. I make abrasive coated mandrels to make the holes round. Two mandrels will be needed because the holes in Sputniks are not both the same size.
- To create a transition between the finials and the shell, I use a cone shaped mandrel to chamfer the top and bottom holes in the shell.

Part 2: Turn Finials for top and bottom:

- That is where your creativity and skill comes in! I like to put a tenon on the ends of the Finials to fit into the Sputnik, and a bevel to match the chamfers on the holes.

Part 3: Gild the Shell:

- Apply adhesive to the shell, wait for it to become tacky, and adhere the metal leaf to the shell.

Part 4: Assemble the Ornament:

- I like to use 5 minute Epoxy, and glue the top finial in first. Glue a hanging loop into the top Finial.

Sources:

- The Composition Metal Gilding supplies can be found at art supply stores such as Michaels, Hobby Lobby, and Dick Blick. For precious metal leaf, www.goldleafcompany.com or www.easyleaf.com
- For a video on how to make my Sputnik Sea Urchin Ornament: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tynZwHZvdiU>
- For more sources of supply, ask your good friend Google.

For safety, Please wear eye and face protection at ALL TIMES

Oh, and be sure to HAVE FUN !!