

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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Tool List for Gilding with Metal Leaf

A list of what I use for Gilding with Metal Leaf.

Tools:

Gilder's pad
Gilder's knife
Gilding Tip (squirrel hair flat brush)
Soft mop brush for real Gold
Stiffer mop brush for Composition Metal
1/2" and 1/4" squirrel hair size brushes
Smaller size brush
Lacquer thinner for cleaning brushes
Mineral Spirits for cleaning off excess leaf
Rugger gloves to protect your hands.
Cotton gloves to protect the gilding from fingerprints are also helpful.

Single layer cardboard (like the backing from a note pad, but without glossy coating), brown paper bag, or very fine abrasive (4000 grit or finer), used dry or with Mineral Spirits, for cleaning off excess leaf from where you don't want it

Materials:

Oil based "Quick Dry" gold size. Slow drying varnish or other finishing materials can also be used.

Composition Metal Leaf – Variegated, Mona Lisa brand, is available at Michael's. Other choices available online.

Patent Gold Leaf. This has a backing paper attached. Easier to use, but limiting. Not very good for irregular surfaces.

Loose Leaf 23 - 24K Gold.

Other alloys are available as "White Gold", "Green Gold", "Rose Gold", etc.

When buying real Gold, the "Double" gold, or thicker, gives an easier result with better coverage. Some brands have more pinholes than others. Often the cheaper brands don't cover as well.

Brushes are cleaned immediately with Lacquer Thinner.

Please note:

It is not necessary to have all of this stuff to do basic gilding with Composition Metal Leaf. And there are other methods that other folks use, that use different tools and supplies. This is what I use.

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These tools and supplies are available at gilding suppliers.