Sources for Inlaying Metal Into Wood

John Shrader

Metals:

RioGrande.com. I order most of my decorative metals from them. They have a broad selection of metals and shapes in stock, and I have found them prompt and professional. Their prices are competitive.

WireSculpture.com. When Rio Grande doesn’t have what I want (like 18 gauge brass square wire) I use Wire Sculpture. Wire Sculpture is more expensive, but for brass wire, it’s still pretty cheap per bowl. They only stock wire, not sheet.

Metaliferous.com. I haven’t ordered from this company, but I’ve been told they are good. They have a broad selection of metals and shapes in their catalog. I don’t know what they actually have in stock.

Pantograph:

Vermont American 23450. It’s fairly light duty, and costs around $20. I have one, but retired it recently and replaced it with the Milescraft show below. The Vermont American is carried by Amazon and a few others. I read in one of the reviews that Bosch bought out Vermont American, and support for this unit if it needs repair is bad.

Milescraft 331412. I recently purchased this unit, and it is a well made tool. It costs around $50 and is also available from Amazon.

There are pantographs that are used for enlarging and reducing images that are not appropriate for this application, because they do not accept a router.

Burs:

I ordered my burs from BursforCarving.com. Most of the catalogs for small burs show a picture of the bur, but no dimensions. Burs for Carving does both, which is why I ordered from them. The friction grip (FG) burs that I use cost $2.50/ea. These burs are intended for use in dental type ultra-high speed handpieces, but they work fine in the Dremel so long as you go slow.

FG 556 0.9mm (.36”) diameter, straight cutter. I use this for 20 ga. Wire (.032”). I would prefer a 0.8mm diameter, but they did not list one.

FG-557 1.0mm (.040”) diameter, straight cutter. I use this for 18 ga. (.040”) wire

FG-1 .08mm (.32”) ball cutter. I use this for signing my work with my power crafter air turbine hand piece.