

Decorating Elf

The Decorating Elf comprises a handle with a shaft, in the end of which is a bearing. Into this bearing carving-type rotary cutter/burrs are inserted which rotate freely when presented to the work. The decorating is supplied by a single round cutter, but two more cutters are available as extras – a cylinder and a bud (flame-shaped) cutter. To complement the tool there is also a negative rake cove and a negative rake point tool to help shape the surface prior to the cutters being presented, and delineate or define a band of work from another area. There is also a cleaning brush – we will look at that later on – to help clean up/burnish a textured surface.

The cutters are quite small and the details created with them are fine and not as bold as some of the other tools. This means these are ideally suited to creating bands of fine decorative detail for accents, as a boundary, a frame for an opening, as a delineation or transition. I have also seen such bands of detail from the Decorating Elf used as accents and transition elements on large wall sculptures.

The cutters can be used to impress into wood, but if you want a larger section of a shaped cutter to create a pattern, turn the section of wood to match the cutter used. The cutters can be arced on the work from one position to another, presented edge or face on and trailed, but if you trail the cutter and traverse it with a pull cut you need to be careful not to pull the cutter out of the holder.

By having a dedicated ball, bud (flame) and cylinder cutter you can create a wide variety of textures and in small spaces if required. But don't be fooled by the size of the cutter – they can be used to create wide areas of texture too if required.

The cutters are disposable and cannot be sharpened but they can be cleaned if you gum them up with a resinous wood by using a toothbrush and router cutter cleaner.

Helpful web links:

<https://tinyurl.com/yd8ggeco>

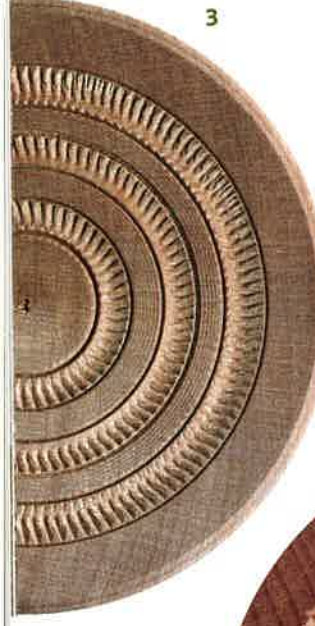
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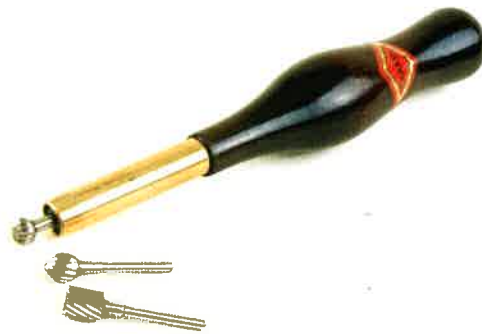
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The Decorating Elf fitted with a round cutter and is shown with optional extra bud and cylinder cutters by its side



The round cutter being used on faceplate work in pre-cut covers



The cylinder cutter being used end corner on the faceplate work



The inner rim of this hollow form was created with the round cutter and the outer band of texture was created with the end corner of the cylinder cutter at 30° to the work

TEXTURE SAMPLES AROUND THE EDGE FROM TOP LEFT. 1: Cylinder cutter presented corner on and traversed across the surface nine times 2: Cylinder cutter edge at 40° trailed across the work seven times from centre to outer edge 3: Bud-shaped cutter presented horizontal to a pre-shaped surface 4: A round cutter used at 10° off horizontal and a bud-shaped cutter tip used to create the small detail between the round cutter detail 5: The cylinder cutter end corner presented at various angles and colour used to highlight the detail



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