

Alternative Ivory

About Alternative Ivory

An environmentally friendly alternative to genuine ivory, Alternative Ivory looks and feels so much like genuine ivory, its been used to restore furniture in National Trust and English Heritage properties. Made of cast polyester resin, Alternative Ivory has a subtle grain pattern similar to real ivory yet won't yellow over time. An aged appearance can be achieved by staining using tea or fabric dyes.

Helpful Hints for Turning Alternative Ivory

Drilling

Use low speeds (250–500 rpm) when drilling any type of plastic. Drill the proper size hole through the blank stopping an 1/8" or so short of the bit exiting the blank. Trim the end of the blank to expose the hole. This drilling technique helps prevent cracking caused by the bit exiting the blank. Back the bit partially out of the hole frequently to clear chips that can cause overheating and damage to the blank. Be sure to use a sharp bit.



Scraping Only

To reduce the likelihood of the material chipping while turning, we recommend using a scraper with a small bevel ground on the topside of the tool. Having a short bevel above the cutting edge makes the tool less aggressive and easier to control than a standard scraper. You can modify an existing scraper by grinding a short 10 -15 degree bevel on the top side of the tool (shown above). Scraping may also be done using a skew chisel flat on its side. Cutting should be done with the handle in a slightly raised position. Scrapers with this type of dual bevel grind also work extremely well on unusually hard wood and highly figured areas that are difficult to cut clean using traditional scrapers. Parting tools are safe to use on plastics.

Finishing

For a matte finish, wet sand through 600 grit. For a glass-like finish, wet sand through 12000 grit using Micro Surface abrasives (114-0300) then polish with 20/20 Plasti-Polish (042-0020) or similar polishing compound. Using water while sanding maximizes the efficiency of the abrasive and prevents loading. If you don't have wet/dry sand paper, try regular sand paper as it may tolerate water long enough for you to sand.

Chucking

Do not attempt to use a 2 or 4 prong drive center with plastics of any kind as it may split or chip the blank. We recommend using a self centering chuck or gluing it to a wooden block mounted to a faceplate or screw chuck using cyanoacrylate (super glue) or expanding polyurethane (Sumo or Gorilla glue) adhesive.

Lathe Speed

Alternative Ivory should be turned at the same speed you would use to turn a wood blank. Choosing a safe speed when turning can be done using a simple formula.

Formula: Diameter x RPM= 6,000 – 9,000

Example- 3" Blank diameter x 2,000 RPM= 6,000

3" Blank diameter x 3,000 RPM= 9,000

Therefore slowest recommended spindle speed is 2,000 rpm, with the highest recommended speed being 3,000 rpm. 6,000 – 9,000 is NOT RPM's, it's only a range of numbers used to determine safe operating speeds.

Questions?

If you need further assistance with Alternate Ivory please call our support staff at 1-800-551-8876.

Shop Online 24/7

www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Alternative Ivory Finishing Supplies



Micro Surface Finishing Kit

Includes one each: 1500, 1800, 2400, 3200, 3600, 4000, 6000, 8000, 12000 grit 3" x 6" abrasive sheets. Instructions included.

114-0300

Micro Surface Finishing Kit \$21.99



20/20 Plasti-Polish

Designed for removing fine scratches and producing a like new surface on most plastics, this premium polish will give your plastic pens and a glass-like finish in seconds. Comes with a handy flip-top lid for easy dispensing. Made in USA.

042-0020

20/20 Plastic-Polish 8 oz \$7.50