

7 step process for inlaying Turquoise

-First cut a groove or determine which cracks to fill, then:

1. Make a mixture of ½ sanding sealer and ½ lacquer thinner—any brand
 - coat the area around the groove or crack with this mixture using a paper towel
 - this will seal the wood around the inlay so that the CA glue doesn't stain the wood
2. Put the appropriate size chips or powder into the crack or groove
 - insert inlay material for as long a distance as you can—1"-2" or more
 - have chips or powder protrude above the top of the crack or groove
 - if you have a deep crack, fill it with a wadded paper towel and coat with thin CA glue, then put the chips or powder in on top of the hardened paper towel
3. Thin CA glue
 - coat chips or powder with thin CA glue until entire crack or groove is filled
 - any CA glue brand will work, I prefer Star Bond at www.starbond.com
4. Recoat with Thin or Medium CA glue
 - if you are using powder, recoat entire area using thin CA glue
 - if you are using chips, recoat entire area using medium CA glue—the medium will fill in between the chips without running all over your bowl as thin CA would
5. Sand with 70 grit 2" diamond sand paper using a firm mandrel
 - this is a 3M product sold by The Sanding Glove at www.thesandingglove.com
 - diamond sand paper will sand the hard stone at the same rate as the softer wood
6. Refill divots with medium CA glue, regardless of using powder or chips
 - recoat around inlay with sanding sealer/lacquer thinner mixture using paper towel
 - get bowl at the right angle and light to see the divots or voids in the inlay
 - if some areas are large, 1/16" or more, use some powder and thin CA glue as fill
7. Sand with 2" or 3" 120 grit diamond sand paper using a firm mandrel
 - note of caution: if you have a lot of refilled divots or voids you may want to sand again with the 2", 70 grit diamond paper before doing the following
 - sand with 2" or 3" 120 grit diamond paper to smooth the additional glued area and take the 70 grit scratches out of the wood without removing the wood faster than the inlay which would leave hump from the wood to the inlay
 - now finish your bowl in your usual fashion being careful not to press too hard on the sanding mandrel when going over the inlay with subsequent sanding grits

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