

How to use Opal Inlay

Supplies Needed

- Ring Core or other project
- Opal Inlay
- Carbide Turning Tool
- Thin And Medium CA Glue
- Sandpaper
- Activator
- Scratch Free
- Micro Magic Polishing Paste

Mixing and Filling

Opal inlay can be applied using a variety of methods.

1. The first method is to turn a ring using a comfort ring core and before you apply your finish cut a narrow groove into the ring and then fill the void with the opal inlay, then flood the void with thin CA glue to set the opal.
2. Another method is inlaying opal straight into a 2 piece ring core. Simply color the inner channel of the ring core with a felt tip marker, preferably a complimentary color to the color of opal you will use. For the darker colors I use a black marker before inlaying. Once the core is colored start inlaying the opal and flood it with thin CA glue. Work your way around the ring until you have complete coverage. Build up the Opal and CA until it is proud of the core.

Pro Tip: place a paper plate on the lathe bed to catch any opal fragments that fall off the core and you can re-use them later.

Turning

1. A square carbide insert tool is recommended for leveling the inlay flush with the surface of the core, this is done with the lathe running around 2500 rpm. There may be some small gaps or cavities that need to be filled with CA. Once the gaps are filled, sand the opal and core at 2500 rpm starting with 600 grit paper or higher to give you a perfectly flat and level surface.
2. Continue sanding through 0000 steel wool or the 2500 grit mirlon non-woven scuff pads.

Polishing

1. Polish the inlaid area and the ring core starting with scratch-freee paste. Then move onto the Micro Magic Polishing waxes. You now have a highly polished ring with a beautiful opal inlay.