

Crack Filler Dust

by Paul A. Coppinger

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When I turn a particular wood, I will collect the floor waste and strain through a large kitchen strainer, then through a tea strainer and save the fine dust from the small tea strainer into a Ziplock bag. When I need to fill cracks in wood of that type, I use the dust and thin CA glue to match the color of the wood. I either will fill the crack with dust and drop a small amount of CA glue on the dust or I will put CA glue into the crack and then rub dust into the crack, often adding more CA glue. If the turning is near completion, spray lacquer around the crack and let dry before filling the crack. This prevents the glue from filling the surrounding pores of the wood which can affect your final finish. For contrasting cracks, I use black walnut dust which turns very dark, almost black with CA glue.

Warning

Using CA glue and its accelerant can produce foaming which will look white in a crack. To avoid this, I let the glue dry without the accelerant. Allow plenty of time for the CA glue to harden before turning on the lathe as often the wet glue will fly out of the crack and into your eyes. I wear plastic lense glasses and have ended up with spots on the lens which don't always come off without scratching the lens.

Input by Ed Heuslein

Use coffee to make a dark but not black filler.

Input from Tom Criswell

Use instant coffee or tea to make a dark filler