

Psychedelic Faux Bone

By John Murdock

Faux Bone™ is a versatile plastic product developed by Robert Dancik for jewelry making. Available in 8 x 8 inch sheets of various thicknesses and shapes, the material can be colored in myriad ways.

This tutorial will teach one such method to make fascinating and unique "one-of-a kind" jewelry using Ranger Adirondack® Inks. Forty-eight colors are available, 24 Earthtones, 12 Brights, and 12 Lights, plus 5 Mixatives, gold, silver, copper, pearl and snowcap. No Mixatives were used in this project, although there would be no reason not to do so. The Light inks are quite pale, and are not recommended for this type of project.



Materials List

- Faux Bone™ sheet 1/16th inch thick
- Ranger Alcohol Ink
- Ranger Alcohol Ink Blending Solution
- Metallic colored felt tip pen. Gold, silver, copper, or black
- Krylon clear spray, gloss, or matte
- Eyelets, optional. In place of eyelets, drill hole for jump ring or bail
- Wire, gauge and type optional, your choice for jump ring or bail
- Your choice of stringing and findings
- Plain white paper for a work surface for ink application
- Post-it White Removable Adhesive Label Paper

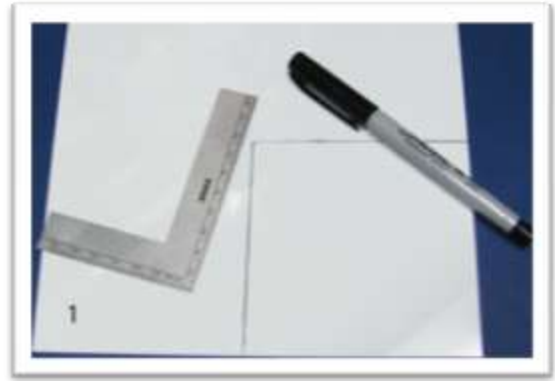
Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Jewelers saw frame 4 inch throat, fitted with a special "FINE" Faux Bone saw blade
- Bench pin
- Half-round Habilis file, No. 1, optional, or 6 inch half-round No. 2 cut file, or both
- Fine grit flexible Salon Board
- Cotton tipped swabs (Non wood shaft)
- Round toothpicks
- Ranger Ink Applicator and felt pads
- Flex shaft, or hand held motorized tool
- Drill bits, proper size for eyelet, bail or jump ring
- Eyelet setter, if using eyelets
- Triangular scraper
- Wire cutter
- Scissors
- Fine point Sharpie® pen
- Pencil
- Protective gloves, nitrile or latex
- Scrap wood block
- Paper towels.

Step 1. With Sharpie® mark out a 4 x 4 inch tile on Faux Bone™ sheet.

Saw out tile and clean away any adhering crumbs. A thumbnail works, or use the scraper. See Sawing in Techniques below.

Select background colors. Five colors; Slate, Mushroom, Caramel and Latte, all “Earthtones,” and Pebble, a “Bright,” were used in the example in the intro.



TIP: Make a color chart on white paper as it is difficult to tell how the colors will look when applied to a surface by just looking at the bottle labels.

Step 2. Apply a few drops of Alcohol Blending Solution to the surface of the tile and wipe off with paper towel. This should clean away any smears from the Sharpie, and fingerprint oils left of the surface from handling. Handle by the edges, or use gloves.

Step 3. Put on gloves if you don't want your fingers to be covered with ink. Ink will come off fingers with soap and water. Wear old clothes, as the ink will permanently stain clothes. Put 2-3 sheets of paper down as a work surface.

Place a felt pad on the applicator. Unscrew the ink bottle caps. Hold the applicator with the pad upward and press the ink bottle tip into the pad and gently squeeze the bottle, applying dabs of color, here and there on the pad.



Step 4. Randomly daub the colors onto the Faux Bone® piece. The ink remaining in the felt pad can be reactivated a couple of times by adding some drops of blending solution. Alcohol ink dries quickly. There is no need to heat set the ink.

Recap the bottles.



Step 5. Clip off one end of a few swabs and also some of the toothpick's tapered ends with wire cutter. These become applicators for applying ink.



Step 6. Select some brighter colors. Earthtones Cranberry and Butterscotch, plus a Bright, Sunrise Orange, were used.

Hold the bottle horizontally, and place the cut off end of the swab against the dropper tip and apply a bit of ink. If you are unsure of the amount of ink, tap the inked end on a piece of scrap paper, removing excess.



Step 7. Randomly tap or press the stub end onto the material. Do the same with the blunt end toothpicks to make smaller dots of ink. Pressure determines ink flow. Let your instincts be a guide as to where and how much ink to apply. The swab ends and toothpicks can be reactivated with ink or blending solution and used over and over. As you apply colors they will spread and may mix or change to a different color. Apply different colors on top of other colors. Recap the ink bottles when you are finished.

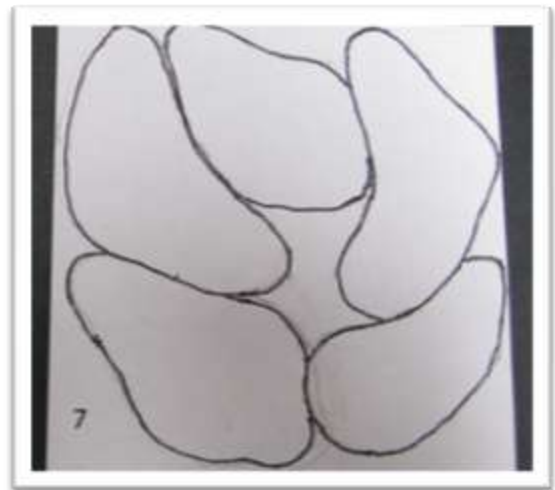


DESIGN TIP: What if you don't like the looks your design? Simply squirt on a few drops of Blending solution, wipe with paper towel, and start over. Experiment, play, and have fun.

Applying a Protective Finish

Step 8. When you are satisfied with the coloring and the ink is dry, spray the inked tile with a light application of Krylon spray. Allow to dry and spray again. Spraying two or three light applications is better than one heavy one. Spray outdoors, or in a well-ventilated space. Next, apply a different set of inks to the other side of the tile, as above, and spray. Spraying the inked surface is recommended to prevent possible damage to the surface from handling. Oils and acids from fingerprints can smear unprotected inks.

Step 9. Cut a 4x 4 inch piece of the label paper and draw shapes, freeform or geometric, it's your choice. Try to fill in all of the space to conserve as much of the material as possible. You can go over the final shapes with the pen, if you like.



Step 10. Remove the paper backing and apply the label to the tile and saw out the shapes. Clean away crumbs as you saw. Remove the label paper.



Step 11. Remove saw marks or irregularities with the Habilis file. File in a rotary motion, refining the shapes.



Step 12. Sand and smooth the edges with the salon board. How much you file or sand the edges of the material is up to you. Quit when you are satisfied. See Techniques, below.



Step 13. Finish the edges using the side of a metallic felt tip pen.



Step 14. Finish your piece as you like, eyelet, jump ring, bail, stringing.

These pieces would look great on a leather cord with the Sliding Knot project on Wubbers University!



Techniques

Sawing: Setting up your jeweler's saw with the special saw blade and sawing Faux Bone is no different than when sawing metal, with one notable exception: Sawing generates heat from friction and because it is a plastic, crumbs of material will semi-melt and adhere to the bottom side of the piece and need to be removed from time to time. The crumbs can also raise the material up off the bench peg. The heat may also cause the blade to stick in the material. If you need to stop sawing, move the saw up and down while pulling back from the end of the saw kerf. This will help keep the

blade from sticking. Working over a wastebasket to catch the crumbs is a good idea. Try to saw in a steady up and down motion. Hold the material firmly against the bench pin. When sawing curves, turn the material into the blade. If your saw blade does become stuck in the material, don't try to free the blade by pulling it back or wrestle it free. You can break the blade. Hold the material firmly down on the bench pin. Place your knee up against the end of the saw handle and pull down. The blade will come free and you can continue sawing. Method courtesy of Robert Dancik. Also, no lubrication on the saw blade is required.

Rotary Filing: Place the piece flat on edge of bench pin and hold firmly. Place file against material. use a light touch and move the file up and down, while moving your hand in a circular motion. Use the rounded side for concave curves, the flat side for convex curves. Rotary filing is an excellent technique and will quickly smooth away saw marks. Again, fine crumbs will form on both top and bottom of your piece, and are easily removed with a fingernail.

Sanding: Generally, the sanding procedure when working with Faux Bone is to wet sand the surface and edges of the material beginning with 320 grit, then 400 grit. and finally 600 grit wet and dry sandpaper. Wet sanding helps keep down the dust from sanding. Soak small pieces of wet and dry sandpaper in water prior to sawing. For the tutorial above this is not required and is optional. Either way is fine. The fine grit flexible salon board works quite well and fits nicely around curves.

Drilling: Make sure you have a sharp drill bit. If you hold the bit firmly, but not so much as to bend it, you can start the drill without making a divot. If you feel better with a divot, use the point of the triangular scraper to make one. Hold the piece firmly and drill with moderate speed into a scrap wood block. Drill through until you see wood bits coming up and withdraw the bit without stopping the motor. Stopping while the bit is still in the material can cause the bit to stick and you are in danger of breaking the bit trying to extricate it. No lubrication for the drill bit is required. Twist the point of a triangle scraper around in the hole (chamfering), to neaten it for attaching jump ring or bail.

Additional Shaping: The material may be heated with a heat gun, and shaped by hand, using thick gloves for protection.

Sources

Faux Bone™ and special saw blades, www.fauxbone.com

Alcohol ink and blending solution, craft stores or online, www.limabeads.com and others. Ink at craft stores is usually sold in sets of three coordinating colors. These sets may not contain the colors you want. To choose your own selection of colors, you will probably need to purchase them online.

Krylon sprays. craft stores.

Post-it Label paper. Office supply stores.

Review Questions

- 1) What specialized tool is used as a brush to apply the alcohol inks?
 - a) Foam brush
 - b) Q-tips
 - c) Cotton balls
 - d) Your finger

- 2) What is Faux Bone™?
- a) Sheets of elephant tibia, unrolled into a flat piece
 - b) Bone from the shin of a fox
 - c) A versatile plastic material for making jewelry
- 3) True/False. Use a lubricant when sawing Faux Bone™.
- a) True
 - b) False
- 4) What is used to color the Faux Bone™ in this project?
- a) Sharpie markers
 - b) Alcohol inks
 - c) Crayons (the 128 Crayon deluxe set with sharpener!)
- 5) True/False. Applying a heavy coat of Krylon will ensure that the design is not damaged.
- a) True
 - b) False