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Grant Scheme for Common Cultural Heritage: Preservation and Dialogue Between  
Turkey and the EU-II (CCH-II)

# From Ancient Anatolian Crafts to Contemporary Designs

## Craft Documents Inlaying



## Inlaying

In the craft of inlaying, mother-of-pearl, ivory, bone, tortoise shell, ebony, or gold-silver wires are set into the indentations carved into wood, metal, or stone according to the pattern drawn. Various types and colors of wood can also be used in inlaying works. This craft is also known as "mother-of-pearl inlaying" since mother-of-pearl on wood is an often used combination of materials.



**Craftsman**  
Hüsamettin Yivlik

**Location**  
Istanbul

### Materials and equipment

- Mother-of-pearl
- Walnut and similar wood
- Cutting tools such as knives for wood carving (in carpentry, these tools are called chisels)
- Saw, fret saw, drill
- Press machine
- Sandpaper
- Putty, oil, shellac polish (French polish)



## Inlaying



An example of mother-of-pearl usage in the craft

### Stages

For making a mirror;

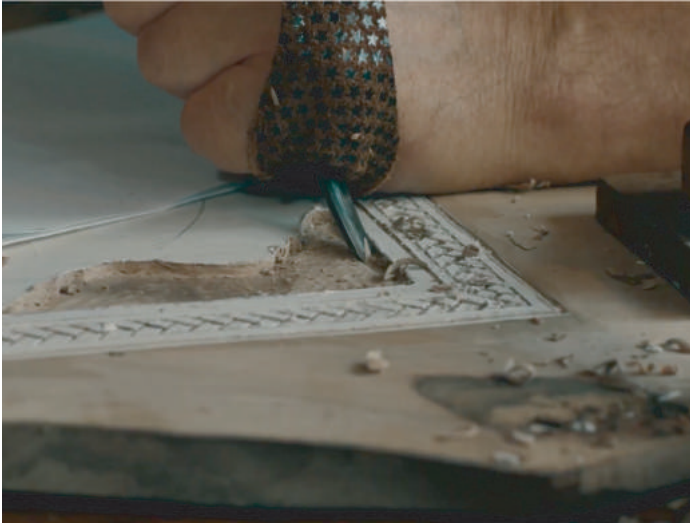
1. Choosing the right wood
2. Choosing the pattern
3. Transferring the pattern onto the wood



3rd stage

4. Carving the wood
5. Drilling the places to be cut in the mother-of-pearl
6. Cutting the mother-of-pearl with a fret saw following the pattern
7. Preparation of the putty
8. Applying putty to the places where the mother-of-pearl will be placed

## Inlaying



4th stage: Carving the wood



6th stage



Using of pressing machine

**9.** Slotting the mother-of-pearl design into the groove

**10.** Pressing the wood and mother-of-pearl together

**11.** Letting it dry

**12.** Carving the place where the mirror will be embedded



13th stage

**13.** Sanding to remove the excess putty

**14.** Sanding the wood and mother-of-pearl so they lie flush (are of the same height)

**15.** Oiling the wood

**16.** Applying shellac polish (French polish)



## Inlaying



16th stage



18th stage

### 19. Placing the mirror and attaching the hanging wire.



Final product: A mirror

### Constraints

The dimensions of the mother-of-pearl plates are approximately 15x15 cm. Time required to make a detailed motif on such a plate is about 3 days.

For this reason, it is expected that design proposals should be suitable for a 4-day co-production process.



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