

Feather Bait and Other Images By Fuzz Morgan

I use an underwrap with all my images. I make underwrap then apply one coat of color preserver to underwrap and let dry overnight. I then choose the image I want to create. I do not use a pattern to create any of my images, as all of my work is done freehand.

Jig Image

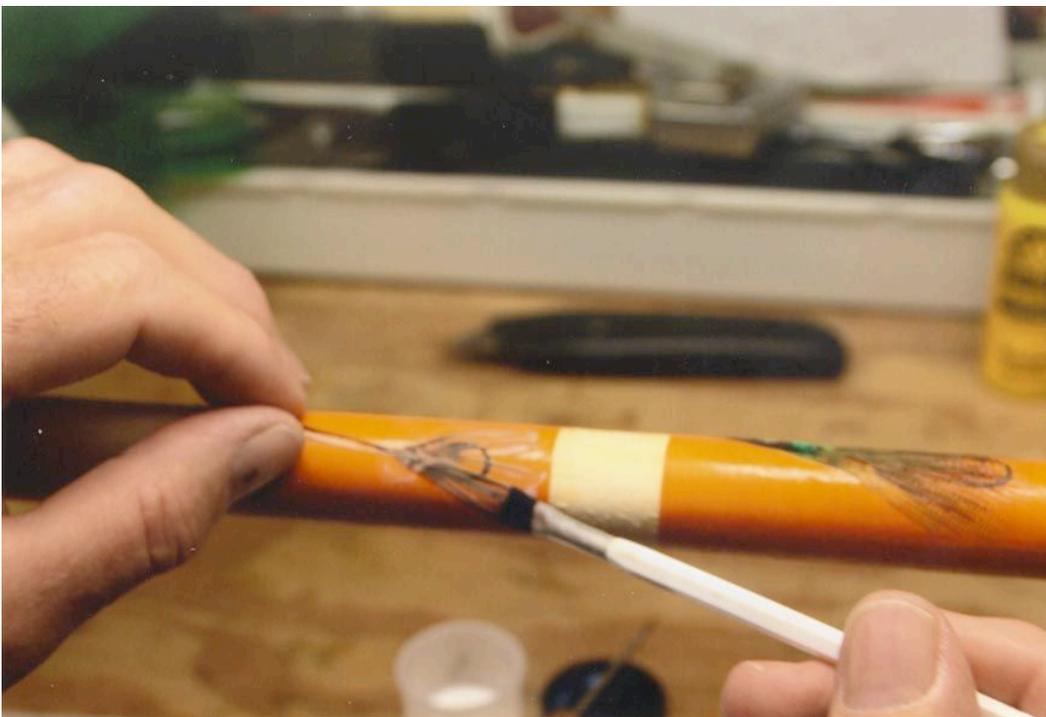
Let's start with a jig and how to design it. Using peacock hurl (pulled through my brush with color preserver) to make it appear as thread, I make a hook. Depending on the size of the hook I prefer, I may make several runs of the hurl until I achieve the preferred size.



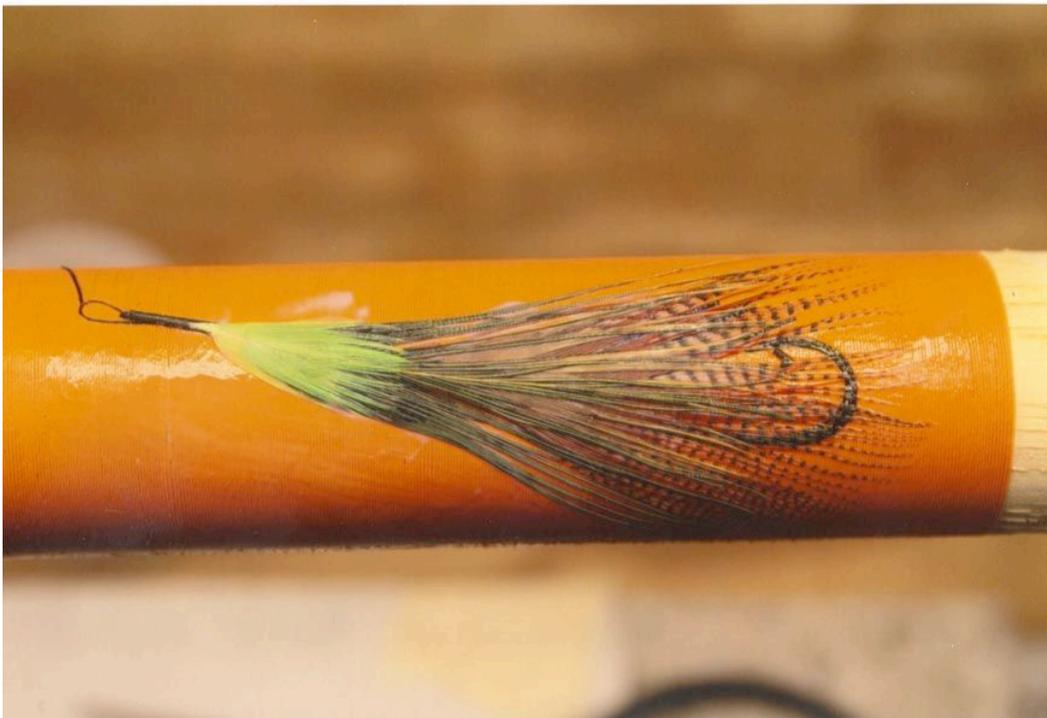
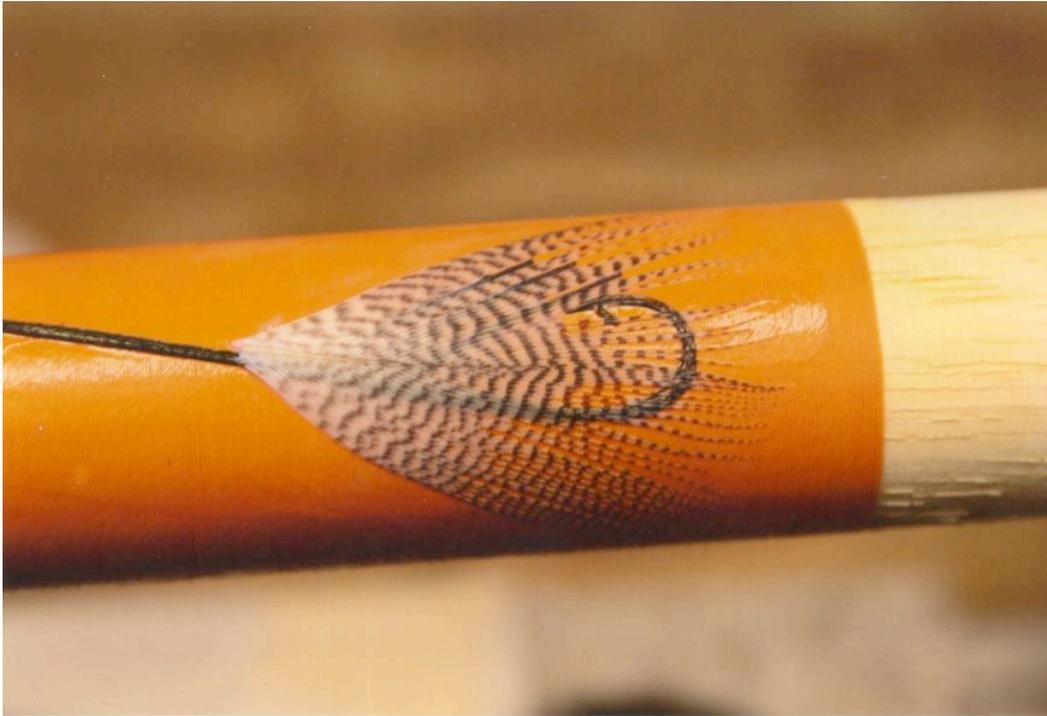
I apply pieces of hurl to make weed guards and barb on the hook. This adds extra detail to my creation. The eye of the hook and line is made the same way. Use the smallest hurl possible to make hook-eye and line, shapes are much easier. Let dry.



I then start to apply my feathers for the skirt. Apply the feather and let it set for a few minutes before applying a second feather, a third feather, etc., until the desired image is created.



Choose a feather to make the head of the jig and put it in place. Let dry. To add more flash and color I use metallic thread to create the eye, etc. This just adds more detail to my image. A pick dipped in preserver can be used to put these small pieces in place.







I then let the inlay dry completely and then I go back and apply a coat of preserver to the entire underwrap and inlay. I then let it dry overnight so they will be completely dry. By doing this the feathers retain their colors. I apply the first coat of finish and let it dry for at least eight hours. I then apply a second coat of finish, which is usually sufficient. In some situations you might have to apply another coat.

Spinner Bait Image

A spinner bait is basically made the same way as the jig. I use the same steps described above to make a jig image, to make my outline, to create the spinner bait image. I then choose feathers to make blades for the spinner bait and apply them to the bait.







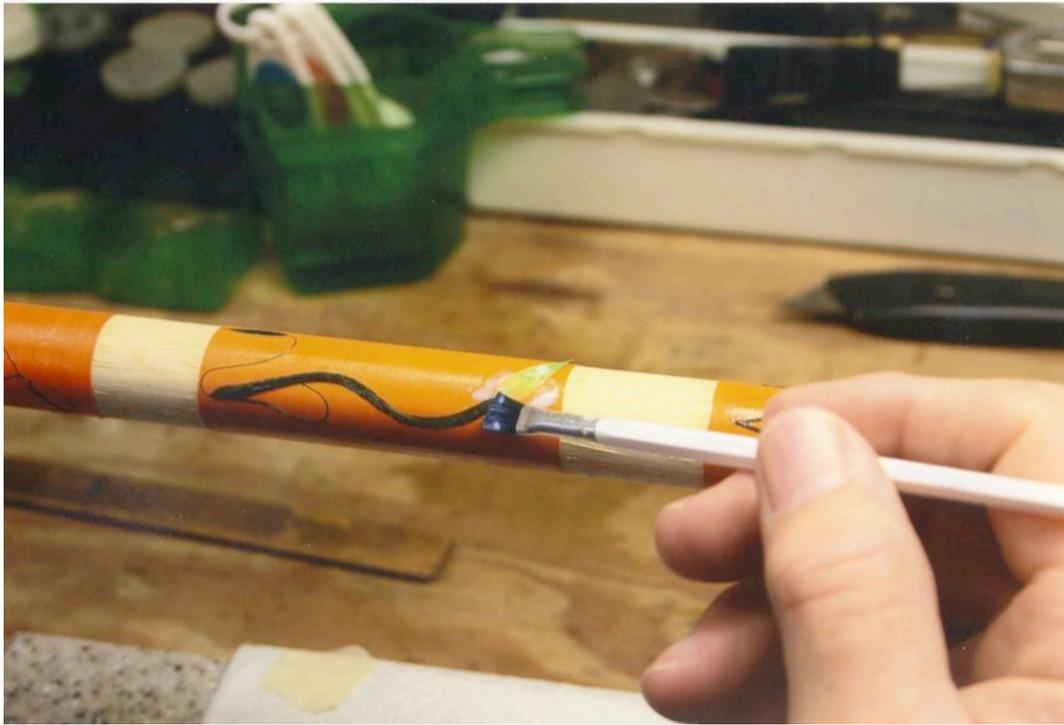
I apply feathers to make the image of choice. Use the same method as described above on the jig image. I have no “set” pattern when I start creating the spinner bait image, I just try to make it compliment the rod I’m building. Let it dry completely and then apply another coat of preserver to the image and let it dry overnight. You then can apply the first coat of finish. Let it dry at least eight hours and then apply a second coat of finish.

Worms

I make one run of hurl to achieve how I want the worm to look. Let it set a few minutes before applying more pieces of hurl. I usually make 4-8 runs to achieve the size worm I'm going to create.

I then choose a feather to make the worm's head and apply it to the worm. I then make the hook, line, and sinker to the worm with my hurl. Let it dry for a few minutes. I then choose a feather to make the worm's tail and apply it to the worm. Let dry. I then apply an entire coat of preserver and let it dry overnight. Apply finish using the same methodology described above in creating the jig and spinner bait images.





Crank Baits, Jerk Baits, and Other Images

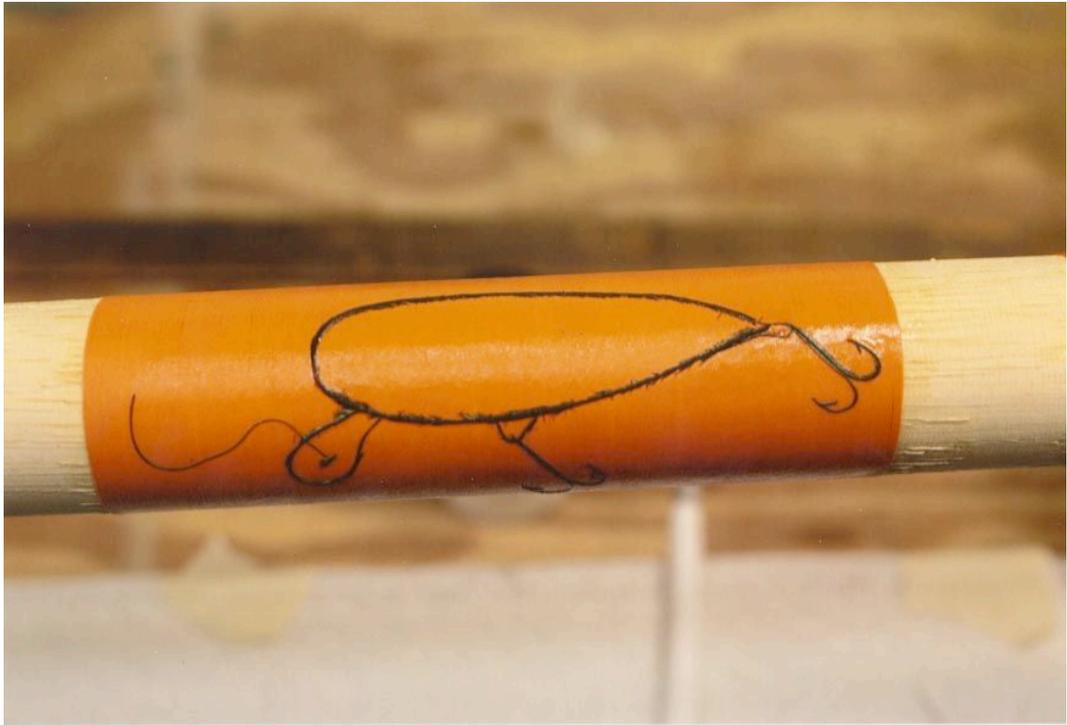
I lay the outline of the bait with hurl and let it set for a few minutes. I then create the hooks, line, and lip (if necessary) for my image. Let dry.





I then start filling in my outline with feathers to create the body image. Let each feather dry for a few minutes before applying another one. Again I have no “set” pattern, I just use my imagination in determining what type of image I am trying to create.











Once you have created a preferred image, let it dry completely. Add another coat of preserver and let it dry overnight. Then apply finish the same way as described previously on the jig, spinner bait, and worms images.

These procedures are the ones I use but there are certainly many more methods that others use to create their rod images. Remember to use whatever method works best for you. I will say that these methods work great for me and hopefully it will help you if you decide to give feather inlays a try. These methods work great and don't require many hours of your time to add a unique touch to your rod building.

Fuzz Morgan

Keep the Rods Turning and the Feathers Flying