

Handcrafted Hobby



Woodturning made easy, thanks to WildWood Design

BY MARTHA-PAGE ALTHAUS



Ever wanted to make your own jewelry, but you just didn't know where to start?

Look no further than WildWood Design, a local company that sells kits with all the materials you need to make one-of-a-kind wood and metal bracelets, rings, pendants, and more.

Local entrepreneur Eric Goertz started the company a few years ago after accompanying his wife, a glass jewelry maker, as she sold her pieces at arts and craft shows around the Mesa County region.

"I have spent much of my life working with wood, building cabinets and furniture," says Goertz, who works as a mechanical engineer during the week at a local manufacturing company. "I have a passion for wood-working, so turning wood into durable, beautiful jewelry was natural."

The art of wood turning, or transforming small pieces of wood into works of wearable art, is becoming a popular interest — WildWood's kits are sold across the world. The kits come with a variety of wood species, and all include metal products that are made in western Colorado.

"Woodturning is a great way to unwind after a long week at work, and many projects take less than an hour to complete. It's a lot easier than you think," says Goertz, who films educational YouTube videos on the process. WildWood's website also features written tutorials to help beginners learn.

And if you'd rather buy a unique handcrafted piece of jewelry, Goertz connects potential buyers with woodturning artisans from around the globe. The trend continues to grow — Goertz has sold his products throughout the United States and as far away as Europe, South Africa, and Australia.



Clockwise, from top: Mountain Mahogany bangle; Eric Goertz woodturning; Aspen Burl and stainless steel bangle

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