

# Katherine Kowalski

“Fine, *Refined* Turnery”

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## Creating Crochet Hooks

Please see my web site [www.KatherineKowalski.com](http://www.KatherineKowalski.com) for additional handouts, a supplier list, and more information.

The most important things to remember in creating a crochet hook:

1. **Functionality** – the hook must be smooth, cut at a correct angle, and be durable enough to withstand usage.
1. **Comfortability** – must be hold-able for long periods of time and be the correct weight and shape.
2. **Design** – Your turned design will determine the desire for the recipient to keep and treasure the hook. Not just a random collection of beads and coves, your design should “tell a story.”
2. **Color & Texture** – Using bright colors and woods with attractive grain patterns are critical to design success in today’s crochet hook market. People (especially fiber arts folks) LOVE color and visual texture.
3. **Decoration** – the “topping on the cake” – not a necessary, but will add value and allow you to explore new skills such as carving, pyrography, painting, inlay, as well as *design skill*.

### Segmentation

Proper joinery is a **must** – always support the end-grain join with a mortise-and-tenon joint, or another form of secure joinery, and combine the materials with appropriate adhesive.

### Turning

Always use clean cuts and precise technique that *really* works. (Don’t cheat!) You’ll be able reduce both sanding time and quantity of sandpaper, saving yourself money for more wood purchases! Pay attention to the comfortability details, and think about your design in terms of creating an elegant and pleasing shape. Good rule of thumb: make prodigious use of Cindy Drozda’s “Implied Line” principle. ([www.CindyDrozda.com](http://www.CindyDrozda.com))

### Color & Texture

Whatever your love, be it for fine exotics, plentiful domestics, dyed hardwoods, or even man-made materials, combining colors and textures in a eye-pleasing way will go a long way toward the visual appreciation of your finished piece.

I often like to combine a solid color of dyed hardwood with a “textural” piece of natural exotic wood, allowing both parts of the hook to “shine.” Avoid using “wild” (or “calm”) textures on both ends of the same hook. E.g. angle-cut dyed hardwood handle + burl finial, curly maple handle + birds-eye finial, solid color dyed hardwood handle + straight-grain natural wood finial.

Experiment with color! If you’re shy about using color, choose some attractive object around the house: a painting, your favorite chair, look at a pleasing sunset, or even something as simple as a logo that you like. Try to replicate those colors in your work, and go from there: add thin bands of different colors to see how they interact with the principal ones. There are no rules – only to find a combination that appeals to your artistic sense. Observe the synchronistic and intensifying effects of combining hot pink with orange... and with red. Do the same with chocolate browns and verdant greens... Then mix them up to find new medleys!

Attempting new combinations of color paired with turned form and (possible) decoration allows you to create your own signature style, which will be appreciated by the people who value the tool most – fiber artists.

### Finishing

Don’t skimp on the hand-sanding and finishing of the hook. There’s nothing more frustrating to a crocheter than a hook that snags the yarn... (This falls under the #1 Functionality requirement...)

Most of all – have fun! The freer your thoughts and the brighter your intentions, the more your recipient will enjoy their next crochet hook!