

CHAT CHAT w/ Mariel Ortiz: Interview with Wally Wiebe Transcript

Mariel: Hello, I am Mariel! Welcome to ChatChat. What is special today? I want to introduce you to Wally Wiebe (show name sign). His work is amazing. This is Wally.

Wally: My name is Wally. I live here. I've been working with wood for many years. When I was growing up, I would pick up strange kinds of wood and wonder what kind of wood it was. For example, (showing a medium sized wood log).

Mariel: Wow. Yes, (to the audience), you see this?

Wally: I wanted to know what kind of wood this is. As I was wondering, I realized my father was a wood carver, but this wasn't what I wanted. I wanted something different. For many years I loved working with wood. I used to work as a cabinet-maker.

Mariel: Wow, that's a lot of work.

Wally: There would be left-over wood at work. My boss said we don't need this, just toss it away, but I would take it home. I made different things.

Mariel: Oh, use up (to the audience)

Wally: After many years, I had a different idea.

Mariel: I see.

Wally: Now all the wood here from my work, friends gave me or I bought it. I know some woods are expensive, but it's worth it for people. Some I like for myself, yes, I also use it to make things that I donate.

Mariel: (signed donate)

Wally: Donate wood things to people to make them happy.

Mariel: Yes, I agree.

Wally: This is the first wood bowl I made.

Mariel: It's pretty. See (point at the item)

Wally: I think I made this first one in the 1980's. I don't remember. I forgot.

Mariel: Lip Sync "Wow!"

Wally: Years later, I created and added (showing another wood item).

Mariel: (signed second)

Wally: See the difference, (pointed the first one) it's in a linear format. (pointed to the one in his hand) This one I added plugs of wood in different colors.

Mariel: It's pretty!

Wally: Some wood comes from different countries. Like Africa, South America, Asia...

Mariel: (Signed Asia)

Wally: ...and Mexico. I bought the wood from the store. That's the reason why it's so expensive to buy. But I enjoy it. Then I made one even better as I keep improving. (showing)

Mariel: Wow, that is a lot of details! Beautiful!

Wally: This one is different than this one. This one is linear. Now this is slanted.

Mariel: (fingering the lines on the wood)

Wally: So, I wanted to create to make people happy.

Mariel: Really! How amazing to see it from simple to this. I wonder how it works to add the wood plugs. My vision on how the pieces are added and then how to make it flat.

Wally: (picking up dotted wood) Drill holes.

Mariel: Ahh that's really neat!

Wally: Drill holes to put plugs in

Mariel: Wow, that's creative!!

Wally: Let me show you, wait

Mariel: He is very creative! Wow!! Drilling I didn't think of that.

Wally: This is what the plugs look like.

Mariel: See the demo! Pretty! Now I can visualize it. The plugs are different sizes. Amazing!

Wally: This is how to remove the plug, then it goes in the drilled hole with glue. This is very good for wood. It's waterproof. It's strong, yes.

Mariel: Oh, protect it. Cool!

Wally: I use this type of glue a lot.

Mariel: Now you improved it with your creativity, that is so cool! Now I am curious about the current one. See a lot of different woods. Like he recently mentioned Asia, Africa & all. Are all those woods included in this creation?

Wally: Yes.

Mariel: So how did you make this one?

Wally: Okay, I'll show you the wood here on my table. I pick different woods. This has different woods. I glue and clamp them together.

Mariel: Clamp, yes.

Wally: (showing two wood clamps together) That is a lot of work. But I enjoy it during my free time.

Mariel: Wow! Now I can get the idea! It's really, really beautiful!

Wally: When I finish putting the wood pieces all together, it will look like this.

Mariel: Cool!

Wally: Wait, no this one. It is finished. Next it goes through the planer machine over there. After I glue and clamp the wood pieces together, then I mark the wood with pencil. The reason is it will show me how much the machine shaves off. I want to see that it is not too deep. I don't want to waste wood. Let me show you. This machine is loud. But for me, I'm deaf. It's ok. It's a vacuum to take the sawdust from the machine. It saves me from cleaning up and hurting my back. Now I'm going to turn the vacuum on then the planer. And one more, turning the other side. I can still see the black pencil. That means I need to shave more. It's shaving off the wood like when a man shaves his beard. I need to do more. I am lowering the planer machine. It's good. One more side. Oh loud! Now it's finished. Ok, now going to show you the cutting machine. I need to go back around. This machine is called Chop Saw. I don't need the Hand Saw. It's too much work. I'd prefer to use the machine. I want to cut it vertically. I want to make the wood square in the same measurement. $5 \frac{3}{4}$ " on both sides. I can also add more wood, make it longer and cut it three or more times. I use a compass to draw a circle. Then cut the circle on this machine called a Band Saw. I put the circular wood pieces on a dowel, turning them in different directions, watching the different wood colors. I put them on like this and glue them, clamp them together, wait for the glue to dry, then put on the lathe. After I plane it and the surface is smooth, then I cut it in half and have two pieces. These are extra. I keep making more and pile them until I have enough and it looks like this. The wood patterns are different.

Mariel: Beautiful!

Wally: When all the squares are finished, then cut them into circles. They look like this. The next part is easy, just glue them together with clamps. Let me find them. This is what it looks like.

Mariel: That's big!

Wally: I clamp it like this. How long to leave it depends on the weather. If it is cold I need to leave it for a long time, but in the summer, only about 20 minutes. So it depends on the weather. Next I use a hole in the middle, because when they are glued together, they can slide. I don't want that to happen, so I use a dowel. Let me find one.

Mariel: I see, so the wood can slide, meaning it is a lot of work to make it right.

Wally: This dowel is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. I put the dowel through the hole like this. The dowel will help the wood circles to stay straight and not slide. Now also notice the wood pattern is on an angle. I do that by not drilling the hole straight down, but turning the wood circle on an angle to drill. This makes the wood look slanted. That was my idea.

Mariel: Wow! Wow, that is really creative. Most of us would have no thought as to how to do that. It is really, really amazing.

Wally: Thank you!

Mariel: It's a pleasure to see how he does all the details. It's a beautiful job.

Wally: I clamp the wood circles together with eight clamps. Let me show you. Keep adding more until I have eight. Then I wait and let it dry for about one week. That's my recommendation, because there is a lot of glue inside between all the wood pieces. The inside does not dry fast. The outside does, so it needs time. I recommend a full week. When that part is finished, what is next? Use the lathe. Let's use this piece of wood. I am going to try this.

Mariel: I am curious about the lathe. Does the lathe go around?

Wally: I will show you how to start it. This is called a knife. It is very, very sharp, so I need to be careful. Hold it like this. I turned the speed up faster. You can see the numbers going up and down when turning the knob. I use about 700 mph, I mean mpm. That's enough and it is safe. When I finish and it is good enough, I use sandpaper nex.

Mariel: He means sandpaper.

Wally: I start the lathe again and hold the sandpaper up to the wood like this. I make this smooth, then I use another lighter sandpaper and make it even more finely smooth. Nowe it is smooth.

Mariel: Thank you for showing us your work. It is very interesting how you use the lathe and then make it smooth. Now I understand how.

Wally: After the sanding is complete, next I add like varnish, but it has a different name. I will show you. This is Miniwax Wipe-on Polyurethane. I don't use a brush, it's not required, you don't need one. This is wipe-on. That's all. I use a rag that is clean and cut a small piece. I will use this whole rag for the demonstration. Pour some polyurethane on the rag, then rub on the wood. I also need to lay it over something like this so I don't touch it. Wipe it on and leave it dry. The polyurethane dries fast. Let it dry for two hours, then rub it with sandpaper. That will make it even more shiny and pretty, plus it will feel smooth. Then add another coat of polyurethane. Do this process about 10 times, meaning 10 coats. It sounds like a lot, but it is worth it to make it pretty.

Mariel: That's why I noticed it is shiny and pretty. Ten coats. I was wondering about that. I thought maybe one coat, but I was wrong. Actually need to do it 10 times.

Wally: The first time I used it I added 50 coats, then I learned that was too much. I felt 10 coats was enough, but a person can add more if they want. I also add my name on the bottom. I add the year as to when I started it,...

Mariel: (when make)

Wally: ...then I know how old it is.

Mariel: Then you know when you made it. So this was the first one you made?

Wally: Yes.

Mariel: What year did you make it?

Wally: 1985.

Mariel: That means he's worked a long, long time with wood and still today he works with wood.

Wally: I'm currently making another wood bowl for Hume Lake.

Mariel: I want to thank you for all your work and showing us how you do it. I've really enjoyed it and now I understand how it all works. It is really amazing and now easy. Starting from scratch with your first one here and what you are doing today. It is so beautiful. I'm so inspired. So, Wally is a wonderful man! Thank you! This one belongs to DHHSC. If you want this, we will announce the winner at VDF in November. If you want to win this, we have raffle tickets for \$5.00 each. We will have another vlog explaining about the raffle tickets. Thank you so much for this.

Wally: You are welcome.

Mariel and Wally: (Waving hands "bye")