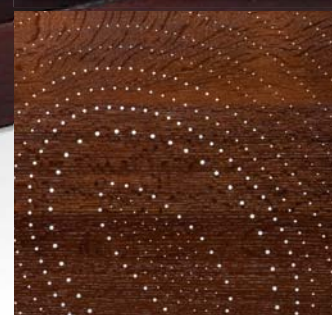


Nailed It

Taped to the wall in Peter Sandback's New Hampshire workshop is a Calvin & Hobbes cartoon with Calvin pounding nails into his mother's coffee table. While she is not amused, it turns out you can make a living doing just that. For the last several years, Sandback has been decorating his minimalist furniture with elegant patterns composed of thousands of dots: actually aluminum-sided nails that he glues into an array of holes and then cuts flush to the wood surface and sands smooth. One reason the patterns look so good is that Sandback adapts them from samples of old block-printed fabric made with an 18th-century technique called picotage, which involves a printing block studded with metal pins. Unlike Calvin, Sandback has the full support of the women in his life. His wife and three daughters sometimes help him with the time-consuming task of gluing in all those nails.

—Jonathan Binzen

Designing with dots.
Using aluminum nails of assorted diameters, Sandback embellishes his furniture with a wide variety of decorative dot patterns.



Photos: Peter Sandback

How They Did It To learn how Sandback designs and executes these intricate patterns, turn to p. 90.

Audio Slide Show For a visit to Sandback's New Hampshire shop and to see more of his work, go to FineWoodworking.com/extras.