

## *MINERALS FOR INLAY*

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<b>Mineral</b>	Azurite	Biotite	Calcite	Chrysocolla	Dolomite	Fluorite	Howlite	Malachite	Turquoise
<b>Common Name</b>	same	Black Mica	Alabaster	same	same	same	same	same	same
<b>Color</b>	Deep Blue	Black	Light blue, green, red, orange, black	Light blue to green	White, pink, brown	Purple, red, green, blue	White	Green with streaks	Blue, green
<b>Color Depth</b>	Excellent	Medium	Poor	Excellent	Medium	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Clarity</b>	Poor	Medium	Excellent	Poor	Medium	Excellent	Poor	Poor	Poor
<b>Hardness</b>	3.5 - 4.0	2.5 - 3.0	3.0	2.0 - 4.0	3.5 - 4.0	4.0	3.5	3.5 - 4.0	5.0 - 6.0
<b>Image</b>									

*Color depth refers to how well the color is maintained as the mineral is crushed into smaller sizes (or inlaid in a shallow layer). Clarity refers to how well the crystals reflect and refract light. Excellent clarity is needed for translucent inlays.*

To research other suitable minerals try these on-line references or check books on mineral properties.

[www.theimage.com/mineral/minerals1.html](http://www.theimage.com/mineral/minerals1.html) (an excellent site with mineral names, properties, and photos)

[www.greatsouth.net/](http://www.greatsouth.net/) (my preferred source for buying on-line and an excellent reference)

Look for minerals in the hardness range of 3 to 6. A fingernail is 2.5 and that's getting a little soft while quartz crystals are 7+ and much too hard. The best range is 3 to 4 as it will finish well with hard woods like maple and cherry yet be durable. There are many options.