

“Armillary Sphere”

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The Armillary Sphere was a culmination of a three-year journey for me, as I transitioned from Soldier, to Civilian, to Student, to Woodworker, and ultimately, to Artist.

My goals when designing and building the Armillary Sphere was twofold. First, I wanted to create something I have haven't seen before by combining multiple basic and advanced woodworking techniques. I wanted to build something innovative that both advanced and showcased my woodworking skills. The attention to detail, craftsmanship, and complexity were key and intended to cause the spectator to ask themselves: *“how was that made?”*

My second goal, equally as important as the first, is to bring awareness to Veteran suicides and PTSD. The current National Veteran suicide rate is about 22 per day, and to do this, I used and a total of 22 different types of hardwood species in the design of the sphere. As a Veteran with PTSD, we often struggle to function and have normal lives because of both mental and physical pain. Woodworking has been my outlet for healing. I challenge other Veterans to find healing through art.

Designing and planning the construction took nearly one year. I had to research and experiment with multiple techniques to even determine feasibility. Its construction took more than 300 hours and I used every tool and machine in my woodshop, constructing over 20 custom jigs, forms, molds and fixtures to build it. Some of the woodworking techniques include: steam bent lamination, form molding, curve and circle making, lamination, woodturning, dowel and rod construction, resawing, beveled box joinery, mortise and tenon joinery, miter keys and plugs, inlay, hand carving, and riveting.

The 22 domestic and exotic hardwood used were Ash, Birch, Bloodwood, Bubinga, Cherry, Gaboon Ebony, Goncalo Alves, Koa, Ipe, Mahogany, Hard White Maple, Curly Maple, Marblewood, Red and White Oak, Purpleheart, Poplar, Sapele, Walnut, Wenge, Yellowheart, and Zebrawood. Each ring has three different specifics of wood and fully rotates around brass pins.

This item is Not for Sale.