

Jerry McWorter— *The Retrospective Collection*

At the Super Billiards Expo in King of Prussia, PA, Jerry McWorter unveiled his ***Amboyna Retrospective Collection***, a set of cues representing a history of his cue design and build. McWorter decided to undergo this project nine months ago, understanding that a project of this magnitude had never been done before.

Ventura, CA's, Jerry McWorter has been making cues since 1989. An accomplished player, he started making cues and building a cue making business in the same years that Hall of Famer Ernie Gutierrez was returning to the cue-making industry with the second generation of Ginacue. Gutierrez has been a great influence as Jerry's career mentor and friend, as McWorter cues have quickly climbed near the top of the high-end cue market.



McWorter has been known worldwide for his ornate yet tasteful contemporary cue designs. He doesn't make cues with scenery, marquetry, or any obvious pictorial theme. Instead they can be described as the evolution of the traditional cue. Paying homage to the early full spliced pronged cues, Jerry's modern cue design keeps with that tradition, albeit with a modern flare. His designs strive for symmetry, radial balance, and longitudinal balance. That is, the design work below the wrap at the butt sleeve works 100% in unison with the design work above the wrap.

Jerry is also known for his technical excellence in cue making execution. His highly regarded silver work is so well received that he has been

dubbed “The Master of the Fine Line.” And rightly so. The silver work in his cues is used not only as borders but also as integral features for the flow of the design. In some of his cues, the fine silver feathering lines draw the viewer’s attention, following the intricate details from the wrap upward to the joint and downward to the butt cap.

His leather wraps have been described as some of the best in the business. His inlay work is stunningly perfect, using modern CNC technology to the fullest. “The CNC allows my imagination to go further , ” McWorter comments. He gives thanks to Alaska’s Thomas Wayne, the recognized leader in pushing the cue design envelope with the use of CNC equipment. Jerry bought his first CNC mill from Wayne, who also gave McWorter the primer on its use.

By a stroke of luck, a stroke of genius, and a stroke of common sense, Jerry has been able to sell every cue he makes. A friendship with a Japanese college student, Yoshi Horigome, provided a door for his cues to be introduced in Japan. And the Japanese pool players took to Jerry’s cues like wildfire, a trend that has continued even through the downward economic turn in Japan. Over 75% of the cues Jerry makes are sold in Japan. Because he sells every one of the approximately 100 cues he makes a year, Jerry can afford to build cues that play to his liking and with designs he favors. His designs have matured substantially over the years from 6 point traditionally spliced cues to the modern look of what he offers today.

The Amboyna Collection

The new collection would be a retrospective of sorts. Initially, McWorter wanted to make a series of cues, each representing a different period in his cue-making growth. But as his ideas were updated and modified, he decided that the set of cues would include five of some of his favorite designs. Furthermore, rather than just one set, he would embark on a mission to make several sets, with each set sold as a whole. To add to the uniqueness of these cues, McWorter boldly fabricated the threaded joint pins for each cue out of ivory.



Each cue in this set is comprised of ebony, ivory, silver, and Amboyna burl, with black leather wrap. Future sets may substitute the Amboyna burl with other exotic woods like snakewood, pink ivory, purpleheart, and cocobolo. McWorter also is considering a set using ebony, ivory, and silver only.

Certificate of Authenticity will accompany each set. Jerry has been giving each cue he makes a serial number, a system he initiated several years ago, starting at the number 500. "I couldn't start at one since I knew I'd already made around five hundred cues when I decided to start numbering them," he says. The Amboyna Collection includes McWorter Cues numbered 1501 – 1505.



1501 - The Pinnacle *The Pinnacle design was named because at the time of its introduction over 6 years ago, this was Jerry's best piece. The cue is distinguished by its hourglass-shaped points and dominating use of the theme wood of Amboyna.*

1502 - The Victorian *As one of his most ornate pieces, this 4-year-old design is also one of Jerry's most expensive. "I get the feeling of the Victorian Age when looking at it," he shares.*

1503 - The Deco *This 2-year-old design has the feel of Art Deco, using ivory as the main decorative material and highlighted subtly with the Amboyna. McWorter's trademark feathered silver lines are present in this cue.*

1504 - The Regal *The Regal is the only new design in the set. An impressive execution of seemingly twisting ivory points, this design is reminiscent of a majestic crown in a palatial setting.*

1505 - Ptolemy *The Ptolemy was inspired by the staves in a piece of Egyptian artwork depicting Cleopatra and her servants. Cleopatra was part of the House of Ptolemy during the Ptolemaic Dynasty.*

Jerry McWorter continues to define his legacy as one of the greatest contemporary cue makers with this collection. His technical excellence, eye for design, and willingness to push the boundaries but remain faithful to his personality in his cues are all represented in each of the set's cues. He has carved an enviable niche in the high-end cue-making industry, building some of the most sought-after cues in the world.
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