For the finals, I had two goals in mind:

1) Make money
2) Become proficient with the lasercutter (specifically the Trotec)

I had planned to make merchandise for MICA's Art Market to satisfy my goal of making money and I decided meet my goal of mastering the lasercutter by creating woodcut ornaments, accessories, and a couple of sculptural pieces.

In the end, I illustrated and created 10 designs for ornaments, 4 pins, and 4 cell phone straps. The total number of pieces I cut was somewhere between 40 to 50 pieces.

The process was frustrating, but interesting. Creating the files was not difficult. However, It was tedious creating specific outlines for every piece and placing them neatly on a board, which had to be re-created each time the size of the wood board changed. Most of the work I had to do was testing the different materials. The same wood bought from different places required vastly different engraving and cutting settings on the lasercutter. I believe that after testing multiple pieces of wood, I now have a pretty decent grasp on what numbers to try out for future cuts with wood. In addition to cutting wood, I was also able to cut/engrave two types of acrylic, cardstock paper, and rubber with rather accurate first or second attempts. Outside of this class, I lasercut two different illustrations to determine the precision and image quality the Trotec could produce.

The results were not entirely what I expected. Some of my cuts are still a little rough on the edges due to my wood boards being warped. The burns and charring were very different depending on the wood. I had also hoped for my sculptural pieces to be a little less rigid. Regardless, I think my goal of becoming proficient with the lasercutter has been met. Goal 'Make Money" ran into some problems as I was not able to sell at art market, but I am hoping to send them out as Christmas gifts this year as opposed to buying gifts. I also hope to sell the excess next year at Art Market.