

Smörkniv A Carving Instructions & Template

Carving Instructions



1 Carving Introduction - wood carving basics with a carving knife

- 1.1 Carving perspective – history, types of carving
- 1.2 Safety – Always be aware of knife edge, anticipate where the knife edge will travel
- 1.3 Basic knife cuts – Push Cut, Pull Cut, Stop Cut, V-Cut
- 1.4 Grain direction – inspect and mark practice block - 3 dimensions – Always cut downhill whenever possible, slicing is better
- 1.5 Knife handling – danger zone, put down when not carving, sheath when leave work area
- 1.6 Sharpness – A dull blade is a major safety hazard! carving tools require extreme sharpness
- 1.7 Stropping – frequently (every 10-20 minutes of carving)

2 Layout

- 2.1 Sketch outline, add center lines to aid in maintaining symmetry
- 2.2 Denote areas of thickness
- 2.3 Denote areas of taper between handle and blade

3 Initial Cuts

- 3.1 Initial cuts - waste away around profile - remove saw marks
- 3.2 Carve sides first, then carve top/bottom profile
- 3.3 Delineate handle/blade with consistent tapered change in thickness
- 3.4 Rough shape blade - taper back from 1/4" to edge at 1/8"
- 3.5 Rough shape handle - carve handle octagon, try to maintain symmetry

4 Final Cuts

- 4.1 Strop your knife for final cuts
- 4.2 Final shape blade – thin blade edge to 1/16", square or slight curve
- 4.3 Final shape handle – octagon, oval or round
- 4.4 Cut in handle finial using V-cut, cut excess length, carve end with paring cut
- 4.5 Add incised embellishments to handle – wheat shaft, flower, initials, etc.
- 4.6 Final smoothing, every surface has been carved, remove/minimize tear outs
- 4.7 Sand if you want a smooth, contoured surface

5 Finish

- 5.1 Apply wipe-on, food-safe oil/wax with finger, disposable gloves available
- 5.2 Buff in oil/wax finish with 3M pad until dry
- 5.3 Wipe excess off with paper towel
- 5.4 Safely dispose of paper towels – Spontaneous Combustion Risk!

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6 Finishing Up

- 6.1 Smile, cleanup and show off your work!
- 6.2 Class photo with completed projects

7 Recommended Next Steps

- 7.1 Select your initial carving style and required minimal tools and supplies
- 7.2 Carving Knife alternatives
- 7.3 Knife Strop and Strop Compound alternatives
- 7.4 Carving Blanks - sourcing
- 7.5 Resources – MCC - local carving club, The Woodworkers Club / Woodcraft Store, books/DVDs, YouTube, online carving schools

8 Stropping

- 8.1 Strop your knife for every 10-20 minutes of carving. Strop before final cleaning cuts
- 8.2 Charge the strop with stropping compound – re-apply every 4-5 uses of strop
- 8.3 Lay bevel flat on front of strop and drag with edge trailing across length of strop – be aware of placement of your other hand! Don't lift the blade off the bevel.
- 8.4 Flip blade and repeat dragging the bevel
- 8.5 Strop turns black as knife is polished indicating metal removal. Particles are called “swarf”.
- 8.6 DO NOT LIFT OFF THE BEVEL!
- 8.7 Repeat 10 times (25 times with new knife)

9 Smörkniv (Butter Knife) A Template (continuous curve)

