

PEACHLAND ARTISTS' WORKSHOP: CARVING COURSE

Level: Beginner level, but experienced carvers are welcome. (could choose their own project)

Goals: The course will involve learning how to chip carve, using a small knife and soft woods: cedar and pine. All the layouts will be freehand, a form of "whittling," which is very satisfying, once you get "in the groove". You, the wood, the knife, the outcome!

On the first lesson, we start with SAFETY, then use of the knife. We will carve our names in freehand, in block letters. Following this, the outer edges will be whittled in a scalloped fashion, removing edges and corners. Regularity and evenness are not encouraged, the emphasis is on expression and individual choices. We will cover using the grain of the wood. Each week will be a separate carving. My wife who has never carved has pre-tried this, using the tool recommended. Ladies, here's your chance to try carving!

Required tools:

- a chip carving knife. Home Depot has a carpenters' knife "Milwaukee" red colour, #48-22-1961, about \$9.00
- an 18 mm Snap Knife and 10 blades #48-22-9118, about \$10.00

note: This is "the only knife" as it is as sharp as an expensive knife. Instead of having to sharpen a knife, you just break off a section of the blade, or replace the blade. The knife is very sharp, and safety will be addressed in the first lesson

These knives are a new product, and I have tested them against my \$150 knife, and they perform almost as well, and are just what we need.

As you progress, you may then choose to purchase other sharpening equipment, and a small chip carving knife, between \$30 and \$200. Amazon has an entry level carving knife "Beavercraft" at \$19.00

In addition, you will need a **cutting board** to work on. I have a model which I make, 14 inches square, available for \$10.00 The cutting board is an important part of safety. You can make your own if you like, and have a workshop. It has two lips, which allow you to brace the piece as you carve. The course will focus on chip knife skills, the use of other tools will be discussed only.

The wood we will start with is **cedar or pine 2x6, or 2x8 fence boards**, cut to size, cost \$1.00 a board which I will provide.

You will also need some **sanding blocks** (Home Depot) Coarse, Medium, and Light, 1 each, **OR 3 sheets of sandpaper** (or both)

Bring a pencil to do the first drawing.

WOODCARVING COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson 1: Introduction, safety, and how to use the knife and the cutting board. Draw your first name, using block letters 2-1 inches, with pencil, freehand. Cut lightly on the pencil line, repeat several times until the cut is about 1/16 inch. Do all the letters with this cut. Make an angle cut 30-40 degrees at about 1/16 inch away. Cut several times until the cut releases the woodchip. Do each letter and use the knife as needed to tidy up each letter. Free carve the outside edges in true whittling style, ad lib.

Lesson 2: Finish or embellish your name. Project: Cedar cutting board.

Lesson 3: House Totem free carve on 18 inch board, 2x2.

Lesson 4: 8 x 8 Pine board: Sailboat scene.

Lesson 5: Wooden butter knife in pine.

Lesson 6: Bring a piece of forest wood of your own choosing, not too big. Make a project with it. If any sawing is needed to create a carving area, bring it in the week before and I will cut it in my home workshop.