

Woodcarving Illustrated

Contributor Guidelines

Step-by-Step Article Format

You have been gifted with artistic skills and a talent for design. Our talents lie in making you look good in print. If you can get the idea down on paper, we'll clean it up and help you create an article you can be proud of. Don't agonize over grammar and spelling, but do strive for accuracy. If you use an 8mm #3 gouge, make sure that's what you show in the photo (even if it's ratty looking).

You are sharing your skills and talents with a whole new generation of scrollers and carvers.

A step-by-step article is written with the goal of taking the reader from start to finish with easy-to-follow steps accompanied by clear photos. Each article consists of a brief introduction, 10-20 photos that illustrate the technique one step at a time, a 50-60 word instruction for each photo, a Materials & Tools list, and a pattern.

ARTICLE ANATOMY



Title: The name of the project.

Introduction: The description of the project, what makes it special, what its specific uses are, and what inspired you to create the project. Write this in the first person (e.g., I chose this project because... I feel a natural finish shows off the beauty of the wood, etc.).

Getting Started: The steps you took to prepare the project for carving. This might include transferring the pattern and cutting a band saw blank.

Tip: A piece of extra advice that is helpful and relevant to the project. Including a tip(s) is optional.

TIP DEEP STOP CUTS
I make deep stop cuts because when I carve up to the stop cuts, the chips fall free cleanly and I don't need to spend as much time cleaning up cuts. Use a gouge to make round stop cuts. The cuts will be cleaner and more precise than if you made the stop cuts with a knife.

REINDEER: ROUGHING OUT THE ORNAMENT



1 **Isolate the legs.** With the blank facing to the left, use a detail knife to make a deep stop cut along the centerline at the feet. Make stop cuts around the inner legs and carve off the wood on the top half of the blank only. Turn the blank over and repeat the process to remove the outer legs on the top half only. The blank should now have two legs on each side. Then, make stop cuts on the lines where the belly meets the legs, and round the belly to the stop cuts.



2 **Separate the legs and shape the tail.** At the back end, carve the separation between the legs to the base of the tail. Make a stop cut along the rump and carve up to it on both sides of the tail. At the front end, carve the separation between the legs up to the beginning of the chest.



3 **Separate the head and ears from the antlers.** Using a 1/2" (13mm) #9 gouge, which matches the radius of the ear, stab to make a stop cut around the ear. With a knife, continue the stop cut around the edge of the face. Carve up to the stop cut to separate the head and ears from the antlers. Remove the sharp corner on the reindeer's back up to the stop cut.



4 **Carve the eye sockets and ears.** Carve behind the muzzle and in front of the ear with the 1/2" (13mm) #9 gouge to make the eye sockets. Draw the ear details and carve them with a small detail knife. Scoop out the inside of the ears with a 3/4" (6mm) #9 gouge. Use a small knife to make a stop cut along the inside top of the ear and carve up to it to create depth inside the ear.



5 **Separate the antlers.** Draw a line down the center of the antlers. Carve along the line with a 1/4" (6mm) 45° V-tool to separate the antlers. Use a knife to remove the saw marks from the top of the antlers. Then, refine the shape of the antlers with a knife. Leave the antlers thick and bulky. Deepen the eye sockets with a 3/4" (6mm) #9 gouge.

Instructions: Most step-by-step articles are 10-15 steps long. Each step is about 50-60 words in length.

Tip:

- Write in simple, understandable language.
- Write in an imperative style when drafting the instructions (e.g., Glue the pattern to the wood; Mix the paint.).
- Avoid using jargon without explaining what it means.
- Be specific about the tools you used (e.g., a #3 Olsen skip-tooth blade, or a 1/4" 25° V-tool).
- Overwrite—it's easier to edit for brevity than it is to add more details.

Painting the Reindeer

Scrub the carving with dish soap and hot water using a denture brush. Allow the carving to dry, and then apply a coat of Krylon matte finish.

Thin one drop of titanium white with 15 to 20 drops of water, and paint the chest, under the chin, between the legs, and the back of the tail with this thinned paint. Thin burnt sienna the same way and paint the whole body. Bleed the burnt sienna into the white areas a bit. The white should show, but the burnt sienna should blend in. You may want to wet the white areas to help blend the burnt sienna. Paint the surface of both eyes with burnt sienna.

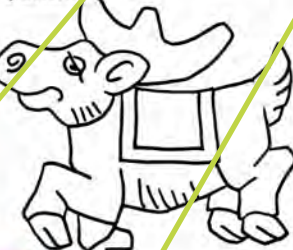
Add a little thinned black to the thinned burnt sienna to make gray. Paint the muzzle, bottom of the antlers, back, forehead, and inside the ears to create depth and shadow. Use slightly thinned black to paint the crease of the smile, the mouth, and the eyes. Thin the black paint more, and paint the hooves and inside the nostrils.

When the eyes are dry, paint the irises with slightly thinned burnt sienna. Leave black around the outside edge of the irises. Dry the burnt sienna with a hair dryer. Paint a crescent on the bottom of the irises with cadmium orange. Use slightly thinned black to make the pupil dots and a speck of slightly thinned titanium white for the eye highlights. Use the slightly thinned titanium white to add eyebrows. Paint the blanket with thinned tomato spice, and use slightly thinned metallic gold for the trim around the blanket.

Seal the carving with a few more coats of Krylon and allow the finish to dry. Mix 70% dark and 30% light Watco finishing wax. Apply the wax with a brush, allow it to sit for a minute, and wipe off the excess with a paper towel. Buff the wax with a paper towel, and dispose of the paper towels properly. Watco has boiled linseed oil in it, so paper towels soaked with Watco can spontaneously combust.



Playful reindeer pattern



Floyd Rhodigan has been carving since 1970. He is a past president of the Caricature Carvers of America and teaches classes all around the country. He is the author of *Carving Fantasy Characters and Carving Fantasy Creatures*, available from Fox Chapel Publishing, 800-

457-9112, www.foxchapelpublishing.com. For more of Floyd's work, visit his website, www.fantasycarving.com.

Finishing the Project: Describe your method for finishing the piece, including what finishes and/or paints you used and how you applied them. Include brand names and specific colors.

Materials and Tools: List the materials and tools you used to make the project. *Materials* are used once and/or consumed in the making of the project, such as carving blanks, clock parts, or paints. *Tools* can be used for future projects, such as drill bits, saw blades, and carving tools.

Author Bio: Information about you! Please tell us where you live, how long you have been carving, the carving clubs you belong to, etc. This section is no longer than 60 words. In addition, please provide a high-resolution headshot.

MATERIALS:

- Basswood, 1" (25mm) thick; 3" x 3 1/2" (76mm x 89mm)
- Spray finish, such as Krylon: matte
- Acrylic paints, such as JoSonja and Delta Ceramcoat: titanium white, burnt sienna, black, cadmium orange, metallic gold, tomato spice
- Finishing wax, such as Watco: dark, light

Use water and dish soap for the purpose of cleaning. Do not use for anything else.

TOOLS:

- Detail knife with 1 1/4" (32mm)-long blade
- #9 gouges: 1/4" (6mm), 1/2" (13mm)
- #10 gouges: 3/4" (19mm)
- V-tools, 45°: 1/4" (6mm), 3/4" (19mm), 1 1/4" (32mm)
- Hair dryer

SPECIAL SOURCES:

Band saw cut outs of the reindeer ornament are available for \$8 plus \$8 flat from Floyd Rhodigan, (734) 649-3259, rhodis134@comcast.net.

SUBMISSION FORMAT DOS



Save project text as a Microsoft Word document. If you do not have Microsoft Word, save the file in Rich Text Format (RTF).



Label every image file as they correspond to the numbered steps in the written instructions (e.g. Step 1.jpg).



Save images as either JPEG (.jpg) or TIFF (.tiff) files.

Tip: If the file size of an image is less than a megabyte (MB) it is too small. There are 1000 kilobytes (KB) for every MB.

Name	Size	Kind
Carving a Panda	142 KB	Micros...cument
Jane Smith Author Photo.tif	14.7 MB	TIFF image
Step 1 Panda.tif	11.9 MB	TIFF image
Step 2 Panda.tif	12.3 MB	TIFF image
Step 3 Panda.tif	12.1 MB	TIFF image
Step 4 Panda.tif	12.6 MB	TIFF image
Step 5 Panda.tif	10 MB	TIFF image



Send project photos through one of the following:

- Dropbox (share with Schofield@FoxChapelPublishing.com)
- Email as attachments
- Mailed on a flashdrive or CD



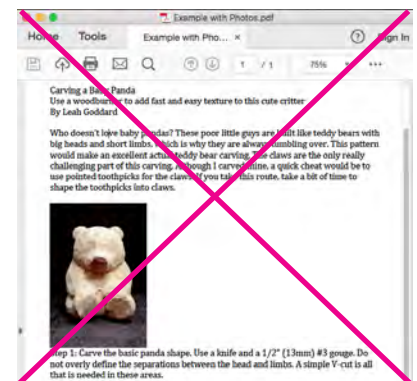
SUBMISSION FORMAT DON'TS



DO NOT send project text and photos combined in a Word document or email.



DO NOT send project text and/or photos as a PDF.



PHOTOGRAPHY DOS AND DON'TS



This is a **good** photo because:



- It is in focus
- It is brightly lit
- The background is free of clutter
- The contributor's hands are visible, holding the tool and demonstrating the step

Tip: Visit our website at www.woodcarvingillustrated.com/blog/2017/01/03/photo-tips/ to learn more about how to take a great photograph.



This is a **bad** photo because:



- It is out of focus
- The lighting is dim
- The background is cluttered
- The contributor's hands are not visible

DO NOT crop, resize, or edit your photos in any way. We will do that for you!

SUBMITTING PATTERNS

If you have clear drawings you used for a pattern (or computer generated patterns), please send them. Acceptable file formats for patterns are:

- Vector EPS
- PDF
- CAD if it is saved as DFX
- JPEG or BMP (high resolution)

If you do not have patterns, please send any artwork or sketches to us so we can draft a pattern from it.

Note: When publishing a pattern with us you are granting periodical rights. A copyright will be placed on the printed pattern to prevent illegal copies from being made and sold. Ownership of the original pattern remains with you. You are entitled to sell individual patterns, however you are granting exclusive rights for periodical publication to us. The pattern cannot be printed in another magazine.

PAYMENT

We pay our contributors on publication. You will receive your payment and several free copies of the issue that your article appears in. We will also return your artwork once the issue is printed.

CONTACT US

General Information: Scheduling, payments, article ideas, etc. editors@woodcarvingillustrated.com.

Article Specifics: Copy changes, proofing, writing guidance, etc. Kaylee Schofield, Editor, at: schofield@FoxChapelPublishing.com, Ext. 168.

Technical Information: File formats, photo requirements, etc. Kaylee Schofield, Editor, at: schofield@FoxChapelPublishing.com, Ext. 168.

Please call us at:
800-457-9112

Please send project mailings to:

Hannah Carroll
Fox Chapel Publishing
903 Square St.
Mount Joy, PA 17552

A Note About Feature Articles: Do you have an outstanding body of work created in a unique and distinct style? Have you developed an interesting technique that you are willing to share? If you feel that you meet either of those criteria and would like us to write a feature about you and your work, please send a selection of photos of your work and information about yourself to editors@woodcarvingillustrated.com. Note that we will expect you to provide professional-quality photos of your work and yourself for the feature. You do not need to write an article; we will do that, should we decide to pursue the story.

The background of the page is a detailed wood carving. The carving features a repeating pattern of stylized, circular motifs that resemble the heads of animals or figures, arranged in a grid-like fashion. The wood grain is visible, and the carving is deep, creating a three-dimensional effect. Overlaid on this background is the text 'WOOD CARVING ILLUSTRATED' in a large, white, serif font. The word 'WOOD' is at the top, 'CARVING' is in the middle, and 'ILLUSTRATED' is at the bottom, all in all caps. The text is oriented vertically, reading from top to bottom.

WOOD CARVING ILLUSTRATED