



Carving a Cascading Ribbon Heart Pendant

Power-carved design is easy to make

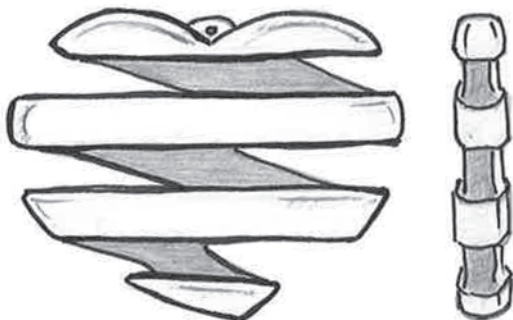
By Rob Lucero

This pendant is one of my first creations, and it's still one of my favorites. I think you'll enjoy making it because it's simple and only requires a small workspace and a few easy-to-find tools. With a little patience you'll have a beautiful gift for your special someone.

I incorporated a loop in the pendant design because I broke quite a few pendants trying to drill a hole in the top after they were finished. If it didn't break during the drilling process, it would sometimes break while gluing the silver loop in. Gluing can be a very messy process. The new design is much cleaner and produces fewer broken pendants, as well as a happier woodworker.

If you have any questions about making this pendant, you're welcome to e-mail me through my website or Facebook. I'm happy to share any tips I have.

Heart pendant patterns



PENDANT: PREPARING THE BLANK



1

Prepare the blank. Trace the pattern onto the blank. Mark the waste areas with an X. Use a scroll saw or a band saw to cut the outline of the pendant. Then, go back and cut the details. Drill a $\frac{3}{64}$ " (1.5mm)-diameter hole through the blank for the loop.

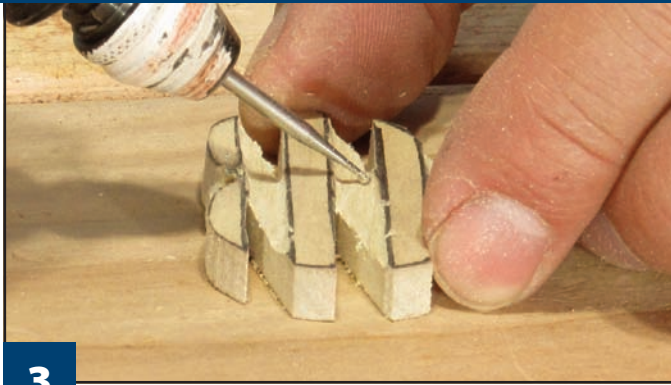


2

Refine the pattern on the blank. Using a ruler and pencil, and using the pattern as a guide, draw straight lines from the inner corners of the cut portions to the bottom of the outer edge on the front and back of the pendant. Mark the shaded areas that will be carved away.

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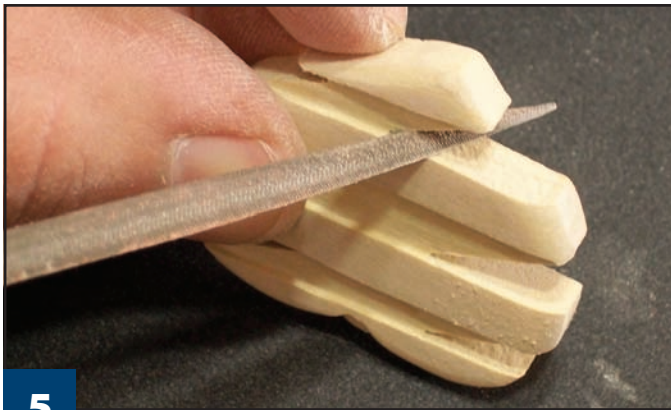
PENDANT: CARVING THE HEART



3 **Begin carving the pendant.** Carve away about $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm) of wood from the shaded areas on the front and back of the pendant. I use a $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm)-diameter ball-shaped engraving bit. Work slowly to keep from nicking the sides. The goal is to keep the surface as smooth as possible.



4 **Smooth the carved areas.** Use a flat needle file to smooth the recessed areas of the pendant. When you're finished, you should have raised flat surfaces and recessed flat surfaces. It is easy to break the pendant when using the files. Support the back of the piece and use light pressure on the file.

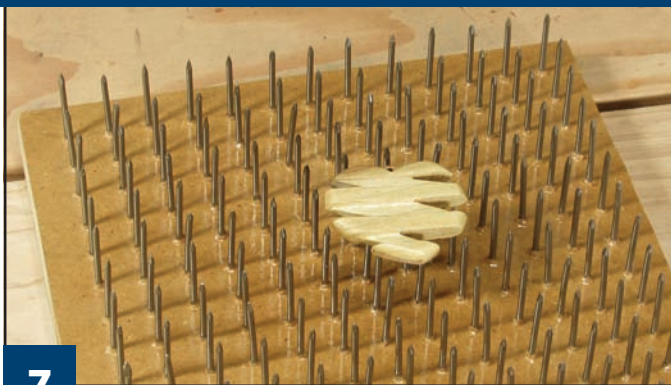


5 **Refine the pendant.** Round the edges of the raised surfaces with a flat needle file. Smooth the edges of the recessed areas with the flat edge of a half-round file.



6 **Sand the pendant.** Use a small piece of fine-grit sandpaper to smooth the surface of the pendant. A well-sanded surface will help ensure a smooth finish.

PENDANT: FINISHING THE PROJECT



7 **Apply the finish.** Spray high-gloss finish on the front and sides of the pendant. Allow the finish to dry, turn the pendant over, and apply the finish to the back. I apply three to four coats of finish to the piece, allowing the finish to dry between coats.

materials & tools

MATERIALS:

- Poplar, $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm)-thick; 2" x 3" (51mm x 76mm)
- Sandpaper: fine-grit
- Spray finish: high-gloss
- Rotary-power carver with bits: $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm)-diameter ball-shaped high-speed steel engraving bit

TOOLS:

- Scroll saw and blades: #12
- Needle files: half-round, flat
- Drill with bit: $\frac{3}{64}$ " (1.5mm)-diameter

The author used these products for the project. Substitute your choice of brands, tools, and materials as desired.



Rob Lucero is the owner of Ruby Wood Art. For more of his work, visit his website at www.RubyWoodArt.com or search for Rubywoodart.com on Facebook, where Rob will be giving away the carved pendant featured in this article.