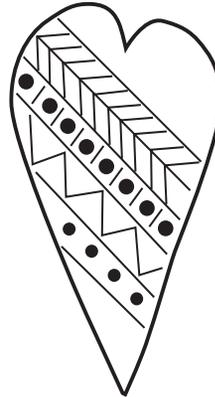


# Contemporary Carved Hearts



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Wood Carving Illustrated  
Designer: Cyndi Joslyn

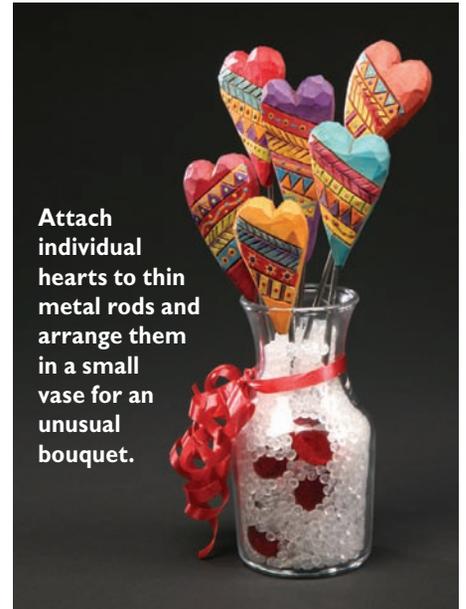
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Playful hearts can be tucked into a Valentine's Day card or make a perfect accompaniment to your gift wrap.

Quick and easy projects make eye-catching pins or magnets

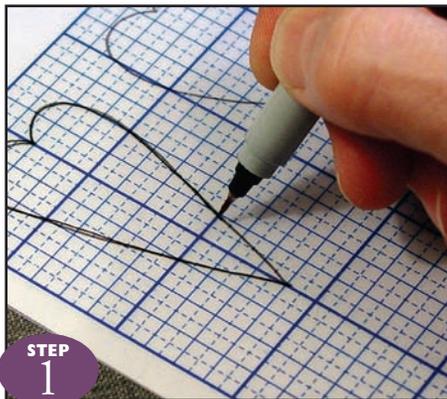
by Cyndi Joslyn



Attach individual hearts to thin metal rods and arrange them in a small vase for an unusual bouquet.

**T**hese whimsical hearts not only give you something to do with that ever-present scrap wood, they are also a good way to practice your painting techniques. A smaller-sized heart can be made into an earring, while the larger hearts work great as pins or magnets. These hearts are so much fun to carve you'll want to create more than one. To save time, trace the pattern onto template plastic.

I strongly encourage you to wear a Kevlar-reinforced carving glove and carving apron to ensure your carving safety.



STEP 1

**Create the template.** Trace the pattern onto the plastic with a fine-tip permanent marker. Then cut out the template with scissors.



STEP 2

**Trace the pattern onto the wood.** Using the pattern lines strictly as a guide, cut out the heart. I cut them out in a very imprecise fashion so that each heart is unique.



STEP 3

**Use a detail knife to begin rounding the edges of the heart.** Continue to carve away the saw marks on the edges of the heart.



**STEP 4**  
Use a #3 5/8" gouge to carve away and contour the face of the heart as shown.



**STEP 5**  
Transfer the pattern carving lines to the heart. Use a 1mm V-tool to carve all the detail lines.



**STEP 6**  
Apply the first coat. Using a wash of 1 part paint to 1 part water, apply one coat of each color. Use a #4 shader brush for the larger areas, and a #0 round brush in tight angles and smaller areas.



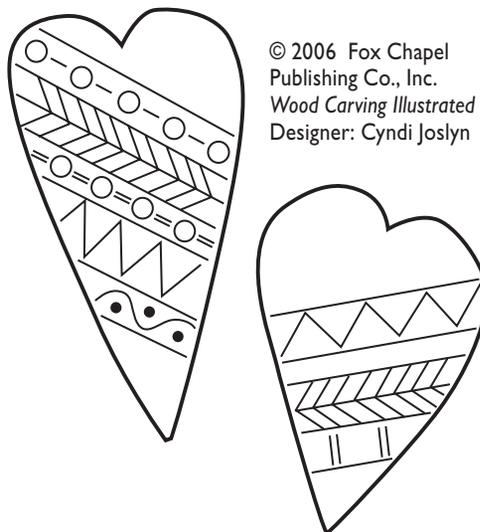
**STEP 7**  
Add the "dip dots." Use a stylus to deposit thick drops of undiluted paint. Allow the paint to completely dry. The dots of paint can be very thick and require extra drying time.



**STEP 8**  
Apply two coats of varnish. If bubbles appear as the varnish is applied, re-brush the area to remove bubbles. Allow 15 minutes drying time before applying the second coat. Allow the varnish to dry overnight before antiquing.



**STEP 9**  
Antique the carving. Mix 1 part Burnt Sienna and 1 part Milk Chocolate to 2 parts stain/antiquing medium. Cover the entire painted surface of the heart, making sure antiquing gets into all the cracks and crevices. Using a soft cloth, quickly wipe away the antiquing until the desired effect is achieved. Allow the carving to dry thoroughly. Finish by gluing a 1" pin back or small magnet to the back of the heart, using two-part epoxy.



#### About the Author

Cyndi Joslyn is a professional woodcarver who lives in Missoula, MT. She is the author of two books, *Carving Santas from Around the World*, and *North Woods Nativity*. Cyndi is a frequent contributor to *Wood Carving Illustrated*. Her last article, "Quick and Easy Santa Ornaments," appeared in *Holiday 2005 (Issue 33)*. Her favorite carved subjects include Santa Claus, Halloween figures, angels and Uncle Sam. Visit her website at [www.cyndijoslyn.com](http://www.cyndijoslyn.com).

## Materials & Tools

### MATERIALS:

Scraps of 1/4"-thick or 3/8"-thick wood of choice (the smallest heart is 1 1/4" x 1 3/4" and the largest heart 1 1/4" x 2 1/4")

Gridded template plastic

Two-part epoxy

1" pin backs or small magnets

### TOOLS:

Scissors

Band saw or scroll saw

Detail knife

#3 5/8" gouge

1mm V-tool

### FINISHING MATERIALS:

DecoArts Americana acrylic paint in the following colors:

Desert Turquoise DA044,

Tangerine DA 012,

Dioxazine Purple DA101,

Citron Green DA235,

Cadmium Yellow DA 010,

Santa Red DA 170,

Burnt Sienna DA063,

Milk Chocolate DA 174

DecoArts Stain/Antiquing Medium DS51

DecoArts DuraClear Satin Varnish DS21

Soft cloth for antiquing

Loew-Cornell Soft Comfort Brush 14300-4, Shader

Loew-Cornell Soft Comfort Brush 14000-0, Round

Stylus