

COURSE DETAILS – 5 DAYS 5D0132

TITLE: RELIEF CARVING IN WOOD

TUTOR: CHRIS PYE

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

AIMS OF COURSE:

To achieve a good grounding in woodcarving techniques through a specific, guided woodcarving project. Beginners are also welcome to join the course if they are prepared to purchase the tools required.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE:

1. Understanding of how to sharpen and manipulate woodcarving tools.
2. Knowledge of basic low and high relief carving
3. Practical woodcarving skills such as lining in, lowering and levelling backgrounds, setting in, modelling and detailing.

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES COVERED:

The course is based on traditional woodcarving skills.

The course was developed over years of teaching beginners, and leads you step-by-step through two projects designed to give grounding in low and high relief carving, and impart a strong foundation in carving skills applicable to decorative panels, architectural details and furniture. You develop a confident understanding of the functions of various carving tools and how to sharpen and handle them; relief design and working wood grain; lining in, grounding out, setting in, modelling and undercutting; finishing from the chisel; and many other aspects of the carving process. Chris Pye's book, *Relief carving – a practical introduction* (GMC publications 1998) is based on this course and is suitable as a course text book.

TEACHING METHOD:

Tutor demonstrations, followed by student practice with tutor input.

EVENING SESSIONS:

First evening session – attendance is an essential part of the course.

Other optional evening activities:

Students can use evenings, especially after day one, to catch up on sharpening or other day work. The workshop is available until 10pm for those who wish to work on.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Monday: Tools, sharpening, general introduction to relief carving

Tuesday/Wednesday: Low relief carving

Thursday/Friday: High relief carving

STUDENT PREPARATION FOR COURSE IF ANY:

Although not obligatory, you are encouraged to look ahead and study what you will be doing on this course. The following materials by Chris Pye will add to your overall understanding and experience of the course and carving in general and are strongly recommended:

Books:

Relief Carving in Wood – a Practical Introduction (1998, GMC Publications)

Woodcarving, Tools, Materials and Equipment, Volume I (Woodcraft #144058)

DVD

Sharpening Techniques (from Chris's website www.chrispye-woodcarving.com)

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS

Included in the non-residential fee for this course is the cost of a piece of limewood supplied for the carving project set on the course.

Please bring the following:**Carving Tools**

There are ten *required* carving tools, 6 are essential for the class, 4 recommended in addition these are listed below.

Pfeil (Swiss made) is a well proven brand of woodcarving tool and the number in the list refers to this make and is the one strongly recommended by Chris Pye. These may be purchased from Tilgear Tools, who will give a 10% discount to students attending a course with Chris Pye, so please mention this if purchasing these tools. Expect to pay around £135 for the full set of tools, if purchasing from Tilgear (see address below). Individual tools vary between £11–£16 each.

The second number in the list is the standard Sheffield List number by which many other manufacturers, such as Henry Taylor or Ashley Iles, identify the same tool.

Pfeil #Sheffield List #

ESSENTIAL TOOLS:

Cut no 2 × 12mm
 Cut no 2 × 20mm
 Cut no 7 × 6mm
 Cut no 7 × 14mm
 Cut no 9 × 13mm
 Cut no 1 skew × 8mm

No 3 × 1/2in gouge
 No 3 × 3/4in gouge
 No 6 × 1/4in gouge
 No 6 × 1/2in gouge
 No 9 × 1/2in gouge
 No 2 (skew chisel) × 3/8in

RECOMMENDED TOOLS BUT NOT OBLIGATORY:

Cut no 2 × 8mm
 Cut no 7 × 20mm
 Cut no 9 × 7mm
 Cut no 12 × 10mm

No 3 × 1/4in gouge
 No 6 × 3/4in gouge
 No 9 × 1/4in gouge
 No 39 V tool 60° × 3/8in

Also available: Kanga Plus 12 pocket tool roll

Sharpening Stones:

Sharpening is as fundamental to carving as tuning is to playing a violin. Chris Pye considers Translucent Arkansas stone the best for sharpening carving tools and these will appear to be expensive unless you see their fine and reliable quality as an investment. Sharpening can be frustrating and if you are at all serious about carving you will want your own eventually anyway.

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These are the new Chris Pye Signature Slipstone Series. Each set contains both an innovative 4-profile Carborundum and Arkansas, these cost around £58 per set from Classic Hand Tools who also offer a 10% discount for students purchasing these for this course.

ESSENTIAL:

Extra fine, very hard, semi translucent Arkansas Benchstone 8 x 1/2in (from Tilgear)
Chris Pye Sculpture Slipstone Set - 76 x 76 x 19mm (from Classic Hand Tools)

RECOMMENDED BUT NOT OBLIGATORY:

Chris Pye Standard Slipstone Set No.1 - 76 x 76 x 12mm
Chris Pye Bench oil stone fine/coarse 8 x 2" (200 x 50 x 25mm) with oil

Additional tools to bring:

Light oil for use with the oilstones above
A carver's mallet: 20oz is a good all-round size
Any carving tools you possess already in addition to these listed above
A stiff hand brush, such as a scrub brush – relatively long bristles are a plus
Drawing equipment: pencils, drawing pad for sketching and note taking (can be purchased at the College)
Thin cotton (canvas) gloves to be made into 'carver's gloves'

Please note: You are required to wear *covered shoes* in the workshop (Open toes/sandals are not permitted)

SUPPLIERS CONTACT DETAILS

Contact: John Tilbrook at
Tilgear
Bridge house
Station Road
Cuffley
EN6 4TG
Tel: 01707 873434

Contact: Mike Hancock/Alex Primmer at
Classic Hand Tools
77 High Street
Needham Market
Suffolk
Ipswich IP6 8AN
Tel: 01449 721327
www.classichandtools.co.uk

COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15–9.15	First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am	Morning classes.
	10.30	Coffee.
	12.45pm	Lunch.
	2.00pm	Afternoon classes.
	3.30	Tea.
	5.00	Classes finish.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15	Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms.
	3.00pm	Classes finish.
	3.30	Tea then departure.