

Tips for the Beginning Carver

Getting Started: You only need five things.

1. Tools:

Carving Knife: Look at **Denny** Detail Knives. The bevel differs from a pocket knife.

V-tool: Check out **Flexcut** and **Ramelson**. Used for small details like carving eyes, hair, petals, etc.

Gouge: Choose a #5 or #11 for your first gouges.

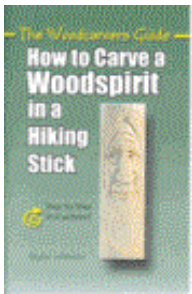
2. Sharpening:

A dull tool takes the fun and success out of carving. The general rule is carve for 30 minutes, strop for 5.

You'll need a leather strop and abrasive powder to work into the leather. You can use an old belt, or buy a strop. There are many styles available. There are also many choices of abrasive. If you have a grinder, check out the paper wheels and floppy wheels the 'pros' use to sharpen tools.

3. A Pattern:

There are some excellent books with step-by-step directions. Look through our book racks to find one that interests you.



Hiking sticks make excellent gifts.

Cottonwood Bark is as soft as balsa wood for easy carving. These Woodspirit Houses are a lot of fun. Santas too!

4. Encouragement:

Ask for Club Information at carving shows, or call the Chamber of Commerce or the local Senior Center (hosting carving clubs for all ages) and find your local Carving Club. Carve at weekly meetings and get instruction and free classes from the club members. There are many fun carving events, such as carving rendezvous. Visit our website for a list of carving shows and events in the Pacific Northwest.

www.cascadecarvers.com

5. Wood:

Let your pattern be your guide in regard to which wood to use. You can work with found wood, although you will likely experience more success if you start with a rough out or a block of wood meant for beginning carving. Basswood, Cottonwood, Pine and Butternut are all soft woods that are still close-grained enough to hold detail. Carving shows typically offer carving wood for sale, and as always - carving clubs are a great resource.

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