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Free Pattern

Carving a Pine Cone Ornament

This project requires a bit more carving to complete. My idea in conceiving this project was to create a carving from scratch that would acquaint new carvers with their carving knife.

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Warning!!! People (especially wives) want these in sets of six or more



The block I am using is basswood 6 inch x 1-1/2 inch x 1-1/2 inch, this makes two ornaments. The grain runs along the 6 inch dimension. To hone your skill with a knife, attempt to maintain good symmetry while carving this project.

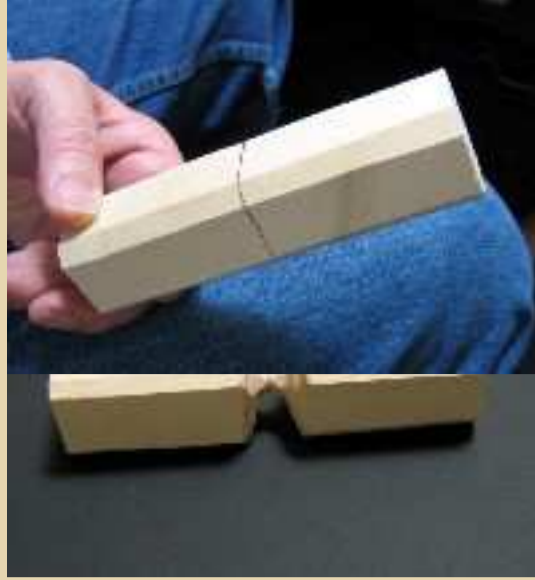
(Keep both cones balanced in size and shape.)



The cone will eventually be round, so using a knife, we can remove the corners from the four long edges.

Remove long, thin chips and you will learn a little about wood grain and grain direction.

Draw a line around the block in the center; you can actually measure the location at 3 inches.



Using a knife, carve down toward the center of the block; leaving enough wood to make the ornament stems.

This is a slow process, but quite enjoyable for passing time while waiting somewhere.



Center carved enough to make two stems. The line is for your reference only.



Center marked on each flat side of cone. This helps maintain a cylindrical shape as we carve it.



Begin Rounding both cones into cylinders

See Pictures Below First



Right

(On this project)

When carving toward the center, keep your thumb below centerline of the carving.



Wrong

In this position, your thumb is held firmly in the notch and is easily cut.



Rounding is complete on one cone. Note the reference lines are still visible.

Now round the other end into a cylinder also.

You may already be saying "There has to be a faster way" Yes, there is, but this project is designed for inexperienced carvers; to introduce situations they may encounter in future carvings.

I believe it also teaches patience, a necessary trait for carvers.

It should also demonstrate the value of having enough wood to hold while carving small items; that's why there are two cones connected by stems.

No, this is not the fastest way to carve this project, but small well-defined steps are easy to follow.



Both ends are rounded into cylinders.



Draw a line 1/4 - 1/3 down from the top of the pine cone.

This locates the largest diameter of the cone.



Although not required, you may wish to locate the center of the cone before you begin shaping it.

It helps keep the cone symmetrical.



Cone is beginning to take shape although it still needs some refining.

One cone is shaped complete, not perfect, but as good as it's gonna get.

If desired, the shaped cone may be sanded; I don't, but it is your choice.



Using a pencil, layout four lines around the cone to make eight equal segments.



This view is helpful when trying to layout equal segments.

Draw line A-B first, then line C-D; Divide the four segments into eight by drawing lines E-F and G-H.



Draw a line around the cone $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the top of the cone.

Not the top of the stem.



Draw three more lines $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the first line. One to the left and two to the right.



Draw in remaining lines, reducing the distance apart as you near the pointed end.



Starting at the point where the stem meets the cone, draw from the end of one segment line diagonally to the intersection of two lines $\frac{3}{8}$ inch down the cone.



Continue to draw around the cone connecting intersections of lines.



This picture shows four lines drawn around the cone.



This shows the top section complete. Once all the spiral lines are drawn in, the segment lines are no longer needed.



I don't draw well with a mouse, but this shows how the layout is used to create the cone pattern.

If you make a few of these pine cones, adjust the line spacing to suit you.



Layout is complete and ready to carve.



You may begin removing chips where ever you like, I am removing this one as an example.

This is the first cut, deepest at the top, shallow in the bottom.



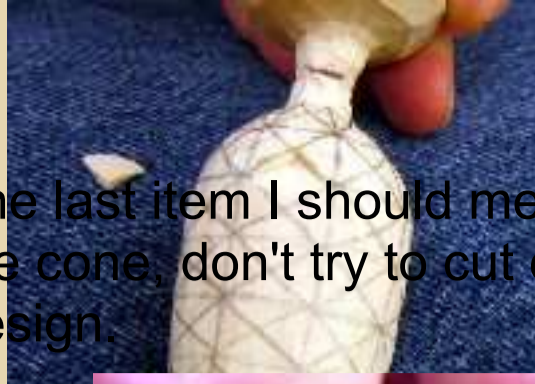
Left side is cut the same.



A slicing cut is made to remove the chip

The first of many chips is removed. Continue removing chips, remember there is grain direction and you must take some care in cutting the chips at the ends.

The last item I should mention is when you near the very bottom of the cone, don't try to cut chips out. Use a V-tool to cut a snowflake design.



To add the snow on the ornament, use;
Course Pumice Gel by Golden Paints™
Allow to dry overnight and paint white.



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