

Wood carving



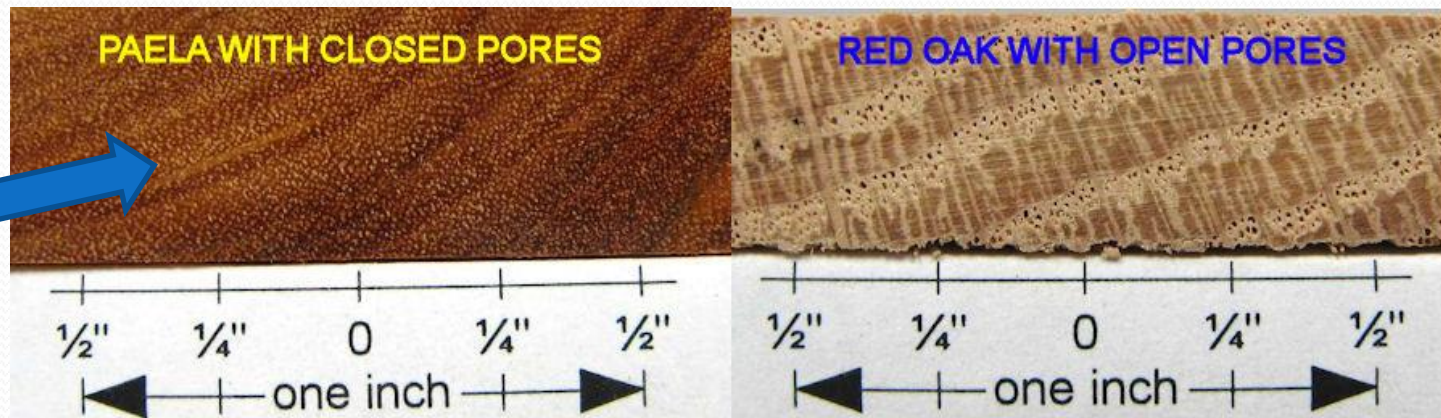
Woodcarving has been used for centuries to

- Decorate and enhance the appearance of wood
- Make sculptures
- Make items like clocks, bowls, spoons
- Complete lettering.



Suitable wood for carving

- Close-grained which makes it easier to carve
- Generally free from knots and other defects
- Attractive grain pattern.
- **Lime, Sycamore and oak** are examples of good hardwoods to carve with.



**Small diameter
wood cells**

Carving Tools

Knives

- Used to shape wood into simple shapes and 3-d images.



Firmer gouge

- Used for rough work like waves of water or the background of designs



Carving Tools

Paring gouge

- Used for taking off small shavings.



V gouge

- Used for small shapes such as lettering and bird feathers



Carving Tools

Veiner gouge

- Used for very fine work or writing on wood



Fish tail chisel

Used for carving grooves in hard-to-reach places



Carving Tools

Carvers mallet

- Round in shape to give more control of the gouges



Surforms

- Used for rough paring of wood.



Carving Tools

Files

- Used to create texture on sculptured pieces



Carvers vice / holdfast

- Vice is used in 3-d carving like sculptures.
- Holdfast is used when chiselling on a bench

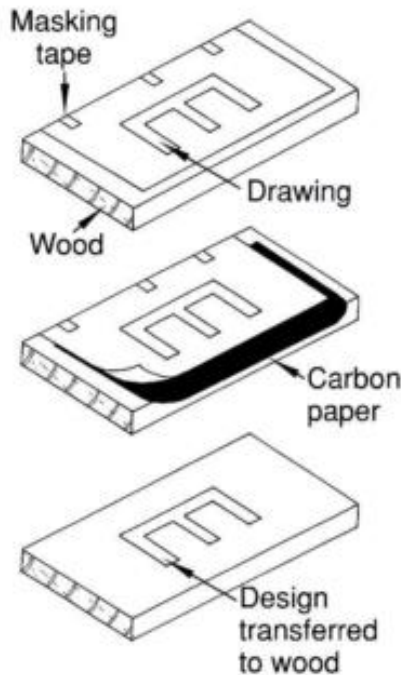


Transferring design onto the wood



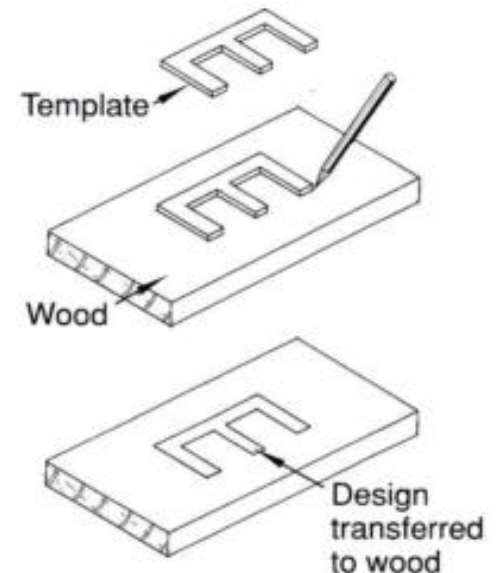
Method 1 – using carbon paper

1. Carefully draw an **accurate** drawing of the carving out on paper.
2. Tape the drawing on one edge of wood with masking tape to prevent it from slipping.
3. Insert a sheet of carbon paper underneath the drawing.
4. Trace over the design, thereby transferring it through the carbon paper onto the wood.
5. Check that all lines are traced before removing tape and drawing.



Method 2 – using a template

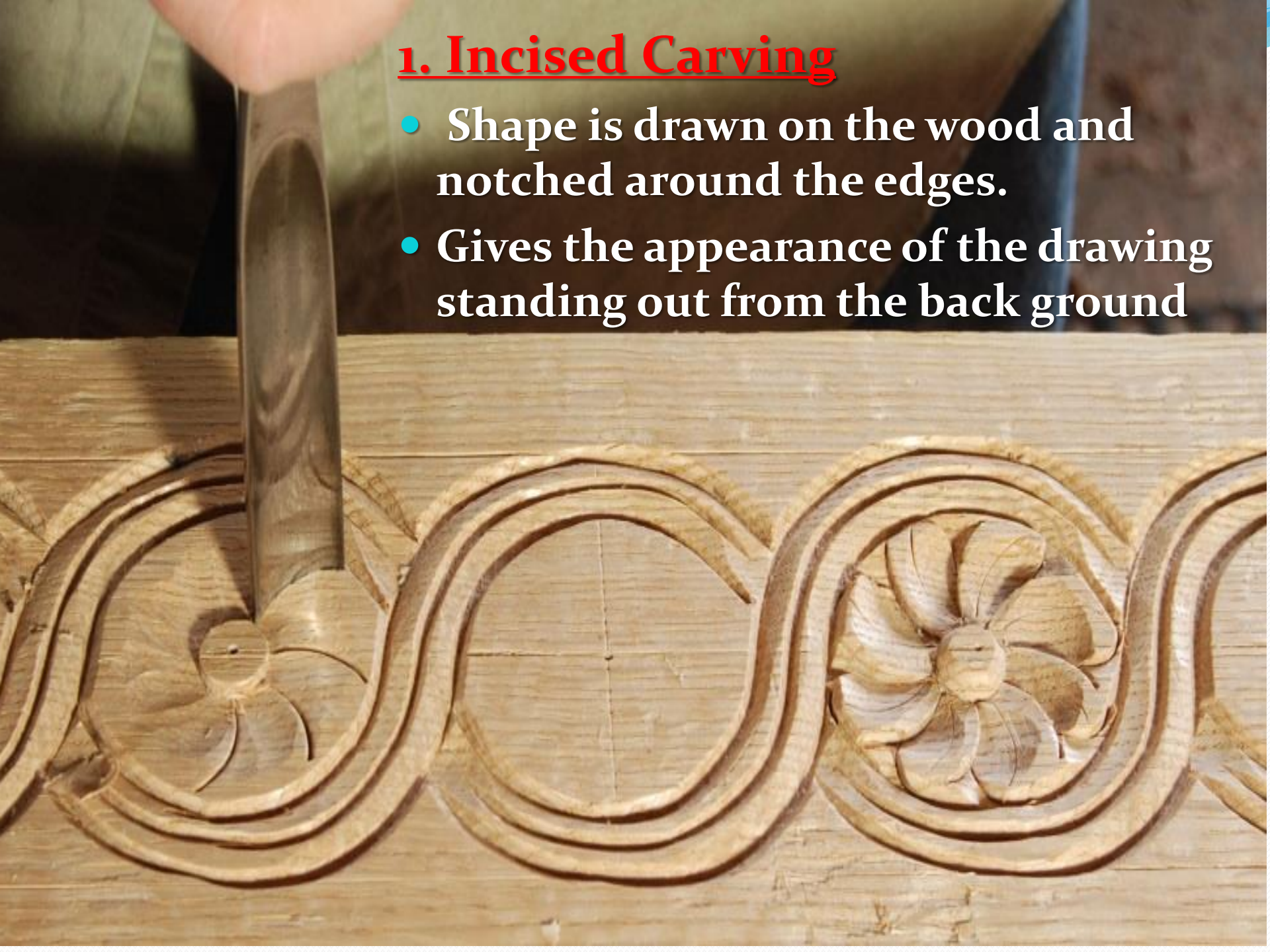
1. Draw the design onto a piece of paper, card or plywood.
2. Cut out the outline of the design and use this as a template.
3. Tape the template onto the wood.
4. Trace around the template with a pencil onto the wood.



Types of carving

1. Incised Carving

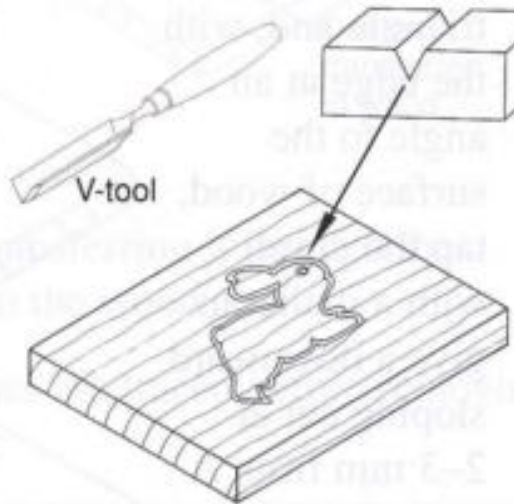
- Shape is drawn on the wood and notched around the edges.
- Gives the appearance of the drawing standing out from the back ground



Incised carving procedure

INCISED CARVING

Designs that are incised are cut in below the surface of the wood with a veiner or V-tool to leave a groove.



Procedure

1. Transfer your design to the wood using masking tape and carbon paper.
2. Secure the wood on a bench.
3. Using reasonable pressure and working with the grain where possible, cut along the **centreline** of the design with a veiner or V-tool.
4. Carefully complete the design.
5. Smooth with different grades of sandpaper and finish.



2. Relief Craving

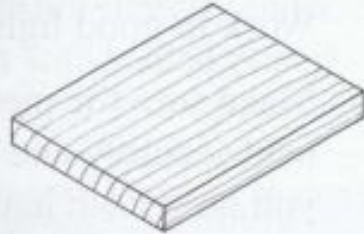
- The design is drawn on the wood and the material around the design is removed to allow the design to appear raised.



Relief Carving Procedure

Procedure

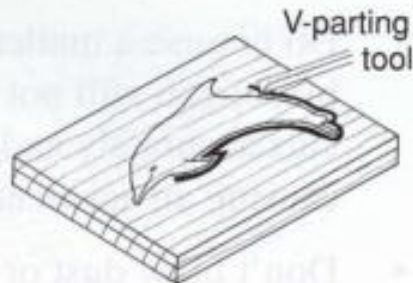
1. **Study the wood** and note the grain direction.



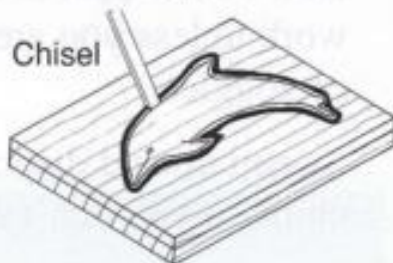
2. **Transfer the design** to wood using masking tape and carbon paper and clamp the work to bench.



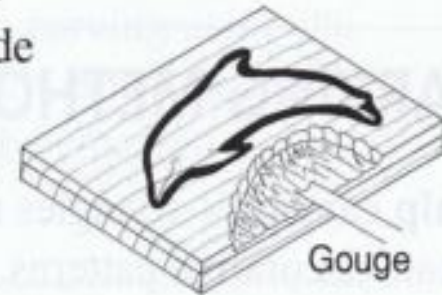
3. Cut a groove around the **outline** of the design with a veiner or V-parting tool; keep 2–3 mm away from the line.



4. **Set in:** trim the edges of the design vertically with a chisel.

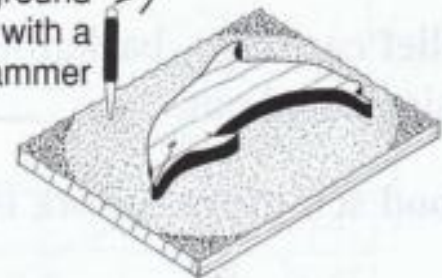


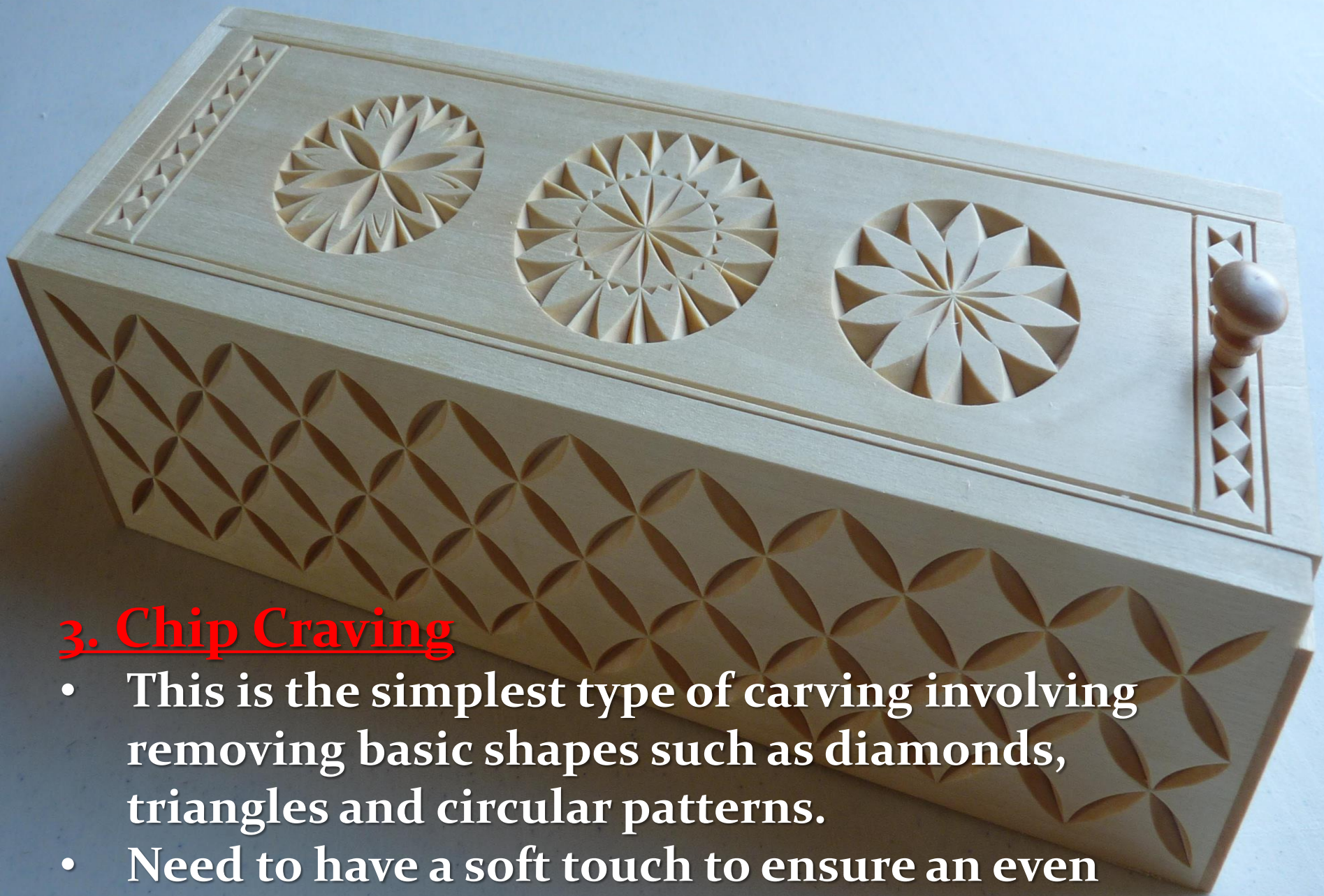
5. **Ground:** cut away the background with a wide gouge just about to your line.



6. **Shape:** remove the rest of the waste with a shallow gouge. This will bring the step down to the required height to complete the background. You can leave the tool marks made by the gouge or texture the background with a carver's punch.

Strike the punch to texture background with a hammer





3. Chip Craving

- This is the simplest type of carving involving removing basic shapes such as diamonds, triangles and circular patterns.
- Need to have a soft touch to ensure an even design.

(4) 3-D Craving

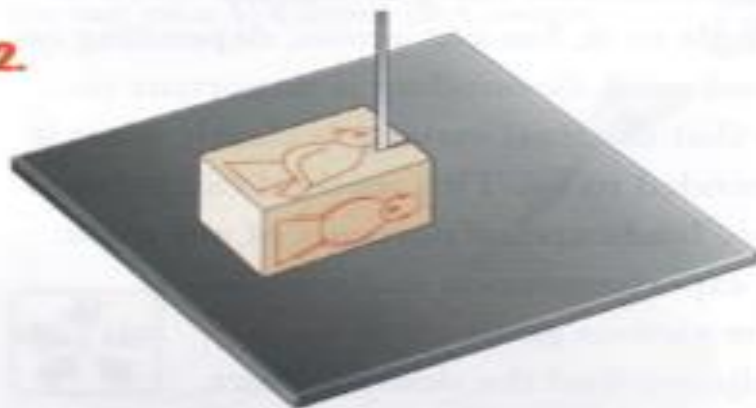
- A lot of preparation and skill needed to achieve a good result. Any real life for such as a head, hand or animal can be created.



1.



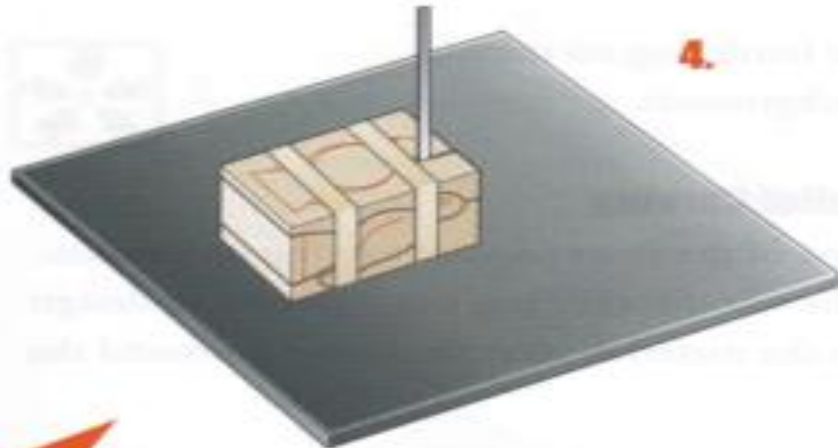
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



Steps in 3-D carving

Applying finish to the carvings

- Carvings left unfinished can look very good but are subject to the normal damage expected with untreated timber.
- In general low sheen (shiny appearance) finishes is chosen.
- Beeswax, Danish oil and satin varnish gives the best effect.

Applying Danish Oil

1. Apply a generous coat with a cloth or brush, rubbing into the wood to ensure it is wetted evenly.
2. Before it dries wipe the surface of the wood to absorb any excess oil
3. 6 hrs later apply second coat and leave over night
4. Apply 2-3 more coats the same way, lightly sanded with wire wool between coats.

