

Browse more than 1,300 woodworking project plans, DVDs, back-issue collections, videos, tool reviews, books, & more.

## Thank You!

Thank you for ordering this *WOOD*® magazine download. We hope you enjoy being part of our online experience and that you have fun expanding your woodworking skills.

Please remember that this copyrighted material is for your use only. It is unlawful to share this file with someone else or to reprint it in any form.



Dave Campbell  
Editorial Content Chief, *WOOD* magazine



## Adobe Acrobat Reader Troubleshooting Guide

If you can read this page, your Acrobat Reader program is working correctly! But you may still have problems or specific issues, such as printing and saving your downloadable file.

### My printer won't print the text correctly

Almost all printing problems are due to not enough free system resources memory. The files are very memory intensive because they include graphics, text, and photos. Close all other programs/applications and print directly out of the Acrobat Reader program, not your Web browser.

### Patterns are not printing full-size

Make sure your printer is set to print at 100 percent, "print to fit" is not checked and "page scaling" is set to "none". These settings are selected in the printer setup or printer options.

### I can't find my file now that it's downloaded

Rather than viewing the plan in your browser, you must save it to your hard drive. Download the file again, except this time try right-clicking on the red download button. A menu window will open. Select "Save target as" or "Save link as" to save the file to your hard drive. Once saved, you can open it up with Adobe Acrobat Reader.

For more details on using Adobe Acrobat Reader please visit our online help section at:

[woodmagazine.com/adobe](http://woodmagazine.com/adobe)

## WOOD Store

Customer Favorites

Shop Tools & Accessories



Indoor Furniture



Outdoor Furniture



Mission Furniture



Visit the WOOD Store at:

**WOODStore.net**

# Simple Start to Relief Carving

**For an easy way to add eye-catching ornamentation to a project, try your hand at relief carving. Use Nedra Herr's simple approach and a few inexpensive tools to carve this elegant fleur-de-lis in a couple of hours.**

*A regular finalist in woodcarving competitions, Nedra Herr of Newton, Iowa, began woodcarving years ago after taking an introductory class. If you're ready to get started in carving, Nedra suggests checking your local woodworking clubs to find a group with similar interests. Then, "Study what you want to carve, and go for it," she says. "Even when you're not carving, observe the works of others and the world around you for inspiration."*





## Start out sharp

Carving with dull tools is like driving a car with bad steering—you can do it, but the results aren't likely to be good, or safe. If small chips break off your workpiece rather than one winding shaving, it's time to sharpen your knives. In the case of a relatively new tool, odds are good you'll only need to hone the cutting edge. But if you're trying to get an old tool [right] back in shape for carving, you have a little more work to do.

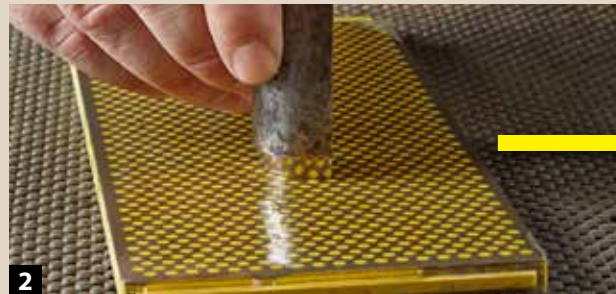
First, use a bullnose bit or round-over bit to rout a rounded profile on the edge of a piece of scrapwood to match the hollow of the gouge. Apply adhesive-backed sandpaper to the rounded edge, starting with 120- or 160-grit. Make repeated passes in the gouge's channel to smooth it [Step 1]. Continue the process, working your way to 800-grit sandpaper, until the channel is perfectly smooth.

With the channel cleaned up, square the gouge's end using a coarse diamond whetstone [Step 2]. Then, using a slow-speed wet grinder, regrind the bevel [Step 3]. To hone the cutting edge, use a medium-grit India stone. With the bevel flat against the stone's face, rock it side-to-side until the entire surface has been smoothed [Step 4]. Repeat that process using a fine-grit Arkansas stone. Finally, strop the blade with a piece of leather and polishing compound to bring it to a high shine. Now you can get back to carving!

Bevel is uneven

Cutting edge is not straight or square to sides

Grind flat to here.



## Tools and materials

Although you can carve any wood, start out with a soft, consistently dense, easy-to-carve species such as basswood or butternut. You need only a few tools to begin, but as with any hobby, as your skills improve, so too will the number of tools you'll employ. To start, a #16 (6mm) V-parting tool, a #3 (12 mm) gouge, and a #9 (10mm) gouge (right) will work well as your primary carving tools, and a pointed file or dental pick will help with detail work. Keep your tools sharp; dull ones yield poor cuts and require more pressure to push through the wood, making them more likely to slip and cause injury. (See "Start out sharp," above.)

#16 (6mm) V-parting tool:  
no. 05H19

#3 (12mm) gouge:  
no. 05C07

Order from Woodcraft,  
800-225-1153,  
woodcraft.com

#9 (10mm) gouge:  
no. 05G07



### TRANSFER THE PATTERN



**A** Nedra prefers graphite paper over carbon paper for transferring patterns because it gives you the option to erase should you stray from the lines.

### DEFINE THE CROSSBAND



**B** When using the V-parting tool, hold it so the outside face of the blade—closest to the outside of the pattern—stands perpendicular to the worksurface.

### OUTLINE THE CENTER PETAL



**C** As you carve from the top of the fleur-de-lis toward the crossband using the V-parting tool, approach the band slowly to avoid cutting into it.

### COMPLETE THE OUTLINE



**D** Wait until later to fix small imperfections. For now, focus on keeping the depth of your cuts equal all the way around and closely following your outline.

### SEPARATE THE PETALS AND THE BAND



**E** Use a #3 gouge to pare away material above and below the crossband to make the petals taper down to, and appear to go under, the crossband.

## Trace the pattern

Use transfer paper [Sources] to trace the pattern—on the *next page*—onto your workpiece [Photo A]. Secure the workpiece by placing it on a nonskid mat.

Consider wearing a cut-resistant glove [Sources] on your non-dominant hand to prevent nicks and cuts.

**Nedra's Notes:** Be mindful of grain patterns when carving, as the tool will want to follow the grain rather than your outline. Take shallower passes when cutting across the grain to prevent tear-out.

## Carve the outline

Start with the V-parting tool, outlining the crossband and working your way to

a final depth of approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$ " [Photo B]. Push the tool using your dominant hand, guiding it with your non-dominant hand. Try to make smooth, uninterrupted cuts.

**Nedra's Notes:** Don't try to cut to final depth all at once. Shallow passes prevent splintering and provide greater control. Never cut toward yourself. Reposition the carving, if need be, so you cut parallel to, or away from, your body.

With the crossband outline complete, start at the top point of the fleur-de-lis to outline the centermost upper petal [Photo C]. Outline all the other petals above and below the crossband [Photo D]. With the outlines at a final depth of

$\frac{1}{8}$ ", pare away material above and below the crossband [Photo E]. Recut the outline around the crossband with your V-parting tool to redefine its edges.

## Round the petals

Use a #9 gouge to cut a  $\frac{1}{16}$ "-deep groove along each side of the upper petal's centerline [Photo F]. Begin rounding all the petals using the #3 gouge [Photos G and H]. Smooth the transitions between the center petal face and the vertical grooves along the upper centerline, shaving away material to create a slight concavity on each side of the center ridge that smoothly transitions into a convex curve along the outside edges of the center petal.



### ADD AN ACCENT TO THE CENTER PETAL



F

Carve two grooves parallel to the upper centerline, leaving the line intact. This adds dimension to the fleur-de-lis' center petal.

### SMOOTH THINGS OVER



G

Use the #3 gouge to scoop the underside of the side petals, making cuts at a flatter angle in the center of the petal, raising the angle to make shallower cuts as you work your way to the tips (above, left). Then, with the gouge's concave surface facing the workpiece, round over the petals and crossband (above, right).



H

### TOOLS FOR CLEANUP DUTY



I



J

Nedra uses a dental pick or pointed file for reaching down into narrow areas (above, left), a broad, flat eraser wrapped in 120-grit sandpaper for rounded surfaces, and thin lengths of scrapwood wrapped in sandpaper (above, right) for everything in between.

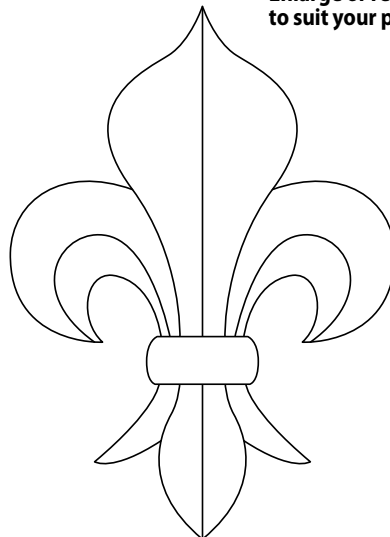
### Clean up the carving

Although you should strive to make precise, clean cuts throughout the carving process, you'll likely still have a few rough spots that need some cleaning up or refinement when you're finished [Photos I and J].

**Nedra's Notes:** Wipe your carving with a rag dipped in mineral spirits to reveal small imperfections you might not spot otherwise.

After adding the final touches to your carving, apply a finish. While clear finishes preserve the natural appearance of the work, you can accent the depth of the carving with a stain—adding additional coats to areas you wish to give the appearance of shadow. 🌿

Enlarge or reduce this pattern to suit your project.



### Sources

Black graphite transfer paper:  
[woodmagazine.com/transfer](http://woodmagazine.com/transfer)  
Dental picks and cut-resistant glove:  
[woodmagazine.com/carvingpicks](http://woodmagazine.com/carvingpicks)

### More Resources

▶ For a free video overview of Nedra carving this fleur-de-lis, visit [woodmagazine.com/carvingvid](http://woodmagazine.com/carvingvid).

# Visit the **WOOD**<sup>®</sup> family of helpful Web sites!

## WOODStore.net

Browse more than 1,300 woodworking project plans, DVDs, back-issue collections, videos, tool reviews, books, & more.



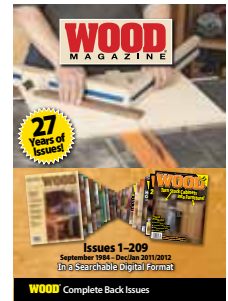
Plans



"Complete Guide" DVD-ROM's



Videos



Back-Issue Collections

## WOODmagazine.com/videos

### DVDs or downloads



The biggest names in woodworking help you build your skills with affordable videos (up to 2 hours long). Save money by doing the download.

### FREE magazine support 24/7



WOOD magazine editors provide videos that enhance the content in the magazine. New videos added regularly.

### By woodworkers, for woodworkers



Watch free videos of other woodworkers showing their stuff, from shop tips, to favorite jigs, to... well, just about anything!

### Watch a demo before you buy



Don't spend a penny on a tool until you learn how it works. Tool School is like having a free woodworking show on your desktop!

## WOODmagazine.com

### A wealth of information just a click away.

WOODmagazine.com speaks to woodworkers of all skill levels with free woodworking plans, helpful forums, hundreds of articles, and more services to help you become a better woodworker.



## toolreviews.woodmagazine.com

### Everybody's a tool critic. Now it's your turn!

Readers rely on WOOD magazine for unbiased reviews of woodworking tools and accessories. You'll find them here, all in one place. While you're there, add reviews about the tools in your shop. Just click to compare specs, prices, and more.

