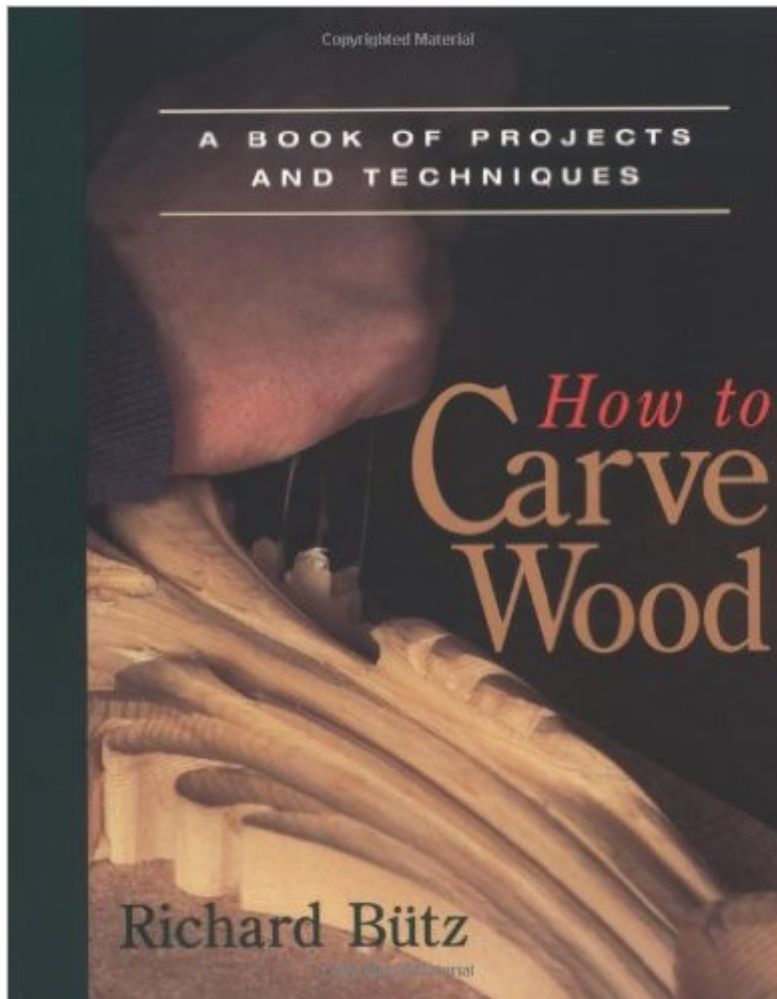


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How To Carve Wood: A Book Of Projects And Techniques



Synopsis

Woodcarver Richard Butz teaches chapter by chapter whittling, chip carving, wildlife carving, relief carving, lettering, and architectural carving. The reader learns by doing, working through carefully illustrated and progressively more challenging exercises and projects. Butz provides scaled patterns for each project and ends each chapter with a gallery of additional projects using the techniques learned.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To an experienced woodcarver this book may seem unfocused and thinly spread, but for the beginner it does exactly what it should do. The book begins with a good grounding in the tools of the craft and how to care for and sharpen each type. After that it gives you a sampler of carving styles with at least one project for each. It's guaranteed there is at least one or two chapters the reader will not care for. Even this is useful since the reader avoids launching into the craft with a project they really have little enthusiasm for, and then lose interest in wood carving all together. This book should be required reading before the beginner spends a single dime on tools, equipment, or wood. If it's not 'the' best beginner's book, it's in the top five.

A good general book on woodcarving. This book could be better if it didn't try to be all things for all people. There are better books for beginners out there for the money and more advanced carvers

probably need to buy a book concentrating on their type of carving. I found it to be a little on the technical side and would have preferred a few more patterns for each type of carving. My favorite sections were on finishes, sharpening, and the tool section. There are numerous photographs of some beautiful examples of the various types of carving. The author does show some very useful carving techniques in most of the carving styles. Sections include tools, sharpening, woods and finishes, design, whittling, chip carving, relief carving, wildlife carving, lettering, architectural carving, and a bibliography.

As a beginner, I appreciated the breadth of topics covered in the book, particularly the various styles of carving. This was my introduction to chip carving, and I think he covered it quite well. Sharpening is also covered, but I'd already bought "The Complete Guide to Sharpening" by Leonard Lee (of Lee Valley & Veritas) and found that to be a most comprehensive source of information on that topic.

This is an excellent book that covers the fundamentals of carving plus adds great advice on what tools to purchase. Asked if I would buy this book again, my answer would be yes! I messed up on the rating of this book and I give it five (5) stars. Sorry! David Self, New Boston, Texas

I've ordered several carving books recently and have been very disappointed. So I was a bit dubious about trying yet another one. Now I'm glad I did. This is a great book. It contains a good blend of pictures, diagrams, instructions and history. The patterns and projects build from simple to more complex with several patterns for each style of carving. The author makes the process of design, carving and finishing understandable. If you are looking for a book that will lead the beginner through practical steps to developing experience with patience, this is the book for you. I highly recommend it.

A strong point which I find in this book is the ability to describe non-trivial manual tasks (e.g. sharpening a blade, or a particular cut technique) in such a way that you can immediately start trying them. The author is passionate about the activity of wood carving and is successful in giving you a deep feeling of it.

I had taken some classes on wood carving but found that the classroom teaching about basics lacked a lot, especially when it came to learning and choosing what woods to carve and how to keep my tools in good shape. I was really surprised by the extensive treatment of the topics I

needed to know to help me put my skills to work effectively and confidently. This book is one of the best I have run across. Plus, I got it used for a great price and that was really a bonus. Highly recommended for beginning and mid-level carvers.

a bit repetitive of the basics, but still an interesting and informative read. I read a lot of wood carving books, always searching for new ideas. Chris Pye gets five stars; most others get four. This one is worth reading.

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