

Woodworking

Steve Loar & Dixie Biggs

June 30-July 13, 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Techniques for Developing Original Surfaces

Much like learning to drive a car where you progress from the Drivers Ed manual to test drives to the road test, Steve and Dixie will provide you with what's needed to begin confidently creating original work that incorporates engaging pattern. These can be expressed using a variety of embellishing techniques, one of which is power relief carving. While we will be focusing on curved wooden surfaces, you do not need be a woodturner or even a "woodworker" (see Materials needed). All skill levels will acquire a unique set of visual and mental strategies developed during Steve's 36 years of collegiate design instruction and numerous workshops. Knowing that "design" is very intimidating to many beginning artists, Steve has assembled the most useful information and exercises to bring you rapidly to self-sufficiency in creating patterns. Very low-tech processes using tracing and several innovative approaches will demand far more "head" work than arduous labor.

These lectures, discussions, and exercises will be alternated with similarly focused demonstrations and applications of relief carving and embellishment techniques drawn from Dixie's many workshops and demonstrations. She will guide you through a variety of techniques from simple textures to more complex relief carving. Using a micro-motor power carver, she will take you, step by step, from layout, to bit selection, to finishing, building tool control and confidence.

For our second week, you will undertake a more sophisticated composition that will put to use the strategies and techniques of the first week of exploration – but in your own style. Knowing that "Nothing grows well in the shade of the big tree", our goal is to move you into the sunlight of personal designs and surface embellishment. Along the way, critique methods will be taught, and then guided, within a supportive group environment. You will leave knowing how to generate many ideas, improve and refine them, and then execute exciting new work using your newly acquired power relief carving skills.

MATERIALS LIST

- Camera phone (or digital camera), charger, and USB connection
- Thumb drive
- Micro Motor rotary power carver: One suggestion is the Mastercarver Micro-Pro Champion, found at www.woodcarverssupply.com. Others are the Ram iCube or Ram Power 45 found at www.mdiwoodcarvers.com. No need to get the foot control. Be sure to have a 3/32" collet for your carver. Contact **Dixie** if you need help or have questions.
- Variety of carving burrs: Bring what you have, **plus the following** which can be found at MDI Woodcarvers Supply www.mdiwoodcarvers.com 1-800-866-5728
- stump cutter (**You will need 2**) #20-B5 \$8.25 ea.
- mini stump cutters # 21-SET36 \$5.25
 - and # 21-SET39 \$5.25
- Diamond cutter set #17-20S \$7.50
- Saburr Tooth bur #37-3FSMY (yellow) \$14.50
- Super Course Ruby #15-SC05 \$10.50
- Wood burner, if you have one. If you can, bring hand pieces with a spear tip (preferred) or long skew and a loop tip one.
- Bring turned bowl or vessel that is dried and ready to carve. (**See Below** for things to consider)
- Old toothbrush or paint brush for brushing away carving dust.
- A file-folder or old-school binder with clear sleeves will help organize your design exercises
- *X-acto knife, with *#11 style blades (have several for back-up)
- *#2 pencil

- *EXTRA FINE tip Sharpie – Black or dark blue
- *Eraser – typical white or pink
- *Clear tape, roll, any width (Scotch Magic Tape is suggested)
- A hemispherical metal or Tupperware mixing bowl, approximately 10" in diameter. The shape needs to be simple and clean. (These will be used for pattern development.)
- If you need magnifiers for detail work, don't forget to bring those.
- *Safety glasses
- *Dust mask
- *Ear plugs
- Task light is very helpful
- Cushion to sit on is highly recommended. It's makes long hours of sitting so much easier!
- *Padlock for your studio locker, if desired (For rent in the Supply Store for the week)
- *Flash drive (to protect and save data to from Library computers)

A FEW THINGS to consider for the "curved" work you bring to carve on:

1. Students need to bring several dry wooden articles to carve on. You can bring most anything....bowls, vessels, or platters with a wide rim. You will develop many ideas and plans for where the carving can take place.

Not a woodturner? *Not to worry.* There are many woodturners who will generously donate bowls. These should NOT be finished or be precious in any way. For our purposes, and your growth, they can be rough, cracked or even broken. Don't know a woodturner? Do a search for a local chapter of the AAW (American Association of Woodturners). These folks are seemingly everywhere and might have a piece they're willing to let you play with. You may want to consider buying 1 or 2 unfinished bowls from the Holland Bowl Mill (www.hollandbowlmill.com). Mention this class to discuss "seconds". Great people. Steve will be providing small bowls for your initial skill-building exercises courtesy of the Holland Bowl Mill.

2. Thicker is better. We would recommend a wall thickness of at least 3/8".
3. Straight, tight, plain grains like Cherry, Maple, Bradford pear or Beech are good. Figure or color variations will compete with your carving. Open grain woods like Oak will cause problems.
4. Please don't bring exotic woods or ones with odors; Steve is deathly allergic.
5. You might want to bring one or several smaller pieces to learn on and have a larger piece or two for Week Two. Holland Bowl Mill will be providing a small but free rough-turned bowl for each student.
6. *All* pieces need to be fully dry for rotary power carving. Wet wood will gum up your carving burs.

All Items marked with an "*" are available for purchase in the Supply Store

MATERIALS FEES: \$35.00-\$65.00

Materials fees will be charged for materials used in the studio and/or provided by instructors for use in the studio by the entire class. In order to keep these fees as low as possible, fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class. Materials fees are paid on the last day of class.

Please be advised that above course description and materials list is written and approved by the instructor

If you have any additional questions about this class, below is the contact info for your instructor:

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