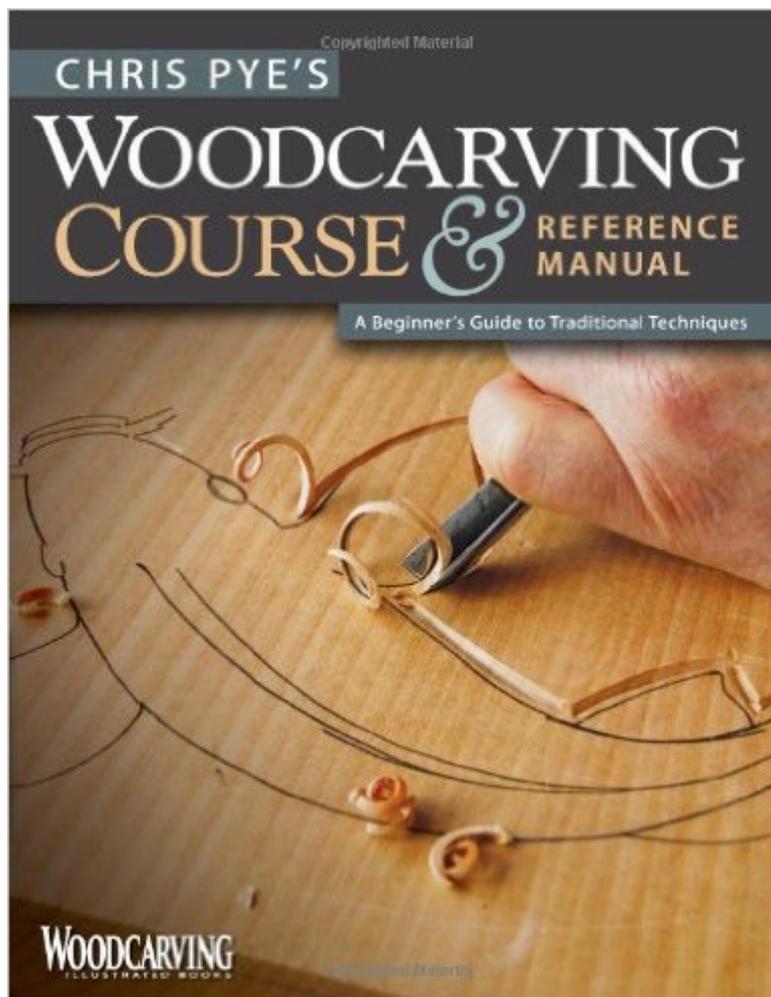# Chris Pye's Woodcarving Course & Reference Manual: A Beginner's Guide To Traditional Techniques (Woodcarving Illustrated Books)

Synopsis

A comprehensive guide for those who want to learn carving, this manual provides a handful of lessons, including how to choose the best woods, safe tool handling tips, making cuts, and executing a variety of techniques.

Book Information

Series: Woodcarving Illustrated Books

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Fox Chapel Publishing; Woodcarving Illustrated Books edition (October 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1565234561

ISBN-13: 978-1565234567

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.4 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (63 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #41,394 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #11 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Wood Crafts & Carving > Carving   #36 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects #12769 in Books > Reference

Customer Reviews

I just received this book and opened it up. I was shocked to read a "Woodcarving Course" book that didn't really do much instructing at all. Half of the book is pictures, and mostly full page ones too. Most of those pictures don't really even give good project ideas.Each "chapter" or section is one to three pages long on average, and just barely starts to give you an idea of the topic before moving on to something else. There wasn't even enough to get me more than barely interested in carving. This is less than a beginner's book. I would classify this as more of a coffee table book. (just eye candy, not for information).Do yourself a favor and order "The Complete Book of Woodcarving" by Everett Ellenwood. It's produced by the same publisher, but had more information and knowledge than I could have hoped for on the subject. I ordered both of these books at the same time, and in comparing the two: should never have ordered Chris Pye's "Woodcarving Course and Reference Manual".I give two stars because it's not completely void of useful information.

This book gives a really good foundation with information about tools, types of wood, and different

methods of carving, as well as projects & patterns to help you get started. Chris Pye is (in my opinion) an amazing craftsman and artist, and even if you don't carve, looking at the photos of his process and the finished pieces is a great experience. The only thing better would be if the book came with an instructional DVD of some kind, because it can be challenging to make sense of a 3-d or "in the round" project from written instructions and photos. I would absolutely recommend this book for anyone interested in learning more about carving!

I've been carving for over 50 years and finally learned how to really sharpen tools with this book. Pye's technique guides are superb and this book is something every carver, at any level, should have.

Chris Pye is one of the best-known teachers of modern woodcarving and in this book he shows you how -- more-or-less.Woodcarving in the classic manner is scary looking from the outside. In addition to the enormous number of tools, there is the matter of learning the many techniques. Pye doesn't so much de-mythologize all this as lead you through it by the hand.Take the tools, for example. Pye illustrates and explains a couple of hundred of the more common ones, but he also points out that the beginner doesn't need more than 6 or 8 basic tools and most woodcarvers will never touch most of that vast array in their careers.With the tools described, Pye moves to the heart of woodcarving, sharpening and preparing the tools for use. A serious carver will spend at least as much time sharpening and honing as she does using the tools. Properly sharpened tools make all the difference in the world and Pye devotes considerable space to showing you how it's done.Unfortunately sharpening is something that has to be learned by practice and most beginners end up working with improperly sharpened tools because they haven't mastered the art. This makes everything harder an seriously limits what you can do. BTW: woodcarving tools come with an edge on them, but they are not properly sharpened. Each tool has to be sharpened and honed before it can be used to do anything but hack and tear at wood.Pye is English and this shows in the selection of woods he discusses. Some of them are not common in the US.Then we get to the carving projects. Since Pye is a carver in the classical tradition the projects concentrate on relief and three-dimensional projects. They are definitely interesting -- I particularly liked the banana peel -- but they are probably a little much for beginners.All in all, a very good book to get you started.

It's gotten a little dated. The extra that were downloadable are no longer available. It's not much good as a course guide if the patterns aren't available. You will probably will learn more by watching

the numerous YouTube videos available for wood carving.

I liked this book, but learning by book is slower because you have to try to imagine what he's doing based on the words and pictures. I learned some things from this book, but later I discovered Chris Pye had a subscription-based website called "Woodcarving Workshops." It has hundreds of videos, which blows this book away in its depth and clarity. If I could do it all over again, I'd save my money and just watch the videos on his website.

excellent book also for the beginner, very informative, It's a first read through before starting book, from selecting the tools to care of tools, to finish project. A great book to have for a beginner at wood carving.

chris pye is an excellent carver, an also a true artist with words. every word is the right word, concise, and easy to absorb. i have bought all of his books, and every one is a five star treasure. illustrations are also first rate

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