

Medium Relief Carving

Medium Relief Carving in 6 Steps

This class is about
the journey, not
the destination.

Six Steps:

1. Design
2. Layout
3. Bost
4. Block
5. Detail
6. Finish



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AM Montoya

Medium Relief Carving

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Step 1. Design

Design: Conceptual Thinking

Critical mind-eye-hand connection

- Generates ideas
- Provides inspiration
- Captures concepts

Explore and Study

- Generates ideas and provides inspiration
- Resources
 - Best: Woodcarving and Sculpture
 - Better: Photographs and Models
 - Good: Sketches and drawings
- Critique using six steps
- Maintain reference library

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Medium Relief Carving

Draw for the sake of carving:
2D Thumbnails and sketches

Materials:

- Pens and pencils (No.2 pencil)
- Paper (Index and business cards)
- Erasers (Vinyl and kneadable)
- Pocket studio (ALTOIDS tin)



Model for the sake of carving (3D)

Materials:

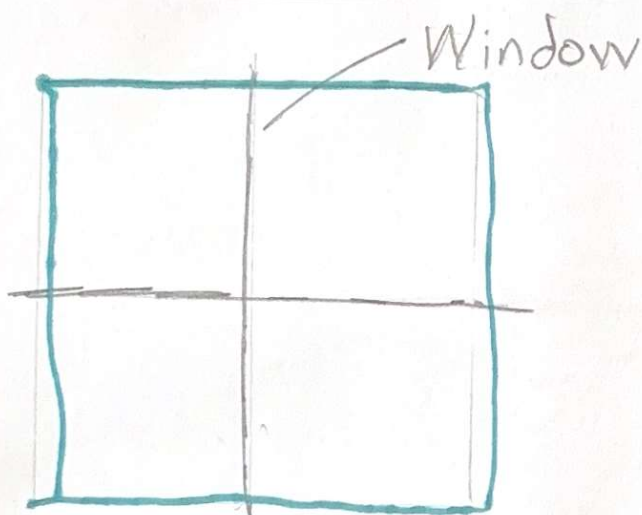
- Miscellaneous (MDF, scrap wood, foam)
- Clay (Water Based, Plasteline, Polymer)
- Sculpey (Original, Super-firm)
 - Armatures (household copper wire)
 - Tongue depressor (paint sticks)
 - Base
 - Acrylic paint (after baking)

Medium Relief Carving

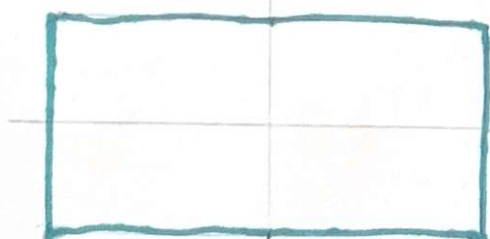
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Geometrics

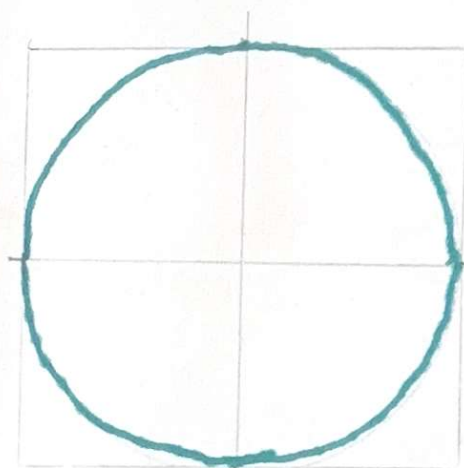
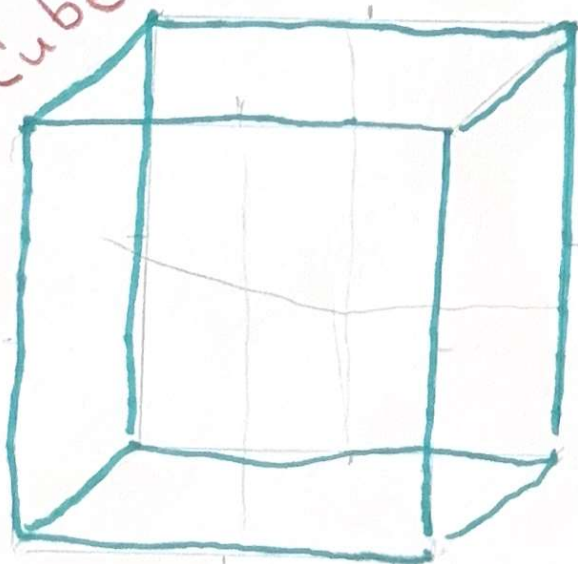
- Familiar 2 and 3 dimensional shapes
- Good mind-eye-hand training
- Useful for layouts



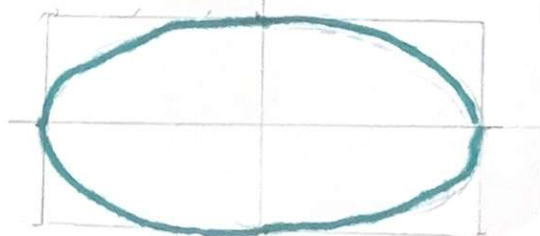
Squares



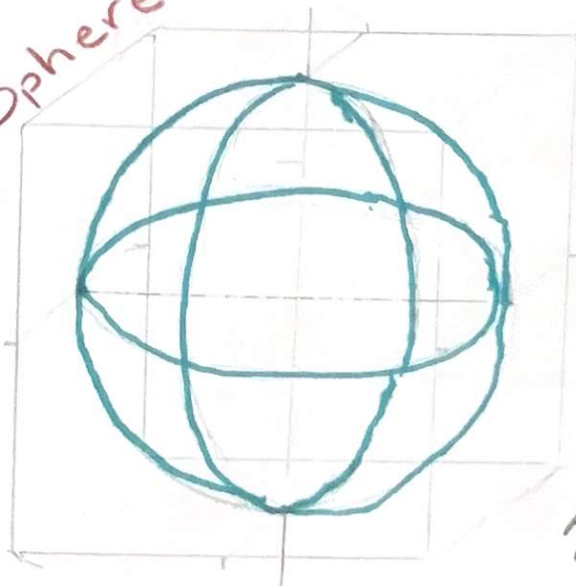
Cube



Circles

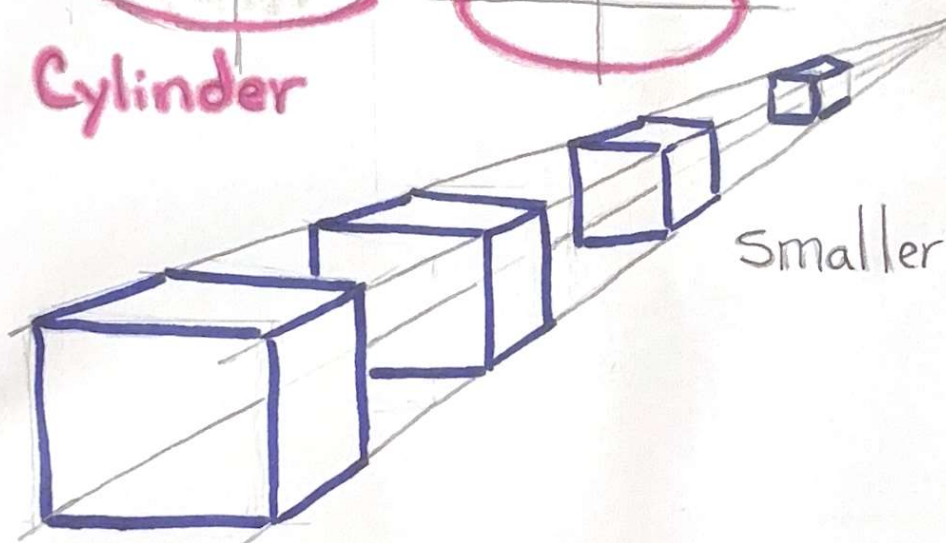
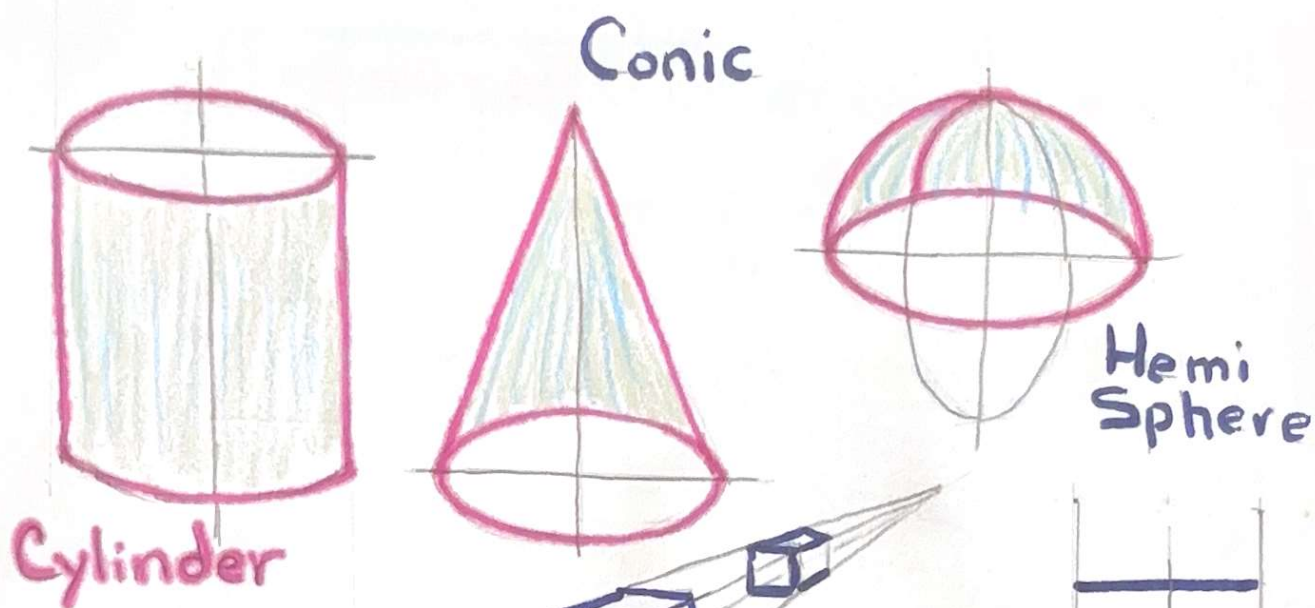


Sphere



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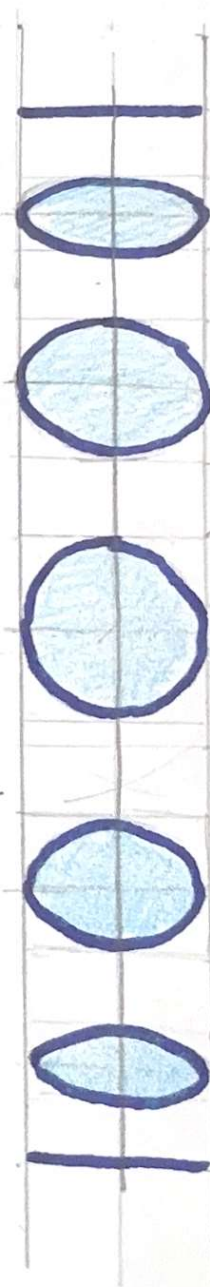


Bigger

Perspectives

Rounder

Flatter



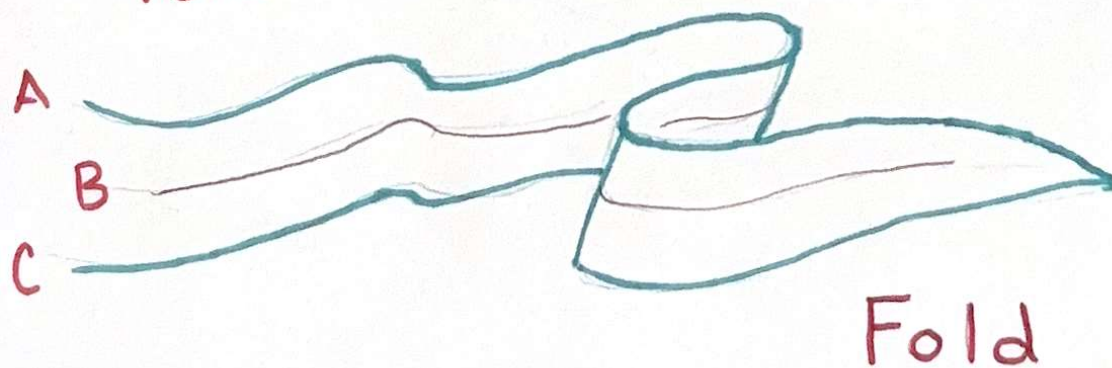
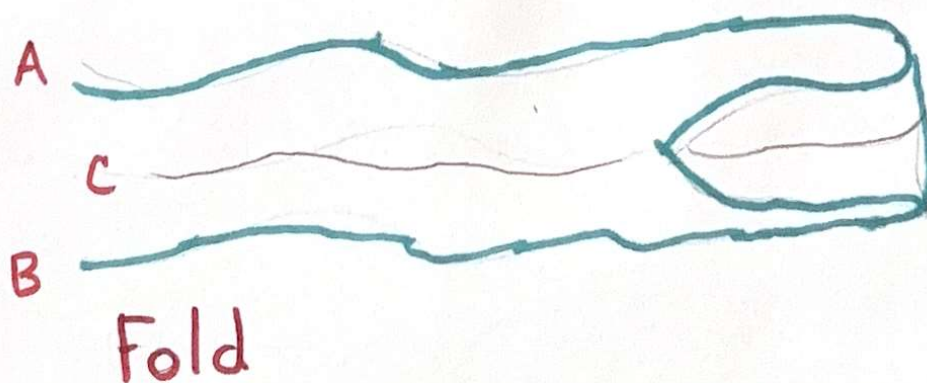
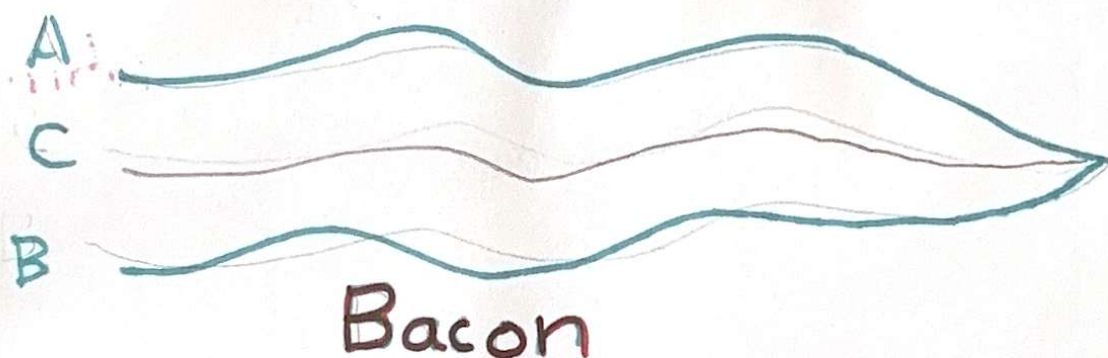
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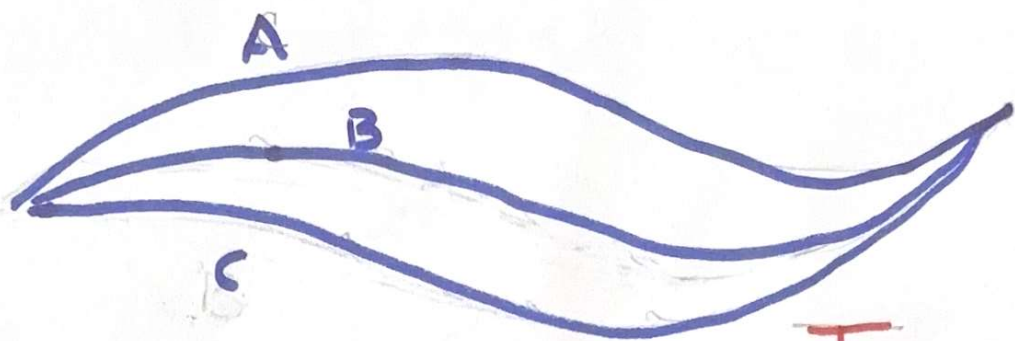
Ornamental Ribbons and Leaves

- More complicated within limits
- Draw in two dimensions
- Model in three dimensional
- Combines to make other shapes



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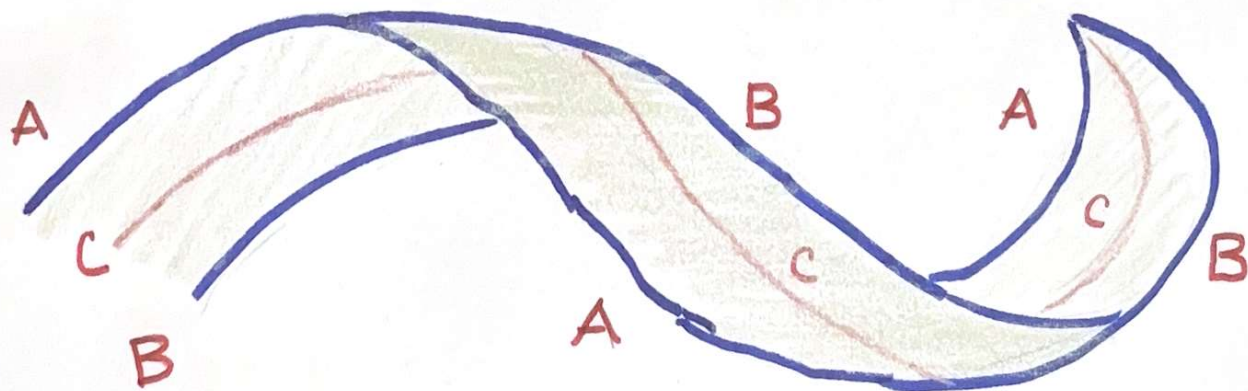
Medium Relief Carving



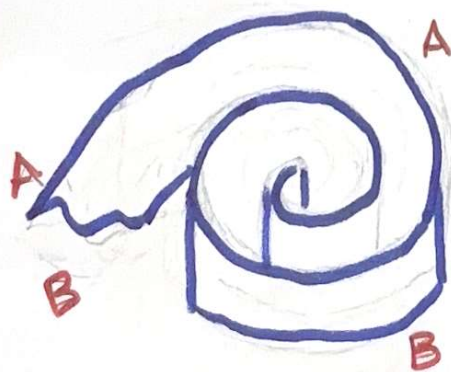
Taco



Twist



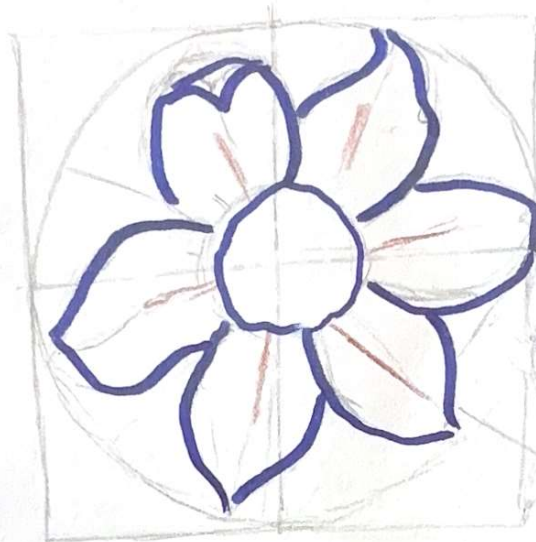
Double Twist



Roll

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Composites



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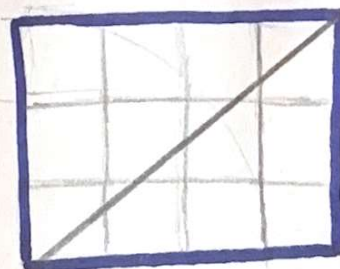
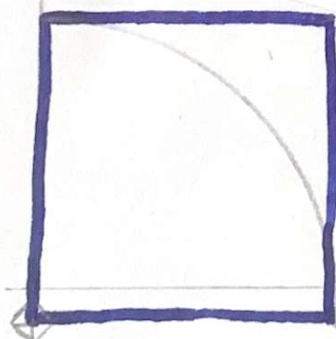
Medium Relief Carving

Step 2. Layout

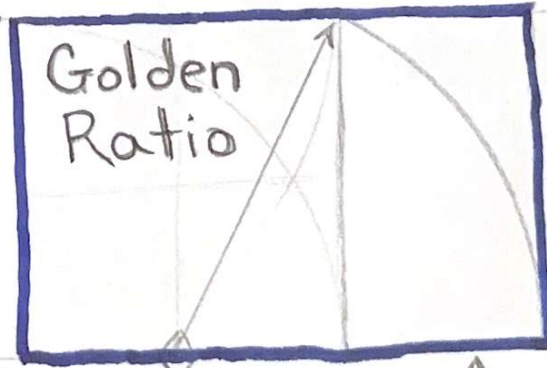
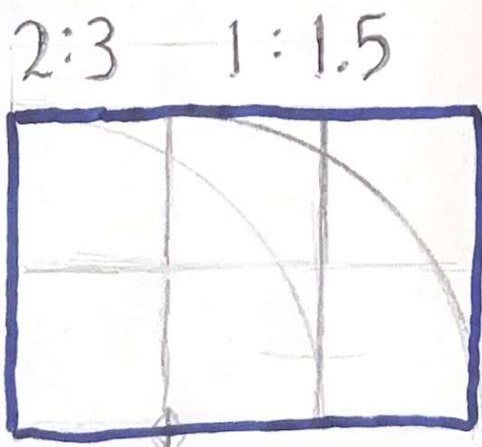
Layout: Operational

Move from concepts to blueprints

- Wood selection and size
- Prepare wood blank for carving
- Refine design to fit the wood
- Establish outlines/contours
- Highlight ground and intermediate levels



1:1.33



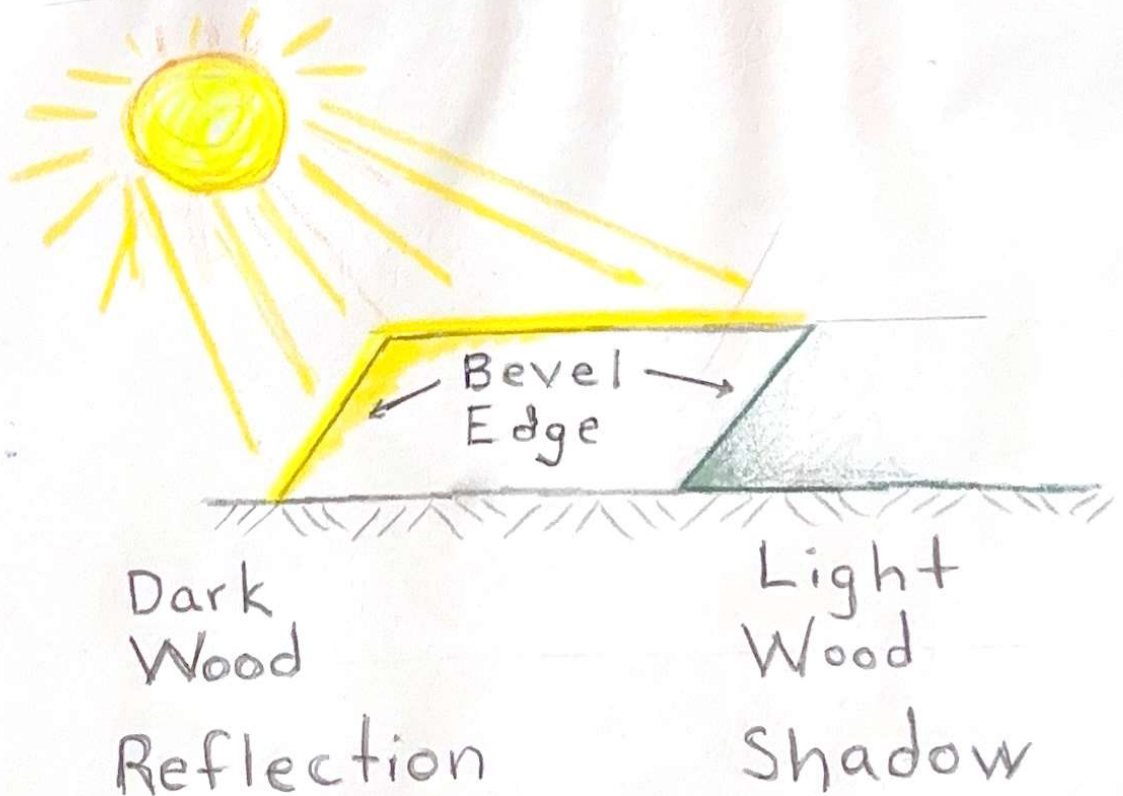
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4:7
1:1.75

Medium Relief Carving

Create the illusion of depth

- Layers
- Levels
- Perspective
- Placement?
- Shadow
- Reflection
- Contrast
- Placement
- Three dimensional Details



Medium Relief Carving

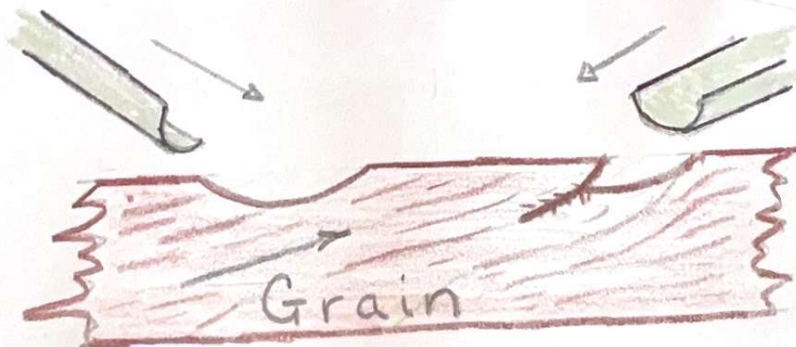
Step 3. Bost

Bost: Create rough outline

- Roughly outline contours using V-tool
- Waste wood to near ground level using gouges
- Repeat to get desired depth to ground

Tool safety

- Keep hands behind the tool
- Use both hands
- Full size tools safe, effective
- Palm tools - use with care, less effective



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Step 4. Block

Block: Create rough outline

- Establishes overall form of finished piece

Technique

- Block the outline using gouges that match contours
 - Careful not to undercut
 - Careful not to go deeper than ground
- Outline interior elements using V-tool
 - Helps maintain layout lines
 - Only as deep as needed
- Broadly establish levels using gouges
 - Refer to highlighted layout levels



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Medium Relief Carving

Step 5. Detail

Detail: Create overall form

- Detailing - shaping material to create form

Technique

- Using wide range of carving tools
- Carve to near final form



Step 6. Finish

Finish: Final surface treatment

- Evaluate carving and decide on final surface effect
- Final wood surface prep (scrape, sand, texture)
- Apply final finishes

Final finishes:

- Safety
- Test various finishes on similar piece
- Solvent consistency (water, alcohol, oil, lacquer-thinner)
- Condition wood if necessary (thinned oil)
- Seal if desired (Shellac, curing oils, varnish, Danish, lacquer)
- Color (water-based acrylic, oil colors, alcohol-based dyes, stains)
- Final protective coat (shellac, oil, varnish, lacquer, wax)

Medium Relief Carving in 6 Steps

Resources:

- Microsoft OneNote - Your digital reference library
- Internet Archive - <https://archive.org/> - free library search for woodcarving
- Chris Pye - Master Carver - <https://www.chrispye-woodcarving.com/>
- Patrick Damiaens - Master Carver <https://ornamental-woodcarver-patrickdamiaens.blogspot.com/>
- The children of Master Carver Esteban Jimenez - <https://www.youtube.com/@tallista.Esteban.Jimenez/videos>
- Butternut boards - <https://ocoochhardwoods.com/>
- Sculpey polymer clay - <https://www.sculpey.com>
- Pfeil gouges - <https://www.pfeiltools.com/?lang=en>
- Goodwill / ARC second hand stores - Artist supplies