

SHROPSHIRE WOODCARVERS.

Thank you for your interest in joining the Shropshire Branch of the British Woodcarvers Association. We welcome new members to join at any time though places may be limited at certain periods. We encourage those considering taking up carving to come along to a maximum of 3 free taster sessions during which time we will guide you through starter projects, using club tools and wood. Indeed, we recommend for the first couple of months using our tools until you have an insight into the tools that will best suit you before making any purchases.

Hopefully you will decide to continue with your carving after your taster sessions. At this point we would ask you to join the B.W.A. and pay for access to either or both the Thursday and Saturday sessions. (See below)

Thursday meetings are held weekly at the workshops in Mary Webb School, Pontesbury throughout the school term times (including half terms) from 6.30 pm to 9.00pm at a cost of £20 per term. (Cash or cheques payable to BWA Shropshire).

Saturday meetings are also held at the workshops in the Mary Webb School. These are on the second Saturday of each month, open from 10.00am to 5.00pm and usually include a short meeting at 2.00pm to discuss operation of the group, events, social activities etc. The cost of these sessions is £15 per year or £5 per session. Some Saturdays may also include guest speakers, demonstrations or a workshop.

Membership of the British Woodcarvers Association is £25 per year (beginning June 1st) with reductions for those under 21 or joining part way through the year.

For further information try our website at shropshirewoodcarvers.co.uk or just come along for a look around or contact Jerry Hughes 01743 790735 / wjerry.hughes@gmail.com

Safe Carving and Things to consider.

After 2 or 3 months it would be expected that you would start to build up your own collection of tools.

Generally, avoid buying sets of gouges, particularly if they are cheap.

Needs change so don't buy too much too early.

Buying different makes of gouges enables you to find ones you prefer in terms of handles, weight etc.

Look around the club and if you see someone doing the sort of carving you want to do – talk to them!

If you want to do larger carving or in the round you may still need small chisels for adding detail.

Remember many old or carvings from other countries are done with maybe 2 or three chisels only or just with a knife.

Companies you could use include Toolpost, Classic Hand Tools, Axminster Tools. All online or by phone. (Browse and draw up that Xmas list!)

Most carvers use the chisels that are the sharpest, not necessarily because they are the right shape.

The commercial bimonthly Wood Carving Magazine is a useful source of suppliers information and ideas, projects etc. as is the BWA Gazette.

Makers of good tools include: Pfiel, Kirschen, Robert Sorby, Ashley Iles, Tiranti, Henry Taylor, Auriou, Lie Nelson (Mega expensive!), Stubai

A very quick and unscientific survey of books and the net suggest the following are the most recommended carving gouges, particularly if doing 'in the round' work: one each of

No. 1	6 – 12 mm (This could be a fish tail, perhaps both but in different sizes)
No. 3	10 mm - 20mm
No. 5	6 - 10mm
No7	15mm
No. 11	3 – 6 mm and 10 - 15mm
No. 12 or 39 or V	4mm or 10 mm

The mm. is not fixed in stone, or wood, and could vary to suit needs. Most reasonable chisels and gouges fall in the £22 - £30 range, each.

Other options include bent or fishtail versions.

Also Useful.

A detail knife - very useful

A 30mm gouge if doing bigger stuff to 'rough out'

A mallet (but try different weights to find what suits you before buying)

A tool roll or box (sharp tools need protection to keep them that way - and you safe.)

A strop

A suitable sharpening stone (diamond, water, ceramic or oil. Coarse and fine)

A knife proof glove for hand holding work.

If most carving is likely to be relief or miniature work, then a set of Flexcut hand tools (individual tools can be bought in addition) and a Ray Gonzalez skew may be all you need.

Other useful accessories

A sharp saw or make friends with someone who has a bandsaw.

Sanding sheets and mask. Abranet recommended

Magnifying visor. (Very cheap on Amazon)

A Stanley or Record portable vice.

Spoke shaves and scrapers

Above all PLEASE remember:

When carving keep both hands, and other body parts behind the cutting edge.

Carve away from the body and your hands then you can't be got.

Please be aware of other carvers.

When not carving, leave the gouges on the bench, not waving in your hands around as you describe your holiday adventures or scratch your ear.

Let falling gouges fall - do not try to catch them as they fall to the floor.

Be especially careful getting tools in or out of a tool roll or box.

Keep work secure in a vice, or with a clamp and non-slip mat.

Dust can be more dangerous than all the above!