

The Colonial Craftsman

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Period Furniture Reproductions

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A Sampler of 18th Century Carving with Ray Journigan September 30 – October 4, 2019

Adding highly carved elements to furniture and architecture during the 18th century was a way of showing predominance and stature as a growing nation and individuals in society both in the private and public sectors. And the styles of carvers like Henry Hardcastle, James Reynolds, John Pollard, and Benjamin Randolph, just to name a few, were at the top level of execution in comparison to their British counterparts. In this workshop Ray will showcase thru presentations and demonstrations, the different regional styles and characteristics 18th century carving took on during that period. The students will get plenty of opportunity to learn how to replicate those characteristic differences for themselves through several carving exercises and then applying what they have learned to sample pieces of several furniture parts. Once broken down into little pieces by a systematic approach, even the most seeming difficult carving projects begin to make sense. The student will also learn to get over the "Where do I begin" hurdle when approaching a carving project. Which specialty tools are needed to give floral carvings that life like appearance? Several motifs will be covered such as, shells, volutes, gadrooning, acanthus leaves, along with a few surprise challenges. The student will gain the confidence to start adding carvings to all of their woodworking projects in the future. And, as is with most carving classes, tool selection, sharpening and work station set up will be covered as well.

Outline:

Day 1:

Introductions

Presentation on 18th century period carving styles, Philadelphia, Newport, McIntire

Discussion on good carving tools to acquire for period style carving

Discussion on how to create a comfortable working station

Sharpening methods for a razor edge

Presentation on sources for period carvings and how to use them to create patterns for period furniture or architectural elements

Warm up carving exercises in low relief stressing additional cuts for better effects in shallow carvings!

Demo Carving Newport Knee

Student carving time carving the Newport Knee or McIntire grapes and vine

Day 2:

Presentation on Shells, Shells, Shells. Different styles and how they were used as decorative elements on furniture and architectural components

Demonstration on laying out and carving a scalloped shell for an applique.

Student carving time for a scalloped shell

Demonstration on carving a Highboy rosette

Student carving time on a Highboy rosette

Day 3:

Presentation on Beads and Gadrooning. Different styles and where it was use on period furniture

Demonstration on layout and carving a Gadroon pattern

Student carving time on Beads and different Gadrooning patterns

Presentation on Pie Crust table top carving

Student time carving Pie Crust rim for a table top

Day 4:

Presentation on the Acanthus leaf on 18th Century furniture and architecture

Demonstration on Acanthus carving, how heights reveal on carving themselves.

Student exercise on Acanthus flip

Demonstration on carving an Acanthus on a Corbel

Student carving time on carving a corbel

Time permitting, student time carving a mirror section

Day 5:

Presentation on Ball & Claw Feet

Student fun challenge:

To be announced! (You Will Succeed!)

Shop Clean Up

Tool List:

As this is not a beginners class, a good set of SHARP carving chisels is needed for the student to gain the most from his or her participation. Below is a list of suggested tools. Swiss made, Pfeil, chisels is a good choice and all the tools listed are readily available from Woodcraft and other carving tool suppliers. If you already have chisels close the size and sweeps below do not feel you have to match them in order to participate in the class. As a further note, if you are purchasing new chisels below the number 8 sweep, try to get "Fishtail" type chisels as they are more versatile for this kind of work.

#1/12mm straight chisel

#1/12mm Skew chisel

#2/3, 2/5, 2/12, 2/30mm Straight or Fishtail gouge

#3/6, 3/8, 3/12, 3,20mm Straight or Fishtail gouge

#5/6, 5/8, 5/12, 5/20, 5/25mm Straight or Fishtail gouge

#7/6, 7/8, 7/10, 7/14, 7/18mm Straight or Fishtail gouge

#8/4, 8/7, 8/10, 8/13mm Straight gouge

#9/5, 9/7, 9/13mm Straight gouge

#25/6, 25/10 Back Bent Gouge

#11/2 Veiner

Don't feel you need every tool but these are those used most often in this type of carving, the more the better. If you have more than listed, bring them all!

The student also needs to bring a 1 to 1.5lb round carver's mallet. While the school has some sharpening supplies bring your favorite sharpening supplies with you. It is advisable to bring a pair of fingerless gloves to help protect your hands while carving. And don't forget a note pad and pencils. It is encouraged that you bring a camera for still pictures as well!

While a lot of information will be covered, this is an informal class. The student will be able to go at their own pace and have a relaxing time in this fun filled week of carving!!