


Starter Project 1

The Celtic Knot

Website:

www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk

 Woodentops Wood Carvers

 #Carverofwood

YOU WILL NEED

- A rectangular piece of wood. It should be at least 1.5cm (just over ½ inch) thick, and preferably a little more. Lime is often used for carving, but other woods are good too.
- Preferably, use a clamp or workbench to securely hold the piece, but at the minimum use non-slip mat underneath the wood
- You will need a flat gouge and a curved gouge or two to roughly match the curves you are carving.
- **DON'T wear sandals when you carve, work in a good light and keep your sharp tools on a flat non-slip surface.**



Lay out the design on your workpiece in pencil. Be accurate. Rub out and start again if its not right (erasers work on wood).

Your shape now starts to appear.



Define the outer and inner edges of the shape with chisels and gouges. You can shade the under parts of the knots to help avoid accidentally cutting across the "over" parts.



Remove the pencil-shaded areas of the drawing with a tapered slice—starting at the high points and slice downward, but don't cut as deep as the background areas. Once all the pencil-shaded areas are removed, the woven design emerges.

Match curves with gouges that have the same curve (known as the 'sweep').

Now tidy up your design, and hey presto – you have your Celtic Knot. Finish with oil or varnish, or wax. 'Sander sealer' is often used.



Remove the background areas that surround the shape. Use both chisels and gouges for this and maintain a consistent depth of cut.



