

Norwegian Cultural Skills Program

Unit 12: Chip Carving

- Level 1: The Basics
- Level 2: Carving Borders
- Level 3: Carving Rosettes



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Heritage Programs
September 1993
Revised February 1997*

CHIP CARVING

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Unit 12: Chip Carving

INTRODUCTION

Chip carving, or *karveskurd* in Norwegian, is the decorative art of incising a geometric pattern into wood. Though, as with other crafts such as knitting, *rosemaling* and woodworking, it is not uniquely Norwegian. It flourishes, however, among those living in the valleys and farming communities such as Gudbrandsdalen and Setesdalen. In these areas, as well as many others throughout the country, typical everyday household items, such as wooden utensils, bowls and plates were adorned with chip carving.

The best way to learn any craft is directly from the craftsperson, but understanding that this is not always possible, take your time and patiently complete the program outlined here. *Lykke til!*

Guidelines

These are the same for all three levels. Please complete all the required starred items, one of the Optional Activities and a final report for each level. There is one set of Optional Activities for all levels.



Chip carving from 1730
Hardanger, Norway

LEVEL 1: THE BASICS

- *1. Acquaint yourself with the history of chip carving (a list of possible sources—available through Heritage Books or your local library—is attached). Write a short report and include in final report.
- *2. You will need to acquire a chip carving knife (available at most woodworking shops), a sharpening stone (hard Arkansas), a piece of basswood one foot long by 4-6 inches wide and a minimum of 3/8 inch thick and some extra fine sandpaper.
- *3. After studying various simple patterns, on a piece of paper, use a ruler and a fine-lined mechanical pencil to draw a small (3"x3") geometric pattern made up of straight-edged triangles. Include a copy in your final report.
- *4. Transfer the pattern onto the wood surface, being careful not to press too hard with the pencil.
- *5. Sharpen the knife as described in suggested reference materials.
- *6. Using proper hand and knife position, carve the pattern into the wood.
- *7. Carefully erase remaining pencil marks and sand lightly.
- *8. Include a photo of your project in your final report.

LEVEL 2: CARVING BORDERS

The border sets the tone of the carving and can vary from the simple, straight line to the more complicated and intricate use of curved line patterns.

- *1. The triangular chip: Practice drawing and cutting this border made up of rows of squares.
- *2. The curved chip: Practice drawing and cutting this border which results in a crescent-shaped chip.
- *3. The straight line chip: This accent is carved free-hand, without the aid of a ruler.
- *4. Enclose a photo of the above cuts carved into a basswood board in your final report.

LEVEL 3: CARVING ROSETTES

After mastering the basic techniques used in simple designs and borders, you are now ready to develop and carve the rosette pattern, designs created from a series of circles divided geometrically.

- *1. You will need a good mechanical compass.
- *2. Draw and carve the three, four, five and six-sided rosettes on a basswood board.
- *3. Draw and carve the seven, eight, ten and twelve- sided rosettes on a basswood board.
- *4. Submit a photo of the board on which the rosettes were carved in your final report.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

These are the same for all three levels.

1. Attend a chip-carving class offered through a local woodworking shop.
2. Attend a craft or woodworkers show and look for examples of chip carving.
3. Bring your carved item to a lodge meeting for display
4. Write a short report on chip carving for your lodge's newsletter.

Final Report:

This is the same for all three levels.

Document the procedure you followed to complete the project. Include photos where applicable. Fill out and include the final report form and questionnaire.

In Conclusion:

Once you have mastered the basic technique of carving various design patterns, borders and rosettes you will be ready to combine those elements to decorate anything from small basswood boxes to plates and bowls and even pieces of furniture. You might even want to experiment with different types of wood, such as butternut or birch, which lend themselves beautifully to chip-carved decoration.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

AUTHOR

TITLE

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Chip Carving, Techniques and Patterns
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Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1990.

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Chip Carving Patterns and Designs
Dover Publications, New York, 1977.

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Basic Chip Carving

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Dover Publications, New York, 1976

REPORT FORM

NORWEGIAN CULTURAL SKILLS PROGRAM

UNIT 12: CHIP CARVING, LEVEL 1



I have completed the requirements in Chip Carving, Level 1.

- I. Attached are:
1. My essay on Chip Carving
 2. Wood pattern drawing
 3. A color photo of completed project

II. I chose 1 2 3 4 (circle one) as my optional activity. My report and attachments are enclosed.

Name: _____ Lodge Name and No: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Sons of Norway Membership # (optional): _____ Tel. No. _____

Pin applied for: Generalist Specialist Mentor (check one)

Have you completed cultural skills categories before? Yes No If yes, please specify: _____

This report is for: Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 (Check one)

Signature (Applicant)

Date

Signature (Lodge Cultural Director/Social Director, Secretary or designated person)

Date

Complete Mailing Address (Cultural/Social Director, Secretary or designated person)

City State Zip

Signature (International Headquarters)

Date

REPORT FORM

NORWEGIAN CULTURAL SKILLS PROGRAM

UNIT 12: CHIP CARVING, LEVEL 2



I have completed the requirements in Chip Carving, Level 2.

- i. Attached are: 1. Wood pattern drawings of border designs
2. A photo of completed carved item(s)

ii. I chose 1 2 3 4 (circle one) as my optional activity. My report and attachments are enclosed.

Name: _____ Lodge Name and No: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Sons of Norway Membership # (optional): _____ Tel. No. _____

Pin applied for: Generalist Specialist Mentor (check one)

Have you completed cultural skills categories before? Yes No If yes, please specify: _____

This report is for: Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 (Check one)

Signature (Applicant)

Date

Signature (Lodge Cultural Director/Social Director, Secretary or designated person)

Date

Complete Mailing Address (Cultural/Social Director, Secretary or designated person)

City State Zip

Signature (International Headquarters)

Date

REPORT FORM

NORWEGIAN CULTURAL SKILLS PROGRAM

UNIT 12: CHIP CARVING, LEVEL 3



I have completed the requirements in Chip Carving, Level 3.

- I. Attached are:
1. Wood pattern drawings of rosettes
 2. A photo of completed board on which the rosettes were carved

II. I chose 1 2 3 4 (circle one) as my optional activity. My report and attachments are enclosed.

Name: _____ Lodge Name and No: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Sons of Norway Membership # (optional): _____ Tel. No. _____

Pin applied for: Generalist Specialist Mentor (check one)

Have you completed cultural skills categories before? Yes No If yes, please specify: _____

This report is for: Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 (Check one)

Signature (Applicant)

Date

Signature (Lodge Cultural Director/Social Director, Secretary or designated person)

Date

Complete Mailing Address (Cultural/Social Director, Secretary or designated person)

City State Zip

Signature (International Headquarters)

Date

FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please keep this original and make the necessary copies to complete your report.)

CULTURAL SKILL COMPLETED _____

INSTRUCTIONS: For each of the 7 questions below, please check the box which fits your opinion most accurately. The choices are: Agree (A), Neutral (N) and Disagree (D). It would be helpful for improving the unit if you would also add your specific comments in the space provided.

A N D

1. The instructions for this unit were easy to follow:
2. The requirements for this unit were reasonable:
3. There were enough varied choices for optional activities:
4. There were enough instructions and guidelines for doing the activities:
5. The unit provided interesting activities:
6. The unit increased my understanding of Norwegian heritage:
7. The unit promoted my involvement in the lodge:



SPECIFIC COMMENTS: In the space below, please add other comments and suggestions you may have with respect to this unit. Your comments are confidential and in no way affect the awarding of your completed pin/bar.

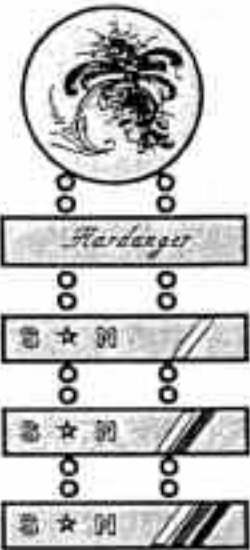
Return to: Fraternal Dept./ Culture
Sons of Norway
1455 W. Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

NORWEGIAN CULTURAL SKILLS PROGRAM PINS

REVISED POLICY (MAY 1999)

SPECIALIST*

The specialist pin is earned by people who wish to go into some depth in one area, e.g. *Hardanger* Embroidery. The pin was designed by Marilyn Olin, a Vesterheim Gold Medalist in *Rosemaling*.



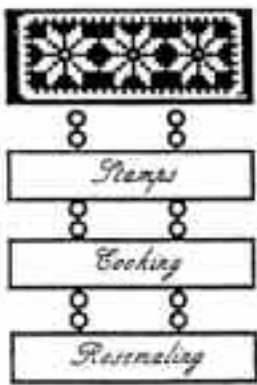
EXAMPLE

Kari decides, after completing the first part of *HARDANGER*, that this is a craft she really enjoys. She requests the specialist pin and receives the pin with two bars attached, one *Hardanger* and one designated for level one (one white stripe). She continues with level two of the requirements, and when these are completed, she is awarded the second level bar (one white and one red stripe). Upon completing the last level of the guidelines for *Hardanger*, she receives the level three bar with one white, one red and one blue stripe. See illustration.

GENERALIST

The generalist pin is awarded to any person who decides to sample several skills and qualify for the basic level (e.g. in stamp collecting, genealogy and a number of crafts), or any one part of the following units: Traditional Norwegian Foods, Reading Norwegian and Norwegian-North American Authors, Norwegian Language and Culture.

The design of the pin is based on the Selbu rose, chosen to honor the founding fathers of Sons of Norway who hailed from the Selbu community. It was designed by Krista Lauritzen and Liv Dahl.



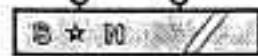
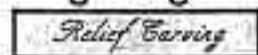
EXAMPLE

Let's say that Norman has completed the first level of *COLLECTING NORWEGIAN AND NORTH AMERICAN STAMPS*. He receives the generalist pin and a bar marked *Stamps*. He now wants to try *TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN COOKING*. Being a fisherman and hunter, he chooses part three, *Fish and Meat*. Upon completion of the guidelines, he is awarded the bar marked *Cooking*. Now he decides to try his hand at *rosemaling*. He signs up for a beginning course and completes level one, thereby having earned the bar *Rosemaling*. See illustration.

*Please note: Only one specialist pin is given per participant. Bars will be awarded to be affixed to the original pin. Thus one pin may reflect one or several activities.

MENTOR

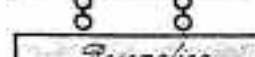
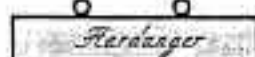
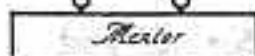
Many people are already skilled in the activities offered in the Norwegian Cultural Skills Program. To those, a different challenge is available: Become a mentor. A mentor is a person who becomes a formal or informal teacher, leading other individuals along the generalist or specialist tracts. The mentor is an extremely important person as he/she plays a key role in passing on the Norwegian heritage to others.



EXAMPLE 1

Meet John. He has spent a lifetime doing beautiful wood carving. He decides to become a mentor in his lodge by teaching relief carving. When he has taught a minimum of five people the basics of relief carving and they complete level one* of that activity, John applies for the specialist pin (he intends to continue teaching relief carving). He receives the specialist pin and three bars: Mentor, Relief Carving and level one. When at least three of his students have qualified for level two*, John receives his level two bar. If John can assist at least one* student all the way to the top, John is awarded the level three bar. See illustration.

*Note that these people must send in their reports to the Norwegian Cultural Skills Program.



EXAMPLE 2

Irene is cultural director of her lodge. She decides to get a number of cultural skills activities going. She starts a crafts club. She encourages the group to try knitting, *Hardanger* embroidery and *rosemaling*. Irene's strongest suit is *rosemaling*, but she knows enough about *Hardanger* embroidery and knitting to instruct her fellow members in the basics. Irene is on her way to becoming a mentor on the generalist track. When at least five of her fellow club members qualify for part one of *Hardanger* embroidery, Irene receives the generalist pin with two bars: Mentor and *Hardanger*. When five more of the participants qualify for part one of Knitting, Irene receives one bar: Knitting, and when yet five others qualify for part one of *Rosemaling*, Irene receives another bar: *Rosemaling*. See illustration.

SONS OF NORWAY

Norwegian Cultural Skills Program

Specialist	Person who wishes to go in depth in one area, e.g. Hardanger embroidery or genealogy, etc.
Generalist	Person who decides to sample several skills and qualify for the basic level in each, for example: stamp collecting, crafts, and Norwegian foods.
Mentor	Person who is skilled in activities offered in the Norwegian Cultural Skills Program can do a different challenge: mentor others who need formal or informal instruction. The mentor is an extremely important person in passing on the Norwegian heritage to others.
Master of Cultural Skills	Persons who have completed at least three levels of three different skills, or nine individual basic activities.

1. TRADITION NORWEGIAN COOKING

- Level 1 Your Favorites
- Level 2 Baked Goods and Desserts
- Level 3 Meat or Fish Dishes

2. READING NORWEGIAN AND NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN AUTHORS

- Level 1 Your Favorites
- Level 2 Fiction
- Level 3 Nonfiction

3. COLLECTING NORWEGIAN AND NORTH AMERICAN STAMPS

- Level 1 Collect General Norwegian and North American Stamps
- Level 2 Specialize Your Stamp Collection
- Level 3 Complete a Collection of a Ten-Year Period

4. NORWEGIAN ROSEMALING

- Level 1 Basic Strokes, Flower Form and Scroll
- Level 2 Completed Design
- Level 3 Create an Original Design

5. GENEALOGY—FAMILY HISTORY

- Level 1 Complete people 1-7 on a four-generation ancestor chart, etc.
- Level 2 Complete four more people on the ancestor, family group chart and document
- Level 3 Complete all information for 15 people on the charts—document and write an essay

6. HAND-KNITTING

- Level 1 The Basics
- Level 2 Knit with Two Colors
- Level 3 Create a two or multicolored sweater (based on Norwegian designs)

7. NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

- Level 1 The Basics of Norwegian Language
- Level 2 A Sampling of Norwegian Culture
- Level 3 A topic from Norwegian Language or Norwegian Culture

8. HARDANGER EMBROIDERY

- Level 1 The Basics
- Level 2 Complete a Larger Item
- Level 3 Using Your Skills in Creative Ways

9. FIGURE CARVING

- Level 1 The Basics
- Level 2 Complete a Detailed Carving
- Level 3 Complete an Original Carving

10. WEAVING

Track I

- Level 1 The Basics—Make a Sampler
- Level 2 Inkle or Card Weaving or Rigid heddle—Complete a Project
- Level 3 Create an Original Design

Track II—Floor or Table Loom Weaving

- Level 1 Produce a Sampler
- Level 2 Make a Finished Project
- Level 3 Create an Original Design

11. ORNAMENTAL WOODCARVING

- Level 1 The Basics
- Level 2 Flatskurd
- Level 3 Carve the Acanthus

12. CHIP CARVING

- Level 1 The Basics
- Level 2 Carve Borders
- Level 3 Carve Rosettes

13. FOLK DANCING

- Level 1 Easy Dances
- Level 2 Intermediate Dances
- Level 3 Advanced Dances

14. MUSIC AND MUSICIANS OF NORWAY

- Level 1 Folk Music: Roots of Norwegian Music
- Level 2 The 19th Century: Edvard Grieg & Contemporaries
- Level 3 The 20th Century: Composers, Performers, Conductors