Widow Maker's Crafternoon

EPISODE 123 · CRAFT GUIDE

Building-Up, or Appliqué Work

A stubborn nose doesn't need a new face, just a scrap of wood and glue.



From A Manual of Wood-carving (Leland, 1891) · public domain

"Seat it, ground it, glue it, carve it."

1. **Trace the Pattern**
   Take a panel and trace the pattern onto it.

2. **Leave the Seat**
   Leave a blank flat space of the original surface, of the precise size of the figures. This space is called the seat.

3. **Work the Ground**
   Work out the ground around the seat. Where the ground is a diaper, make it either by carving or by stamping.

4. **Cut Out the Figures**
   Once the diapered ground is finished, saw or cut out the figures.

5. **Glue and Carve**
   Glue the figures into their places and carve them, or carve them before you glue them on.

6 Match the Wood

Two pieces of wood are seldom of precisely the same quality and texture, so one may shrink or swell against the other and cause warping and splitting. Screws as well as glue sometimes remedy this, but the best preventive is to cut the ground and the piece glued on from the same well-seasoned wood.