

Carving Simple Figures or Animal Forms

Draw it, rough it, then let patient rounding turn a block into a hare.



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

"Copy it, draw it, rough it, then round it smooth."

1

Find a Model to Copy

Get a wood carving already done in Swiss style, or an unpainted wooden toy animal, and copy it. For a hare, the best method is to model one in clay after a dead one.

2

Draw the Animal

Draw the animal, and pay more attention to the general correctness of the sketch, such as the distances of the eyes and joints and the outlines of the legs and back, than to minor details.

3

rough It Out

rough the animal out first, and only once it is fairly roughed out move on to rounding the edges.

4

Round and Smooth the Edges

Very gradually round away the edges, then smooth the whole with files and glass-paper. Limbs can be rounded this way to a correctness good enough for initial ornamental work.