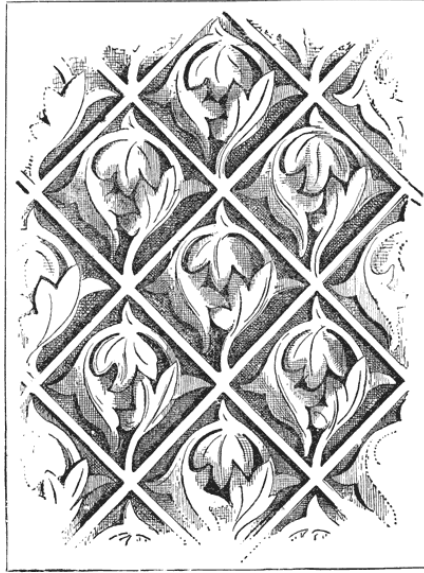


Diaper-Work

Diaper-work turns a tedious border into fast, regular work.



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

"Chess-board the ground, then repeat one shape square by square."

1

Draw the Grid

Draw a chess-board on the wood, then use diagonals to convert its squares into points up and down, squares, or triangles, or instead fill equal spaces with equilateral triangles, hexagons, circles, or pentagons. Choose two or three of these shapes and repeat them in regular order across the neighbouring spaces.

2

Stamp the Pattern

Practise first on waste wood, since it is not at first easy to stamp the figures at perfectly regular intervals, one the same as another. Punch or stamp into every dot of your chequered lines, or all along them, using a hammer or mallet, and with a little practice this work goes with great rapidity.

3

Cut with a Chisel

For simple shapes like squares, diamonds, and triangles, a firmer, the flat carver's chisel, or chisel alone is sufficient. Cut away one shape and leave its neighbour standing, alternating as you go, and take care to choose figures that fit together exactly.

4

Cut the Lines

Cut the lines of your pattern with a parting-tool or the smallest gouge, unless you are expert enough to use a chisel or firmer, the flat carver's chisel, instead. A V tool, a small gouge, a tracing-wheel, a tracer, or any rather dull-pointed instrument will also cut this line-work on a smooth surface, and filling the finished lines with dark brown or black paint gives a very pretty effect.

5

Cut Out and Excavate

Combine cutting lines with cutting out and excavating spaces, just as in ordinary carving. Keep the diapers modest rather than too ornamental or elaborate, since making them large will draw attention from the main pattern, unless the whole surface is diaper, in which case they may be as large and elaborate as you choose.

6

Transfer the Design

Cut the pattern out in duplicate on paper, paste the pieces onto the wood, and carve round them, then wet the paper and remove it thoroughly with a stiff brush. Or cut the pattern from card-board, thin brass, or wood and stencil it onto the wood with a lead pencil or a colour that will wash off, then cut away as before.

Practise until your fingers remember it. — Widow Maker · wmc.penguinboisoftware.com · a PenguinBoi Network show