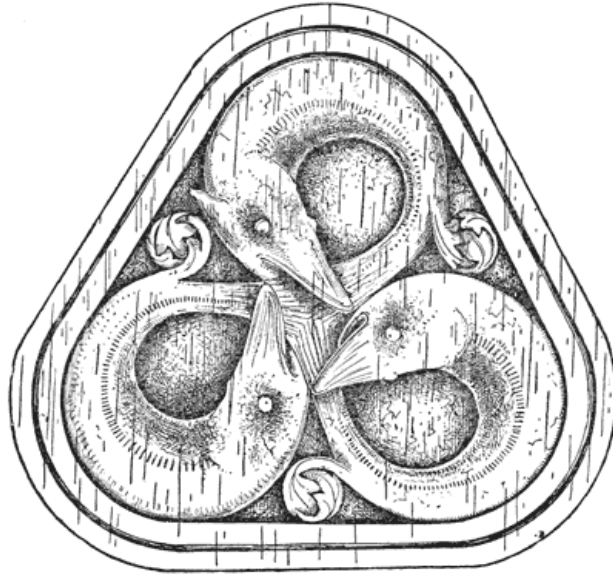


Finishing Off

Wood-carving has a 'no polish' rule, and a true artist breaks it exactly as he pleases.



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

"Chisel, then file, then glass, then oil, then rub, then hand."

1

Cut and Undercut

Draw your design on a panel about half an inch thick, more or less, and rough it out. Then very slightly undercut the figure, not completely but by rounding the edge a little, working first with the chisel, as neatly as possible.

2

File the Surface

Take up files next: use a bent file for smoothing grounds the curved tool cannot reach, since bent files come in every shape and curve. Use rasps and large rifflers for rough finishing, and small files for finer work.

3

Scrape and Glass-Paper

Once your work is in shape, scrape the ground flat with pieces of broken glass, a tool made for the purpose, or a chisel. Then finish further with glass or glass-paper, glass being greatly preferable, working with care.

4

Oil and Let Soak

If you are applying oil, lay it on the whole carving with a broad flat brush, using a smaller paint or camel's hair pencil for any places the brush cannot reach. Let the oil soak in for a few days in a warm room.

5

Rub with Soft Pine

Rub the carving with a piece of very soft pine wood, taking great care, since the harder you rub the better the polish but also the greater the risk of bending or indenting the surface. The longer you continue this polishing, the better the effect will be.

6

Finish by Hand

Give the very last finish by rubbing the carving with your bare hand. On certain kinds of wood and other substances this gives a peculiar polish that nothing else can produce.

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