

Flat Patterns Made with Cuts and Lines

Ink your design onto the wood, then carve away everything black you drew.



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

"Ink it black, cut it clean, keep the lines few."

1 Design the Pattern

Make the design so the patterns fit close together, or are separated only by lines. As a rule the work is little more than lines, though now and then a small corner or larger space may be removed with a touch of the tool.

2 Ink the Wood

The easiest way to prepare this work is to draw the pattern on the wood in Indian ink.

3 Cut Away the Black

Simply cut away all the black. Run the fine lines carefully with the V tool or the smallest gouge, cut the larger hollows with a gouge, and use a small firmer, the flat carver's chisel, for good practice if you like, though that is not usual.

4 Keep It Simple

Keep the outlines broad and bold, and take great care not to make too many lines, especially fine ones. Make the design as simple as you can, and stop as soon as you have shown what it is meant to be with as few lines as possible.

5 Colour the Lines

The lines and cavities may be filled in with colour, and look best when painted or dyed.

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