

Spot Cutting

A patient craft for a patient spider: little labour, lots of little triangles.



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

"Three cuts make a triangle; two more make it a diamond."

1

Cut the Triangle

Make the triangular incision with three cuts, using a skew or an ordinary chisel.

2

Make It a Diamond

Add two more cuts from the opposite direction to turn the triangle into a diamond, or cut the diamond at once with four cuts.

3

Arrange Your Spots

Draw your pattern in lines, and set the base of every spot on that line. The spots may join one another or stand separate, and may be large or small.

4

Cut a Cup Hollow

Place a gouge vertically and turn it to cut a cup-like hollow. A row of these is often very effective.

5

Fill With Contrast

Fill the cut spots with a composition or paint that contrasts with the wood, such as putty worked with a little mastic, or plaster of Paris with size, flour paste and one drop of oil to the ounce. They also look good blackened.