



WOODCARVING WORKSHOPS

MASTER CARVER CHRIS PYE

Tools for Chris Pye's Beginners Course

There are lots of carving tools. For this course I'm choosing three, with an optional fourth. Why these 3? Because they fit the low relief carving design. In fact I've made the design with these tools in mind, not the other way round. Having said that, these are also *very* useful. I find constantly on my bench and you'll not regret having them as you continue to carve. *Get yourself:*

1. Medium gouge: #6 (Pfeil cut #7) x 1/2in (14mm)

2. Very flat gouge: #3 (Pfeil cut #2) x 1/2in (14mm)

3. V tool: 60° degrees x 3/8in. (10mm)

Additional tools - optional:

Skew Chisel: (Pfeil 1S) x 3/8in. X 1/8in. (10mm) you can substitute a knife with a sharp corner.

Carver's brush: A washable scrub brush to clear shavings and keep the carving clean.

Carver's Mallet: Cylindrical, about 20oz (550g) – really useful when the wood is hard.

Wood

You'll actually need 2 pieces of wood, one for the sample board and another for the low relief carving. I've basing my design on A4 printer paper. You can readily adapt the designs to other dimensions of wood but to follow what I'm doing exactly and use the tools I'm using, you'll need 2 pieces of wood, each about the size of an A4 piece of paper.:

Length (along the grain) 11 3/4in. (300mm)

Width (across the grain) 8 1/4in. (210mm)

Thickness: 1in. (25mm)

Species: The sort of carving woods traditional European carvers use cuts readily with gouges and has an open grain (some air between fibres) that allows shavings to fall away: **Basswood (USA), Limewood (EU, UK), Jelutong, Brazilian Mahogany.** Tight-grained woods (no space between wood fibres) like Maple, Cherry or Beech and very hard and more suitable for sculpture and sanded finishes. I don't recommend them for what we are doing here.