

Letter carving an item of your choice

There are many approaches to letter carving depending on the font or shape of the letters, the wood and tools used. While some carvers use V tools or knives in this session the approach is that advocated by Chris Pye using gouges for incised lettering.

First step will be to discuss your project with Bob who will advise on suitable font and layout. Eg. House/letterbox sign, name plate, monogram. Bob will then provide a computer printout to be glued to the wood and carving will take place through the printout. Before starting I advise stop cuts to be pencilled in.

The session will begin with practise of four sample letters depending on your font, which will be glued to a piece of wood

The image shows the letters 'E', 'O', 'R', and 'M' in a large, blue, hollow outline font. The letters are spaced out and centered horizontally. The 'E' has a simple, slightly flared design. The 'O' is a simple circle. The 'R' has a classic serif-like shape with a curved top. The 'M' is a simple, blocky shape with a pointed top.

Cost

Small charge for sample may be necessary.

Timber

Either timber of your choice or what can be sourced.

Tools

Suitable gouges are necessary.

Choice will vary according to your choice of letters but the following is a guide for a selection. Any of the following can be fishtails.

No 1 Straight chisels widths 6 to 25mm

No 3, 5, 7 straight gouge widths 6 to 18mm

Brush, pencil

Bench, holding devices, sharpening equipment, mallet.

References

There are many YouTube videos with different approaches. The following follow the Chris Pye approach.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7iJITE9dJo&list=PL1nsSllkgfs8tygkXIo93xYSWBaaGlbDW&index=2> Starting with No. 2.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shf6AjPbVVg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K43xw9FU5iA>