

CARVING A SIMPLE

by Tim Swanson

WOODEN SPOON

Carving a spoon can be as easy or hard as you make it. They don't require much to make and can be carved from almost any shape or size of wood. Sitting around a campfire and talking with friends is my favorite place to carve in general. But carving a spoon to mix up the soup on the campfire certainly makes for a more special experience. Spoons make a great gift for any type of person, as everyone likes to eat! I remember one day where I bought a pint of ice cream at the grocery store, and really wanted to eat it in the parking lot. After finding a scrap of wood in the trunk of my car, I whittled out a "spoon shaped" piece of wood in about 30 seconds. Just don't ask me if I ate the entire pint of ice cream in one sitting.

What you need:

- Wood carving knife
- Hook knife (optional, as you can use coals from a fire to burn out the scoop)
- A piece of wood
- Sandpaper (optional, with a good sharp knife and smooth cuts you shouldn't need it)

Step 1: Obtain and Process Wood

Many species of wood work well for spoons. I have found that a lot of spoon carvers seek out walnut, birch, and cherry. The grain and ease of carving make those woods excellent for spoons, but I have also used oak, maple, hickory, cedar, pine, and lots of other non-poisonous woods. Green wood or seasoned wood can work, and both have their own benefits and drawbacks.

I prefer to use seasoned wood as I do not have to worry about any cracking if I choose to take a break from my project. However, green wood tends to be easier to carve. Start by cutting the length of the spoon you would like. Check for any abnormalities, cracks, or knots, as these can later ruin your spoon. A simple spoon blank can be made by splitting the piece of wood to make a thin board. This will make for a flat spoon that works great as an eating or cooking spoon.



Step 1: Obtain and process wood. The Flexcut Spoon Carvin' Jack Knife was used for this project.



Step 2A: Rough out the shape. I start by carving the end of the scoop.