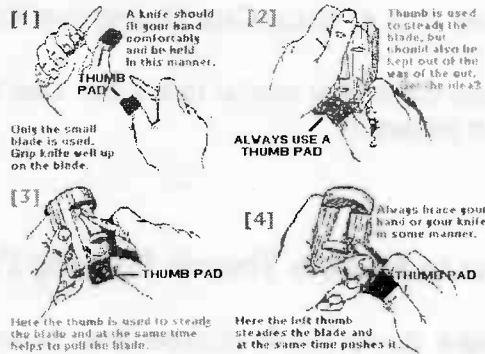


Tips for Carvers

Whittling Tips

To make a good kerchief slide, there are a few fundamentals one should follow:

- Use a knife with a 1.5" blade. The blade should be razor sharp so that it will cut across the grain as well as with the grain (growth lines).
- Basswood, Sugar Pine, or White Pine are the best woods for carving.
- Slides should not be too heavy or large. Four inches square is about maximum, and there should be no projecting points.
- Use masking tape to make a thumb pad for the thumb of the knife-holding hand. Practice carving to your padded thumb. Be careful how you hold the wood with the other hand.
- **THINK CAREFULLY** about the knife cuts before you make them. Take small cuts.
- Use sand paper to smooth over the rough edges and remove any ink.
- Use acrylic water-based paints for your colors. Finish with a clear coat of varnish, lacquer or polyurethane to seal and protect your carving.



The Four Basic Cuts of Woodcarving

Most carved pieces, with the exception of the more advanced pieces which require gouge cuts, can be completed with these four basic carving cuts.

Basic Cut 1: Thumb (Paring) Cut

This cut is similar to the paring cut used to peel vegetables and will be used for most of your carving. This method of carving toward yourself is frowned upon in some circles because of safety concerns. However, the thumb pad protects you from the blade.



Basic Cut 2: Push-Away (Levering) Cut

There are times when you need to carve an area that a thumb cut can't reach. This cut, which is made by pushing the blade away from you will accomplish that goal.

