

Canopy Symmetry

By Fraser MacLean aka Gear Up

Forward/prologue by Lou Vautour

Carving canopies has its own peculiarities. Making sure both sides are symmetrical has plagued me since my early days. However, my friend Fraser has come up with a sure-fire method of ensuring a perfect canopy every time. By kind permission, Fraser has allowed me to present his method. The following is a quotation from Fraser's post on Solid Model Memories.

1. The canopy is from spruce and the blank was stuck to a $\frac{1}{4}$ wide x 1-inch-high stick to allow carving. I used a strong double-sided tape called "sookwang" available from scrapbooking supplier. Widths are available from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. 90% of the shaping was done with a stick mounted strip of 120 grit sandpaper¹.



Note 1. Paint stir sticks available for free at most hardware/paint stores make excellent sanding tool. Application of a different sandpaper grit to each side doubles its value.

2. I used two lights either side of the project about 2 feet apart to give a strong shadow. I definitely made the work easier to visualize. Having the flat shop light was not going to help my eyes or the shaping. What looks like pencil shading on the canopy is actually the shadow cast from the light. Both sides are evenly lit, but the shape shows up nicely.



3. In the following pictures I passed a wire just above the canopy with the lights at either end. Moving it along front to back, the shadow shows the symmetry of carving really well so adjustment can be made. Sort of like a scanner. For it to work accurately, keep the rod level side to side and square to the canopy Center line while moving the rod







Prologue

Fraser's method is simple and highly functional as demonstrated in the two additional photos.

