

# Introduction to Spooncarving Workshop

## Course Description

In this workshop, students will develop the confidence to carve traditional wooden spoons from freshly harvested timber using a variety of axes and knives. Students will become familiar with spooncarving specific tools, safe carving techniques, and the fundamentals of working with green wood. If time allows, students may also be introduced to finishing techniques such as chipcarving, kolrosing, or painting with milk paint. Whether you are an experienced woodworker or just starting on your woodworking journey, there is a place in the workshop for you. Be aware, the craft of spooncarving is very addicting!

Please note that although this course is open to all levels, it does require a basic amount of hand strength and stamina.

Instructor will have spoons for sale, as well as spoon blanks and spoon templates for purchase for carving at home after the workshop.

## Course Details

Length: 4 hours

Skill Levels: Beginner to Advanced

Time & Date:

Registration Cost:

Instructor: Alex Brechbill

Instructor email: [abspoons@gmail.com](mailto:abspoons@gmail.com)

## Tools & Equipment (Optional)

**All tools will be provided by the instructor. If you are left-handed, please reach out to the instructor.** Below you will find a list of tools that you are encouraged to bring if you would like to use tools of your own.

### Encouraged to bring:

- Spoon knife
- Straight knife
- Axe/Hatchet

- Small hand saw/pruning saw
- Leather gloves
- Compass/divider
- Flexible straight edge
- Pencil/pen
- Chopping block

## Tools & Equipment Information

### **Spoon knife**

Essential knife for carving the bowl of spoons. The [Mora 164](#) is a great introduction tool. This knife comes in a right-handed or left-handed style, select your dominant hand. Order with a sheath. \$25-35

Instructor will bring the [Deepwoods Ventures short hook knife](#) for class use.

### **Straight knife**

Versatile carving knife, an essential tool for all woodcarving. Instructor recommends either the [Mora 106](#) and the [Mora 120](#). The 106 is longer (3.2") and the 120 is shorter (2.4"). The shorter knife is recommended for beginners. This knife does not have a right-hand or left-hand dominance. \$25-35

Instructor will bring both 106s and 120s for class use.

### **\*\*Spoon knife & straight knife kit\*\***

You can purchase [both knives in a kit](#) for \$50. **Caution:** the spoon knife is right-handed and comes with no sheath. Do not purchase knives/knife kits from [Beavercraft](#). They are very cheap and low quality.

### **Axe/Hatchet**

You will need a very sharp axe that is 1-2 lbs in total weight and 10-16" long. The instructor will bring enough for the class to use, however, you are encouraged to bring one of your own.

You can find an axe at Home Depot or Menards that would work well. Do not buy an axe that looks like [this](#). If you'd like to purchase one specifically for the class, there are two economy tools that instructor would recommend (but has not used personally)

1. [Fiskars X7 Hatchet](#)
2. [Council Tool Flying Fox](#)

### **Small hand saw/pruning saw**

You can find the [Fiskars Pruning Saw](#) at Home Depot, Menards, WalMart, etc for \$20. Look for a saw with a straight cutting edge, rather than a [curved cutting edge](#). The instructor will have a couple for students to share.

### **Leather gloves**

Not for safety, but to protect hands from blisters.

### **Compass/divider**

To scribe a perfect circle, you will need one of [these](#). However, you can freehand a circle if you'd like.

### **Flexible straight edge**

Helpful to make a centerline, can be done freehand, [12" Westcott straight edge](#) is a great choice.

### **Pencil/Pen**

Anything will work, but [Stabillo](#) pencils mark on anything, especially fresh wood.

### **Chopping block**

A chopping block is simply a chunk of wood that is about 12" in diameter and 12"-18" inches tall. The wood can be freshly cut or seasoned, it does not matter. Search Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, or neighborhood listings for firewood, and you will surely find a log suitable to use as a chopping block. You can also [purchase one](#) from Home Depot for \$105. You will also need a chair that has a seat at the same height or higher than the top of your chopping block.

You can also put your [chopping block with legs](#), so you can carve while you are standing.

## **Other Notes**

### **A quality hook knife**

Mora makes decent hook knives, however, there are several US/UK based knifemakers that make outstanding hook knives. Instructor recommends [this hook knife](#) from Paul Jones at Deepwoods Ventures in Minnesota. The knife cost \$62.93+taxes (free shipping on \$50 or more). It is a great upgrade to the Mora 164.

Instructor recommends the following:

- Blade length: small
- Right or left: your dominant hand
- Handle options: 8" (you pick the species of wood, oak is cheaper)
- Add a sheath: Yes

### **Videos**

Here are some of my favorite YouTube videos breaking down how to carve a spoon in the traditional style:

- Barn the Spoon (silent carving, no instruction) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6GLVE1JONc>
- Adam Hawker (how to) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g26JmlDpO0E>
- Maryanne McGinn (how to) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLpvujKcE3c>
- Will Priestly (how to) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StwCVXW5Ya0>

### **Books**

My favorite books for spooncarving are:

- Spoon by Barn the Spoon
  - [https://www.amazon.com/Spoon-Guide-Carving-Wood-Culture/dp/1501182765/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543205416&sr=8-1&keywords=barn+the+spoon](https://www.amazon.com/Spoon-Guide-Carving-Wood-Culture/dp/1501182765/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543205416&sr=8-1&keywords=barn+the+spoon)
- *Swedish Carving Techniques* by Wille Sundqvist
  - [https://www.amazon.com/Swedish-Carving-Techniques-Fine-Woodworking/dp/1627106731/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543205376&sr=8-1&keywords=wille+sundqvist](https://www.amazon.com/Swedish-Carving-Techniques-Fine-Woodworking/dp/1627106731/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543205376&sr=8-1&keywords=wille+sundqvist)