



Spoon Carving Course Schedule

Duration: 1 Day
Tutor: Samuel Alexander

Aim: To equip participants with the skills to safely and independently make a spoon from green wood using axe, straight knife and hook knife.

Welcome, housekeeping and introductions

Spoon Talk and Stretches!

We'll have a group discussion about spoons, have a think about the kind of spoon we want to make and look at some examples.

Objectives:

- Learn some spoon terminology: bowl, handle, shoulder, keel, facets
- Discuss some examples of spoons made by LGW members and think about a design for our own spoons
- Design a spoon orientated along the grain of the wood

Axing Out

Start using an axe to shape the wood into a spoon blank. Creating a symmetrical, triangular profile.

Objectives:

- Understand axe geometry and terminology
- Practice good, safe axing techniques to prevent wrist strain
- Start to shape your spoon

Break

Taking a break is important to regain focus and stop your arms getting sore!
Stretches!

More Axing

Continue to work on the shape of the spoon blank. Take care not to damage the bowl of the spoon. Begin to sculpt with the axe.

Objectives:

- Finish axing the depth of the spoon
- Shape your spoon's shoulders
- Shape your spoon's handle

Carving the Bowl

Using the hook knife, carefully hollow out the bowl of the spoon. Draw a penny size circle in the middle of the spoon. Carve a smooth, even dimple hollowing out the circle, working across the grain. Gradually increase the size of the hollow and establish depth, being careful not to go too thin!

Objectives:

- Learn to use the hook knife safely
- Gradually hollow out the bowl of your spoon
- Understand the cutting directions used in the bowl of the spoon

Lunch. Stretch!

Finish Carving the Bowl

Keep on gradually hollowing out the bowl, try to make long thin shavings to refine the surface inside the bowl of your spoon.

Objectives:

- Finish hollowing the bowl of your spoon
- Create a nice smooth finish inside the bowl of your spoon
- Leave a small rim around the bowl

Carving the Rest of the Spoon

We'll learn four different grips for carving with a straight knife. Each grip is useful for different types of cut and parts of the spoon. You'll need all of them to finish carving your spoon.

Objectives:

- Get familiar with the four knife grips
- Start to define the handle, shoulders, rim and back of the bowl
- Learn to use the knife safely

Break. Stretch!

Finish Carving Spoon

Continue to use the new knife skills you've learnt to refine the handle, back and rim of the bowl.

Objectives:

- Safely use a knife to finish off your spoon
- Use the range of knife grips appropriately
- Make a beautiful spoon

