Relief Carving on Gunstocks

(Course is NOT available for credit toward the Gunsmithing Technician Certificate)

Learn to personalize your mass-produced gun stock making it worthy to be passed on to future generations.

Hugh Toenjes has 36 years of hand-crafted experience in the gun making field having received instruction from such renown artisans as: J. Bivins, J. Chambers, M. Mandarino, S. Alfono and K. Mulford. Hugh is a member of the ACGG, FEGA, CLA, KRA, NMLRA, ALR forums and the NRA.

hjt65@hotmail.com

Hugh Toenjes

Gunstock Carving

(watch the website for updates to the tool/supply list)

1. First Day
   A. Introductions
      a. Instructor
      b. Students
      c. Learning the nature of wood
      d. The response of wood to dampness
      e. Types of carving
         1. Incised carving
         2. Low relief carving
         3. High relief carving
         4. Sculpted carving
      f. Types for gunstocks
         1. American versus European style
   B. Types of tools for this class
      a. Small set of chisels - basic 3, 1/8” flat, ¼ gouge, vainer with heel
      b. Sharpening stones
      c. Sand paper 180-600 grit
      d. Carving knife
   C. Proper sharpening techniques
      a. the reason for creating a heel
D. Questions

2. Day Two
   A. Introduction to the ingredients of a classic design
   B. Types of designs
      a. Foliages
         1. Acanthus leaves
         2. Oak leaves
         3. Grape vines
   C. “Golden Mean of Proportion”
      a. Study the old Masters
      b. Stay with the classic designs
   D. Pattern transfer
      a. design directly on stock
      b. Transfer design from sketch to wood
      c. The composition of a scroll or volute
      d. The flow of a design
   E. Draw a design
   F. Questions

3. Day Three
   A. Making first cuts in wood for low relief
      a. Pattern transfer
      b. Sizing tracing paper
      c. Draw with soft lead pencil 4B-6B
      d. Redraw pattern on the wood
   B. Using the carving knife to chase
      a. Use of the small flat chisel to remove the “ground” around the design
      b. Feathering the “ground”
   C. Adding the inside features of the design - “modeling”
   D. Questions

4. Day Four
   A. Modeling by using the gouge and the vainer
      a. Sand papering beginning with 180 grit and finishes with 600 grit
      b. Smoothing interior design and ground
      c. Raising “whiskers”
      d. Final correction before staining
   B. Adding silver wire to relief carving
   C. Questions

5. Day Five
   A. Applying finish to the low relief carving
   B. Beginning the hand rubbed wood finish process
      a. Applying sealer
      b. Starting the hand rubbed procedure with choice of
         1. Tung oil
         2. Polyurethane
3. Boiled linseed oil
4. Your own concoction
c. A commercial product such as
   1. Linspeed
   2. Tru oil
   3. Pro custom oil

C. Final finish of the project
D. Questions

*******************************************************

*