
Subject: Carving a scorpion tail tutorial

Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 10:57:04 GMT

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OK, here's a quick show of how it all comes together:

First, I take an .jpg of the real Nod logo and proportionally resize it to whatever size logo I want to make. Then I print it out in sections, glue those sections together to make one large printout and carefully cut it out:

As you can see, it's just a piece of paper laying on the frame. This gives me the exact shape and size of the logo (scorpion tail here) so I can trace around it onto a piece of wood. In this case, it is two Southern Yellow Pine boards at 3/4" thick. The scorpion tail is about 17" x 13".[/img]

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Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 10:59:14 GMT

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Next, I use either a jigsaw, scroll saw, band saw, or in the case of this one, a coping saw to cut out the shape:

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Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:00:27 GMT

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Once it is cut I normally use a Dremel with a sanding drum on it to rough out the curves and make it more 3D:

After the roughing out is done, I'll use hand carving chisels to fine tune it and clean up all the areas that the Dremel can't get into.

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Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:01:33 GMT

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Then, I'll start to sand it all down smooth to get out all the roughness to it:

Subject: Carving a scorpion tail tutorial
Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:03:25 GMT
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Once it is all sanded smooth, I put on some primer and then paint it what color it needs to be:

Here you can see I used flat black to paint it. I like using flat colors because they dry faster and if there are any imperfections in the paint job, it's easier to sand down and repaint.

Subject: Carving a scorpion tail tutorial
Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:04:34 GMT
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Once I'm satisfied with the paint, I'll put a few gloss coats over it to give it a nice shiny appearance, and it protects the paint as well:

Subject: Carving a scorpion tail tutorial
Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:05:47 GMT
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And there you have it!

Subject: Carving a scorpion tail tutorial
Posted by [pulverizer](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:10:51 GMT
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Good tutorial. But ehj, Can you send me a jpg file of the scorpion tail? I'm trying to make one too. But I think I make the tail from mdf though. hm, or would that be a problem with sawwing? And can I make it Smooth with mdf?

Subject: Carving a scorpion tail tutorial
Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:18:40 GMT
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The only problem with using MDF is that it soaks up paint like a sponge and then gets "fuzzy". Once you carve it and sand it and prime it, you have to sand down the rough areas and re-prime it. Continue sanding and priming until the surface is nice and smooth.

One trick I learned is to use silver paint to find any imperfections. Because it is reflective you will be able to see any low or high spot, dent, or scratch on the surface.

This is the one I used.

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Posted by [pulverizer](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:27:52 GMT

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I'd better use massif wood instead of mdf then. I forgot I had that problem with painting mdf. I had to paint a mdf plate for 3 times before it stopped soaking up paint. I still need to buy some "basic" tools like chisels and such.

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Posted by [JeffLee67](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 11:40:28 GMT

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Go for it! Just remember to start with something small. Don't try and make the biggest one as a first project.

Subject: Carving a scorpion tail tutorial

Posted by [pulverizer](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 12:21:05 GMT

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Yeah I know. But I work with wood all day. Since 3 months now. I make stairs and furniture. All I need is tools at home.

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Posted by [Xtrm2Matt](#) on Thu, 25 Nov 2004 15:54:09 GMT

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Great work as usual Jeff!

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Posted by [drunkill](#) on Sat, 27 Nov 2004 02:50:08 GMT

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who are ya selling that one too jeff?

you need to make the background all cool and stuff, like the picture. nice work as normal.
