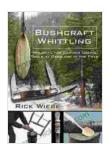
## Projects for Carving Useful Tools At Camp and In The Field

Carving useful tools from wood is a skill that can be learned by anyone with a few simple tools and some practice. It's a great way to make use of natural resources, and it can be a fun and rewarding activity. In this article, we'll provide instructions for carving a variety of useful tools, including spoons, bowls, cups, walking sticks, tent pegs, fire starters, and whistles.



#### Bushcraft Whittling: Projects for Carving Useful Tools at Camp and in the Field by Rick Wiebe

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#### **Tools and Materials**

The basic tools you'll need for carving are a knife, an axe, and a spoon knife. You can also use a variety of other tools, such as a saw, a drill, and a chisel, but these are not necessary. The type of wood you use will also affect the difficulty of the project. Softwoods, such as pine and cedar, are easier to carve than hardwoods, such as oak and maple.

#### Safety First

Before you start carving, it's important to take some safety precautions. Always wear gloves and eye protection, and make sure your work area is clear of obstacles. Be careful when using sharp tools, and never carve towards yourself.

#### **Carving a Spoon**

A spoon is one of the most basic and useful tools you can carve. To make a spoon, you'll need a piece of wood that is about 6 inches long and 2 inches wide. Start by cutting a notch into the end of the wood, using your knife or axe. Then, use your spoon knife to carve out the bowl of the spoon. Be sure to keep the bowl thin and even. Once the bowl is carved, you can use your knife to shape the handle of the spoon.

#### **Carving a Bowl**

A bowl is a versatile tool that can be used for eating, drinking, or storing food. To make a bowl, you'll need a piece of wood that is at least 6 inches in diameter. Start by cutting a circle into the wood, using your knife or axe. Then, use your spoon knife to carve out the bowl. Be sure to keep the bowl thin and even. Once the bowl is carved, you can use your knife to shape the rim of the bowl.

#### Carving a Cup

A cup is a great way to enjoy a hot drink while you're camping or hiking. To make a cup, you'll need a piece of wood that is about 4 inches in diameter. Start by cutting a circle into the wood, using your knife or axe. Then, use your spoon knife to carve out the inside of the cup. Be sure to keep the walls of the cup thin and even. Once the cup is carved, you can use your knife to shape the rim of the cup.

#### **Carving a Walking Stick**

A walking stick can help you to maintain your balance and stability while you're hiking. To make a walking stick, you'll need a straight piece of wood that is about 5 feet long and 1 inch in diameter. Start by cutting the wood to the desired length. Then, use your knife to shape the handle of the walking stick. Be sure to make the handle comfortable to grip. Once the handle is shaped, you can use your knife to carve a point into the other end of the walking stick.

#### **Carving a Tent Peg**

Tent pegs are used to secure your tent to the ground. To make a tent peg, you'll need a piece of wood that is about 12 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. Start by cutting the wood to the desired length. Then, use your knife to carve a point into one end of the tent peg. You can also use your knife to carve notches into the other end of the tent peg, which will help to keep it from slipping out of the ground.

#### **Carving a Fire Starter**

A fire starter can help you to get a fire going quickly and easily. To make a fire starter, you'll need a piece of wood that is about 3 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. Start by cutting the wood to the desired length. Then, use your knife to carve a notch into one end of the fire starter. You can also use your knife to carve notches into the other end of the fire starter, which will help to create sparks.

#### **Carving a Whistle**

A whistle can be used to signal for help or to communicate with others. To make a whistle, you'll need a piece of wood that is about 6 inches long and

1 inch in diameter. Start by cutting the wood to the desired length. Then, use your knife to carve a notch into one end of the whistle. You can also use your knife to carve notches into the other end of the whistle, which will help to create sound.

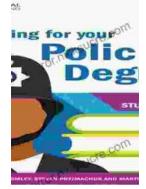
Carving useful tools from wood is a skill that can be learned by anyone with a few simple tools and some practice. It's a great way to make use of natural resources, and it can be a fun and rewarding activity. The projects in this article are just a few examples of the many useful tools that you can carve. With a little imagination, you can create your own tools to meet your specific needs.



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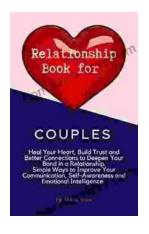
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