

Need Some Relief?

In this session I will share with you my relief carving techniques using a rotary carver. You'll see, step by step, the technique I use to create my "leaf wrapped" vessels. Due to time involved I will just focus on two overlapping leaves.

I'll begin with a discussion of the types of rotary carvers and why I prefer a micro-motor. When carving on a vessel how I determine my wall thickness and which bits I use for each step.



Steps:

1. Begin by laying out the pattern. Taking time to think about what leaf will be on top and how pattern will follow around piece.



2. Trace around the pattern. Erase any extraneous lines as you go. Use colored pencil if need be.



3. Begin by establishing the background areas. I use one of the midsize straight burrs to create my stop cut.



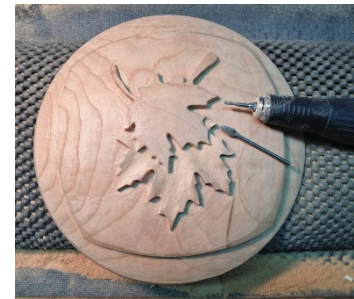
4. Remove background quickly with Typhon or Kutzall burr.



5. Refine the background areas. I use a modified cutter to clean up the edge and establish final depth.



6. Begin to shape and separate the leaves. I start with the one that is visually the bottom leaf.



7. Continue to shape leaves before you do undercutting.



8. Undercutting. This gives you that shadow line that lifts the leaves off the piece.

9. Surface texturing. Do you want smooth leaves, incised or proud veins?

