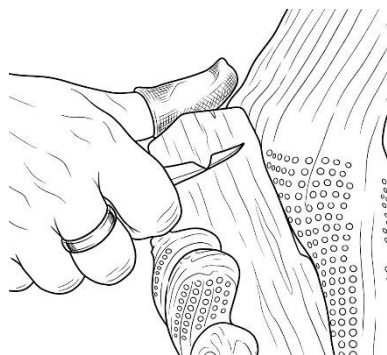
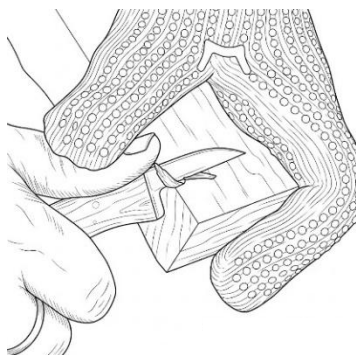


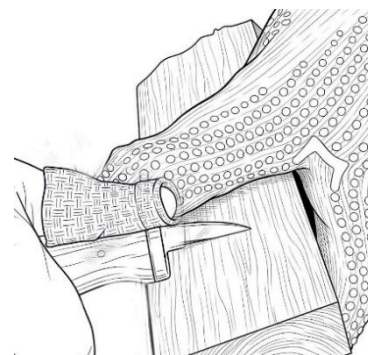
Basic Cuts for Woodcarvers



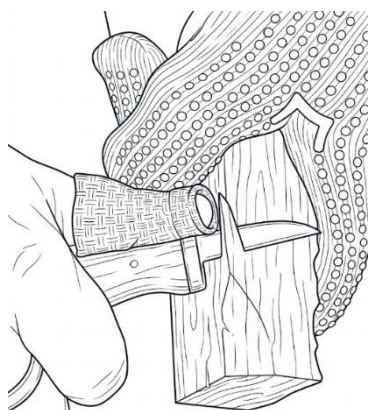
Paring cut—the standard woodcarving cut. Hold the knife in your hand with the blade pointed towards your thumb. Cut off small slices of wood by closing your fingers and pulling the blade towards your thumb. Most carvers wear some sort of thumb protection when making the paring cut.



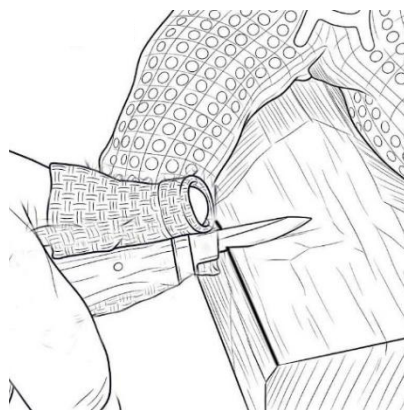
Thumb-push cut—the second most common cut. Reverse the blade so it is pointing away from you. Place your thumb on the back of the blade and brace it with your other thumb. Use your thumb as a pivot as you rotate your wrist and rock the knife through the wood. It's used to add control when making delicate cuts.



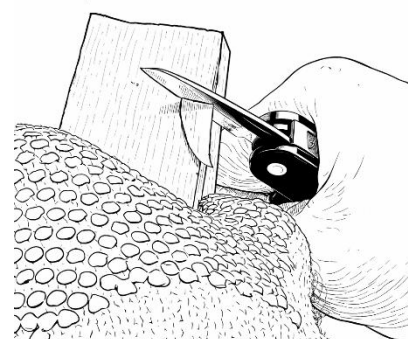
Slicing cut—hold the knife with the blade down and a finger bracing the back of the blade. Pull the knife towards you as if you were slicing a piece of meat.



Whittling cut—used when removing large amounts of wood with a knife. Hold the blank in one hand and the knife in the other. Hold your wrist stiff and use your entire arm to push the knife away from you through the wood.



Rocking cut—press part of the knife into the wood and force it deeper by rocking the knife back and forth. Normally used to make stop cuts deeper or when chip carving.



Stop cut—a cut straight down into the wood (usually a rocking cut or a slicing cut) that is used to make hard lines or to prevent the cutting tool from cutting beyond that point—it "stops" the cut.