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The Little Book Of Whittling: Passing Time On The Trail, On The Porch, And Under The Stars



Synopsis

With a friendly, down-home style, this guide encourages readers to whittle away the hours. Great for beginners looking for an easy way to get started and more advanced carvers looking for a relaxing way to spend their time, this instructional manual provides 20 projects, including knives, forks, birds, animals, trees, and flowers. Chapters detail the proper whittling tools and materials, including what woods are best to carve, and how to start projects by selecting and safely sharpening the best knife for each project.

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Customer Reviews

I was so impressed by this little book that I bought a copy for each of my adult children, along with a Victorinox Swiss Army Tinker, and a few other sharpening tools and materials, as well as a block of Basswood. They will be admonished to learn this skill and when the time is right, pass the skill and tools along to my grandchildren... or let me enjoy doing so. This is the first of two great books I have found for learning to whittle; the other is Whittlin' Whistles by Rick Wiebe. Both of these books are filled with illustrations and detail of technique for maintaining your pocketknife to whittle as well as

be successful in the projects. On-line one can find instructions for whittling a whistle, a ball in cage, and other items, but a well-illustrated book is more effective. Another booklet I have found is *Whittling for Beginners* by Salty; this is available only from select Woodcarving stores. Lubkemann's book is a great resource for not only teaching the skill of whittling, but also it offers snippets of outdoorsman and woodlore knowledge covering a very broad range of topics - reminiscent of the *Boy Scout Handbook* or *Field Book* of years ago. Ten of his 90 pages cover topics of pocket knife selection (he prefers the versatility of the Swiss Army Tinker), sharpening, and whittling cutting techniques. Lubkemann's projects are drawn from art and utility from the out-of-doors, covering spoon, fork, spreader, carved figures, walking stick, sling-shot, whistle, and more. His raw material is the fallen branches found almost everywhere except for the densest urban setting. Highly recommended.

Chris Lubkemann has produced an excellent second book to follow his first one on whittling branches and twigs (see my review of his other title). This book is just the right size for the camping kit, backpack, briefcase, or glove compartment. Further, I am impressed with the physical quality and durability of its construction. These comments may seem trivial until one fully appreciates the usefulness of this piece. As usual, Lubkemann's writing is clear and concise, giving the reader the feeling that he truly intends to be understood. The photographic illustrations are clear and uncluttered, and the "Tip Boxes" inset periodically throughout the text are helpful and entertaining. The ideas and projects presented are complete and can stand alone, but, more than that, serve as a springboard for one's own ideas and whittling designs. This is a true benchmark of good writing, in my opinion. My eleven-year-old son and I have already discussed whittling some "fancier" hot dog roasting sticks for a spring campout. I'm glad I own both of Lubkemann's books and would be hard-pressed to choose between them. My recommendation is to purchase both titles and save the shipping costs.

I love to camp and a friend gave me this book along with a Swiss Army Knife...I never saw myself as a "whittler" and now I'm hooked. The projects are fun, easy, and don't require a whole lot more than some twigs and some sitting still. And a bonus -- it includes useful camping tips and delicious recipes for outdoor staples such as peanut butter smores, gorp, and lemonade.

This book has very detailed instructions accompanied by step-by-step photographs. It teaches you how to carve several different things (spoons, forks, knives, stick figures, flowers, and walking sticks

among them) from twigs.

There are a great many books on woodcarving out there, but precious few on the simple pleasures of whittling figures out of fallen branches and cuttings. This is the perfect introduction to for the novice whittler who is looking for some basic information on choosing a knife, sharpening it, and using it. The good news is that you don't need an assortment of expensive, specialized blades; a properly prepared, inexpensive, single bladed knife will do just fine.

I went to a local wood hobby shop and looked at several carving/whittling books. This one looked good so I bought it on ebay and saved some \$. I'm a total novice, so this book was perfect. Full of photographs that explain every step. No previous experience necessary. Tip: I've managed to cut myself a few times so I'm wearing gloves until my technique improves. A very relaxing pastime. Highly recommended. If you are wondering which beginners book to buy then buy this.

We got this for our 13 year old son to go along with a Swiss Army knife. We have a lot of trees and consequently, lots of branches to whittle. Despite the snow and cold weather, he was outside whittling the next day. Most of the projects are very simple. I like that the book has plenty of full color illustrations. Like most 13 year old boys, my son would rather quickly delve into the "action" of doing these projects. The illustrations allowed him to do this because there wasn't a plethora of reading material to work his way through before beginning the fun stuff.

My 9 yr old son loves this book. Whittling is a new hobby for him and this is a great starting book!

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