

Carving a Basked Weave Hollow form



First step: Turn a hollow form – easy right?

The main thing to remember about this project is that there are no hard rules – do it however is makes sense to you and mistakes are just happy accidents – (thank you Bob Ross)

Also, note, you will be sanding a lot later, so there is not too much need to sand the initial form. Just get is smooth – 120 or 180 grit will do it (IMHO)

- Try to limit the wall thickness to around $\frac{3}{16}$ – $\frac{1}{4}$ " - too thin will limit your freedom when carving

Set 'vertical' lines

- I usually use 24 lines (15 degrees) because that is what is available on my lathe, but you can use whatever you want – I have done 12 degrees also (30 lines)
- You can use an aftermarket indexer if your lathe doesn't have one – or even a tape measure
- It is helpful to have a platform to use as you draw the lines. But a straight edge (and an eraser) will work, too.

Set 'horizontal' lines

- I usually set these at 1cm, because that is easy and it seems to work pretty well, you can use any measurement you want.
 - You will be drawing in the lines later if you don't like the way things are looking, sandpaper makes a great eraser



Optional step: use a punch to mark the intersections of each line

- This step is not really necessary, especially if you use a brad point drill bit. But, I find it makes things easier when drilling (even with the brad point).

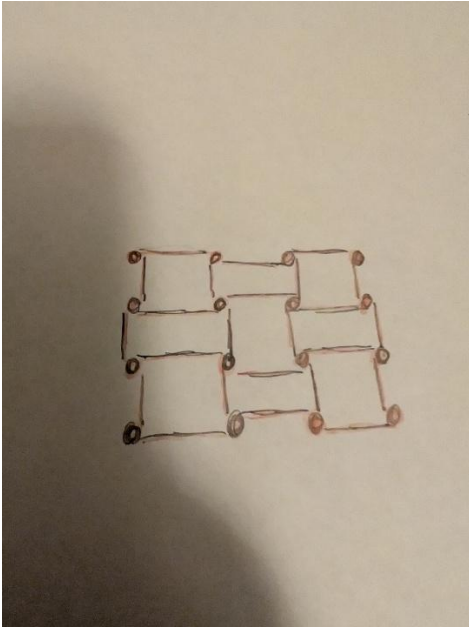
Drill small holes at every intersection

- I recommend a 1/8" brad point bit, but something larger might be ok too (it will give a more open weave look)

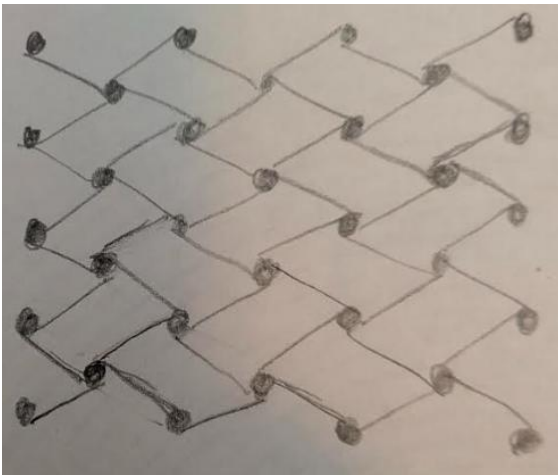
Erase all the lines – I know - - but this step is VERY helpful

Draw in new lines using the outside of the drill holes to make your pattern – this can be horizontal/vertical, or can you do diagonal (I have examples of both)

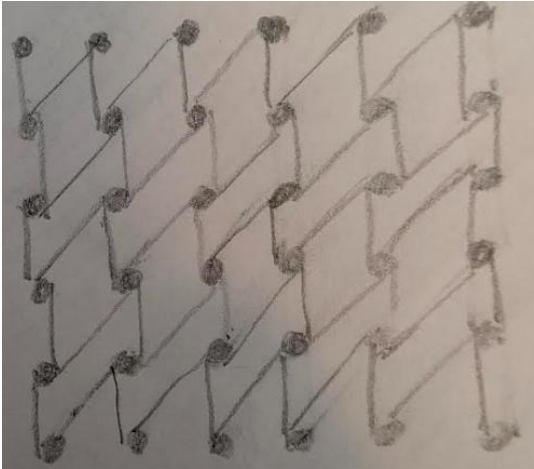
- Basic Pattern:



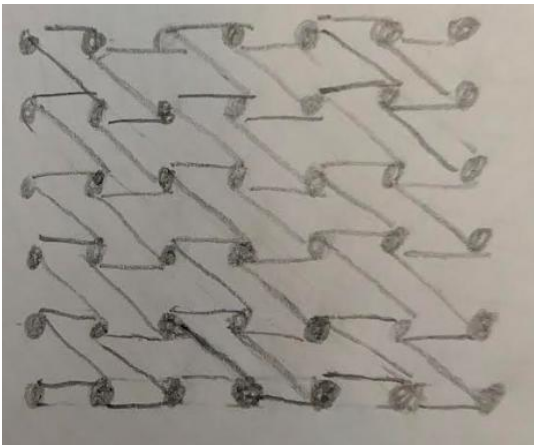
Diagonal/Diamond Pattern:



Diagonal #1:



Diagonal #2:



- Drawing reference lines is not 100% necessary, but trying to do the carving without the reference lines will lead to mistakes (I speak from experience)



Next step: Carve... a lot of carving... simple carving but a lot of it - - Basically: lather, rinse, repeat

- I use a couple of different chisels
 - Pfeil palm chisel 5mm
 - Flexcut chisels of various sizes
 - Flexcut slipstrop to keep the chisels sharp (this is critical – Keep your tools sharp)

Square up the drill holes

- I use a 3mm or smaller chisel to make the edges look more like the wood is woven together. You can also use a small square file to clean up the edges
- This step is also not totally needed, but I think it looks better (you make the call)

Round over edges of the carvings so that the wood looks like it was woven into the basket weave.

Then, everyone's favorite – sanding... A lot of sanding

- I use a Micromark mini sander and adhesive backed sandpaper cut into small squares – available on Amazon

- A detail sander with sanding belts can also be useful- available on Amazon and Rockler

Finish? Whatever you like - -I have use Shine Juice, Tung Oil, Hard Wax Oil, and Howard Feed-N-Wax

- Buffing can be tricky as there are a lot of places for a cloth or a buffing disk/pad to get caught so be careful