

Kit List

www.sarahvigarsart.com/tutorials

This **Kit List** has been written to accompany my **Carve a Puppet Fish** tutorial series at www.sarahvigarsart.com/tutorials. To take part, you will need to purchase one of my **Carving Kits**, which are available in my online shop (www.sarahvigarsart.com/shop). **Video 1** of the series shows you what is inside a carving kit, and takes you through the **tools, paints and equipment** that you will need to complete the project, which are also itemised on this kit list. I recommend viewing **Video 1** alongside reading this document.

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Carving Knives

There are two carving knife manufacturers I would recommend: **Flexcut tools (USA)** and **Beavercraft tools (Ukraine)**.

In these tutorials I will be demonstrating with a **3-piece knife set**, manufactured by **Beavercraft** (listed below). However, **you can complete this project using just a single knife**. Your choice of knife will depend on if you prefer speedy carving or detailed carving - see my recommendations below.

Of course, you may already have a knife of your own. For roughing out this project, it helps if the blade is at least 1 inch long. For carving detail, it helps if the tip of the blade is a fine point, rather than a chunky one.

Item	Description	Where to find (UK)	Where to find (non-UK)
Beavercraft carving knives A Ukrainian company, with a UK stockist	S15 Starter Chip and Whittle Knife Set and Accessories An excellent set of knives. It contains: C16 Roughing knife C15 Detail knife C6 Chip carving knife Leather strop Stropping compound Tool roll	The current UK stockist for Beavercraft tools: Cyclaire Knives and Tools >>>follow link for the knife set	You can order directly from Beavercraft tools (Ukraine) . The S15 knife set can be found here: >>>follow link
	C16 Roughing Knife A good all-round knife if you prefer speedy carving without the fiddly details!	Cyclaire Knives and Tools: >>>follow link	Beavercraft Tools: >>>follow link
	C15 Detail Knife This knife is perfectly workable for roughing out small projects such as this one, AND it's also great for carving fiddly details. A good all-round knife if you want to take your time.	Cyclaire Knives and Tools: >>>follow link	Beavercraft Tools: >>>follow link
	C6 Chip Carving Knife This knife is intended for carving geometric patterns (not suitable for roughing out)	Cyclaire Knives and Tools: >>>follow link	Beavercraft Tools: >>>follow link
Flexcut carving knives Based in the U.S.A, with worldwide stockists	KN14 Roughing Knife A good all-round knife if you prefer speedy carving without the fiddly details!	Axminster Tools: >>>follow link G&S Specialist Timber: >>>follow link Swansea Timber and Plywood: >>>follow link	If you live in the USA, you can order directly from Flexcut tools. Their full range of carving knives can be found here: >>>follow link If you live outside the USA, Flexcut have many stockists all over the world. For a full list visit: >>>follow link
	KN13 Detail Knife This knife is perfectly workable for roughing out small projects such as this one, AND it's also great for carving fiddly details. A good all-round knife if you want to take your time.	Axminster Tools: >>>follow link G&S Specialist Timber: >>>follow link Swansea Timber and Plywood: >>>follow link	
	KN13 Chip Carving Knife This knife is intended for carving geometric patterns (not suitable for roughing out)	Axminster Tools: >>>follow link G&S Specialist Timber: >>>follow link Swansea Timber and Plywood: >>>follow link	

Sharpening Equipment			
Item	Description	Where to find (UK)	Where to find (non-UK)
Knife strop and compound	<p>OPTION 1 (recommended)</p> <p>To keep your knife blade sharp and polished, you will need a leather strop with polishing compound or strop paste.</p> <p>There are <u>three brands</u> that I would recommend Flexcut (USA) Beavercraft (Ukraine) Connell (UK)</p> <p>I explain stropping in Video 2 of the tutorials.</p>	<p>Connell double-sided leather strop and compound https://www.axminstertools.com/connell-double-sided-leather-strop-502500</p> <p>Flexcut knife strop and compound https://www.axminstertools.com/flexcut-knife-strop-504666</p>	<p>USA: Flexcut knife strop and compound https://www.flexcut.com/home/product/pw14-flexcut-knife-strop</p> <p>Europe: Beavercraft's range of strops with compound https://beavercrafttools.com/collections/accessories</p> <p>For worldwide Flexcut stockists https://www.flexcut.com/locate-a-dealer/</p>
	<p>OPTION 2 (budget)</p> <p>If you need to save a bit of money, you can source some leather to use as a strop instead. Glue the leather to a rigid surface, such as plywood or thick card (UHU glue works well with leather - see glues section). You will still need to dress the leather with compound or strop paste (see opposite)</p>	<p>Axminster Blue Polishing Compound https://www.axminstertools.com/axminster-blue-polishing-compound-105924?glCountry=GB&gclid=EAIaIQobChMImbqG4dHr6wIVA7TtCh07wgqSEAWYAyABEgLnD_BwE</p>	<p>PW11 Flexcut Gold Polishing Compound https://www.flexcut.com/home/product/pw11-flexcut-gold-polishing-compound</p>

Additional Carving Equipment	
Item	Description
Leather finger guard	In these tutorials I wear a leather 'finger guard' to protect the index finger on my carving hand. You can make one yourself by sewing a small piece of leather into a tube. I hand-stitched mine using a bradawl, a needle and button thread. Ideally, use flexible leather so that your hand doesn't feel restricted by it.

Dyes, Paints and Oils

You can paint the fish puppets however you like! In **Video 5** I will demonstrate my own staining and painting techniques, and below is a list of the **dyes, paints and oils** I use, with links to suppliers.

Item	What's it for?	Description	Where to find (UK)	Where to find (non-UK)
Water-based wood dyes	<p>In Video 5, I will use an orange water-based wood dye to stain the body of fish no. 2</p> <p>I like using wood dyes because the grain of the wood shows through the dye.</p> <p>They are also eco-friendly, solvent free and non-toxic, making them very enjoyable to use!</p> <p>Colours can be mixed.</p>	<p>OPTION 1</p> <p>Bolgers are the brand of wood dyes I use (based in the UK). You can buy different colours as individual 100ml bottles. There are lots of vibrant colours to chose from.</p>	<p>Bolgers water-based wood dyes:</p> <p>https://bolgers.co.uk/collections/wood-dyes?page=1</p>	<p>Unfortunately Bolgers do not ship worldwide, so you may need to research an alternative brand of water-based wood dyes. Here is another brand you could try:</p> <p>Mixol Universal Pigment, set of 10 colours:</p> <p>These dyes will need diluting in water. This is an American brand:</p> <p>https://www.woodcraft.com/products/mixol-10-piece-woodworkers-tones-set?via=5d112bea776f6f4e030006e2%2C5d112e45776f6f2c76000622%2C5d1132a1776f6f1ffa000fa9</p>
		<p>OPTION 2</p> <p>I have researched an alternative brand of water-based dyes, in case Bolgers are unavailable. Liberon produce a set of concentrated dyes in 15ml bottles. These dyes will need diluting in water</p>	<p>Liberon concentrated water-based wood dyes, set of 8 colours:</p> <p>https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Liberon-Water-Based-Concentrated-Wood-Dye-15ml-All-Eight-Colours-Available/392216074958?epid=1905560137&hash=item5b51e65ace:g:NR8AAOSw8a9cPemR</p>	

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Item	What's it for?	Description	Where to find (UK)	Where to find (non-UK)
Chalk paint	For painting solid areas of white on fish no 1 . I use chalk paint as a natural alternative to using acrylic paint, or other plastic-based paints.	Chalk paint has a matte texture when dry. It usually comes pre-mixed and is often branded as 'furniture paint'. You can buy sample pots of 125-150ml. There are various brands available (see examples opposite)	RUST-OLEUM chalky finish FURNITURE PAINT 'Chalk White' (125ml tin) The Range: Follow link... B&Q: Follow link... Homebase: Follow link...	Europe Nordic Chic FURNITURE PAINT 'White' (150ml tin) Follow link... USA Dixie Belle Chalk Paint 'Cotton' 40z Follow link...
Danish oil	I use Danish Oil to seal the orange water-based dye into the wood, making the finished surface water-resistant. Danish oil also adds a polish/lustre to the surface of the wood	I use Rustins Danish Oil , which I buy from my local hardware shop. Most hardware shops (chains or independents) will stock a brand of Danish oil. You will only need a small bottle eg. 250ml	Available at most hardware shops. https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/i.html?from=R40&trksid=p2380057.m570.l1311&nkw=rustins+danish+oil&sacat=0	For world-wide stockists of Rustins products: https://www.rustins.ltd/rustins/stockists Or look for an alternative brand of Danish Oil in your local hardware shop
Acrylic paint	In Video 6 , I use acrylics for painting various touch-ups. The colours I use are black, vermilion and yellow ochre .	Acrylics are fast drying with a silk finish when dry. I recommend Daler Rowney acrylic paints .	Available from most art suppliers. https://www.jacksonsart.com/daler-rowney-graduate-acrylic	Acrylic paints are available from most art suppliers world wide. Visit your nearest art shop or search online for your nearest supplier or brand!

Glues				
Item	What's it for?	Description	Where to find (UK)	Where to find (non-UK)
<p>Araldite 2 part epoxy</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Gorilla glue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For gluing the puppet's eyes in place For attaching the handle to the control rod For attaching the control rod to the puppet 	<p>For fast setting glue, use RAPID Araldite, which sets in 5 minutes. There are alternative brands: search for '2-part epoxy glue' if you can't find Araldite.</p> <p>If using Gorilla glue, you need water activated polyurethane glue (bonds stone, metal, ceramics, glass, wood and foam)</p>	<p>Available in most hardware shops.</p> <p>The product webpage for Araldite, complete with stockists: Follow link...</p> <p>The product webpage for Gorilla Glue, complete with stockists: Follow link...</p>	<p>Visit your local hardware shop or search for 2-part epoxy glue online to find your nearest supplier or brand.</p>
<p>UHU all purpose adhesive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For gluing the leather tails and fins 	<p>UHU glue is clear and fast drying. It is temporarily adjustable. It also stays flexible after setting, making it suitable for gluing leather.</p> <p>(This is also the glue to use with leather if making your own strop for sharpening)</p>	<p>Available in most hardware shops and craft shops</p> <p>Product webpage: https://www.uhu.com/en/product-page/the-all-purpose-adhesive/5114</p>	<p>Search for either UHU glue or Bostik glue to find a supplier near to you</p> <p>Here is a USA based seller of UHU glue on Ebay: Follow link...</p> <p>Bostik glue is another multi-purpose glue, available outside of the UK: link here</p>

ALLERGEN ADVICE - relating to the dyes, paints, oils and glues used in these tutorials

- **Rustins Danish oil** should be used in a well ventilated area (follow health and safety guidance by the manufacturer). It conforms to The Articles in Contact with Food Regulations and to the Toys (Safety) Regulations 1995, BS:EN71 Part 3. However, please note that Danish Oil contains tung oil which is extracted from nuts, and may therefore be unsuitable for severe nut allergy sufferers. Use at your own discretion, or contact [Rustins Ltd](#) for more information about their products.
- **Araldite glue** and **UHU glue** are toxic if consumed and can cause skin irritations. Keep away from children. If you have sensitive skin you can wear gloves when using these glues. Both glues are also toxic if inhaled so use them in a well ventilated area, or wear a mask.

Assembly Tools and Equipment

Most of these items can be found in hardware shops, craft or hobby shops.

Item	What's it for?
Pencil	For drawing in details before carving
Fine wet and dry sandpaper: 600-1200 grit	For smoothing small areas of the puppet, before staining/painting. For adding texture to the paint finish for a 'distressed' look
Paint brushes and palettes	For use with wood dyes, chalk paint, Danish oil and acrylic paint. Jam jar lids work well as palettes!
Pipettes	For transferring wood dyes from bottle to palette with minimum waste (I bought mine on Ebay!)
Scalpel or craft knife	For cutting out the leather tail and fins. I use a Swann and Morton scalpel, handle no 3 with no 10a blade: follow link...
Cutting mat or thick scrap card	For cutting onto with a scalpel (see above)
Ruler	To assist with cutting out the leather. A steel ruler is best
A small fine tooth hand saw	For slicing up the segments of the fish after carving and for removing the holding stick I use a small Japanese pull saw which I HIGHLY RECOMMEND! I will explain more in Video 6 . Here is a link to the saw I use: Follow link... (A junior hacksaw or coping saw with a fine-tooth blade could work as an alternative)
Medium or coarse sand paper: 120-240 grit	For sanding down the segments of the fish
A small vice or clamp	For holding the fish in place whilst sawing it into separate segments. This could also be useful for holding the fish in place for gluing.
Small wire cutters	For trimming the eye fixings
Small pliers or tweezers (NOT essential)	To assist with fitting the eyes
A 6mm drill bit (NOT essential)	For deepening the eye sockets by hand, if needed

Other Consumables	
Item	What's it for?
Jay cloths	For storing your carving tools and for cleaning brushes
3 in 1 multi-purpose oil	For storing your carving tools to prevent rust
White spirit or turpentine	For cleaning your brushes, if you are using Danish oil or oil/spirit based paints
FIRST AID KIT: plasters, antiseptic wipes, plaster tape, antiseptic cream, gauze swab, sterile dressing and bandages.	Just in case!

Appendix: further sharpening equipment		
Item	Description	Where to find (UK)
Super fine wet stone (<u>NOT</u> essential)	Frequent stropping with a strop will keep your tools sharp and well maintained, However, I find occasional, very gentle sharpening with a VERY FINE sharpening stone can help to renew the edge. Therefore, in the long run, you may find it useful to invest in a stone, though it is not essential for this project.	This is a good, affordable option for a beginner carver. I use the super-fine (6000 grit) side with Flexcut tools (and only very occasionally!) I use the medium (1000 grit) side for sharpening other carving tools, which are made from thicker steel. This stone will need submerging in water before use (it is not an oil stone) Ice Bear Japanese Water stone – Combination 1,000/6,000 grit https://www.axminstertools.com/ice-bear-japanese-waterstone-combination-1-000-6-000g-510469