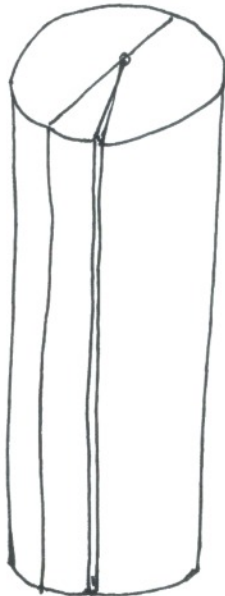


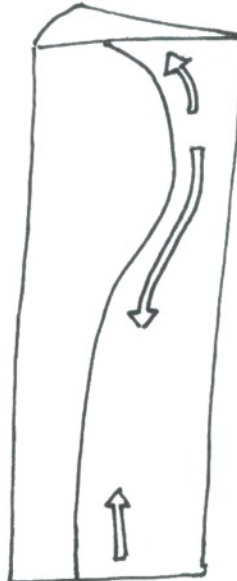
Carve

a butter spreader

Carving a butter spreader is one of the first projects I use to introduce students to green wood carving. It requires 1 knife, teaches about grain direction and is a small enough project that if people have limited hand strength they can carve one relatively quickly.



1. Select a knot free branch about 3 inches wide and 6 inches long. Split it and then split off wedge shaped pieces. You will have better luck splitting in halves, then halves again, then eighths.



2. Draw the shape of your butter spreader. Stay away from the inner edge a bit. It can be weak from splitting. Carve in the direction of the arrows so that you are carving with the grain.



3. Thin the blade. I like the back to be $1/8$ to $3/16$ of an inch wide and the cutting edge about $1/16$ of an inch wide. Try to use heavy slicing cuts starting at the back of the blade and slicing down to the tip.



4. Remove the hard corners of the spreader by chamfering the edges with your knife.