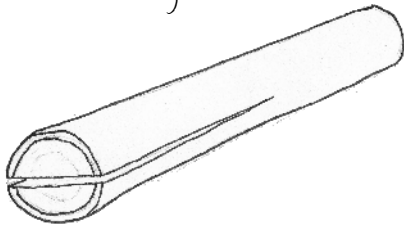


# Carving Buttons

Carving buttons is a quick and easy project that will hone your skills with both a straight knife and a hook knife without the time investment that a spoon takes. You will also need a small drill, gimlet or awl for making holes.

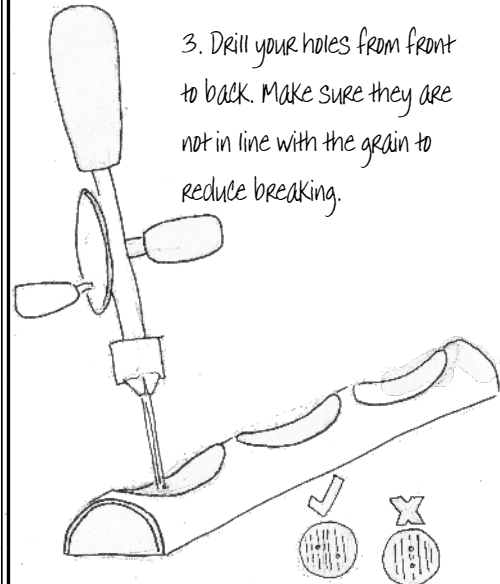
1. Find a branch roughly 1 inch in diameter and split it down the middle. Try and keep it free of knots, but if there are knots, you can work around them. Longer is better than shorter.



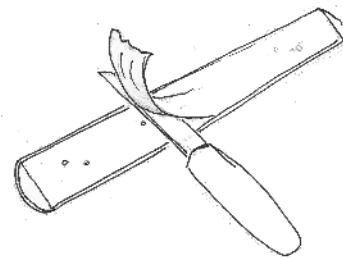
2. After splitting, use your hook knife to make depressions in the bark side of one half. Leave yourself at least 1/8 of an inch of thickness for final finishing. You may want to leave yourself a length that is uncarved as a handle.



3. Drill your holes from front to back. Make sure they are not in line with the grain to reduce breaking.



4. Flatten, thin and smooth the back.



5. Gradually start cutting out all the buttons. Don't do the end and work one button at a time or you will be left with too little to hold well. Reduce them all gradually until you can easily cut them all off with your knife.

Congratulations! You've made buttons!

