

Twig Bead Carving

A LA MARTIN HAZELL (MR. THE CREATURE)

One of the simplest projects you can carve is little twig beads. They just take a straight knife and a piece of wire. A fun beginner's project I learned from Martin Hazel.

1. Start with a twig that is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter. You need to be sure that the twig has a soft center pith. You may need to experiment with varieties to find twigs that work for you.



2. Carve around the stick in one direction. Make sure you get close to the pith, but try not to break through. You may need to go round a couple of times.



3. Go around again from the opposite side. It can be helpful to carve over a table, chopping block or a board in the lap as a stop if you are afraid of carving through prematurely.



4. Break or carve off the bead. You may want to clean up the end with your knife, but you don't have to.



5. Use a small piece of wire (a paper clip, needle, or small drill bit) and poke through the pith. You may find it helpful to mount it to a handle if you are going to carve many of them.

