

Carving Dice!

You won't take these dice to Vegas, but for a fun game around the table a few wonky dice aren't bad. The best part is you can make them any size and decorate them as you like. They are a quick project and I will often have a couple in my pocket to give to kids when traveling.



1. Select a branch that is about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch in diameter and long enough to hold comfortably. About 6 inches is fine. Try to avoid knots.

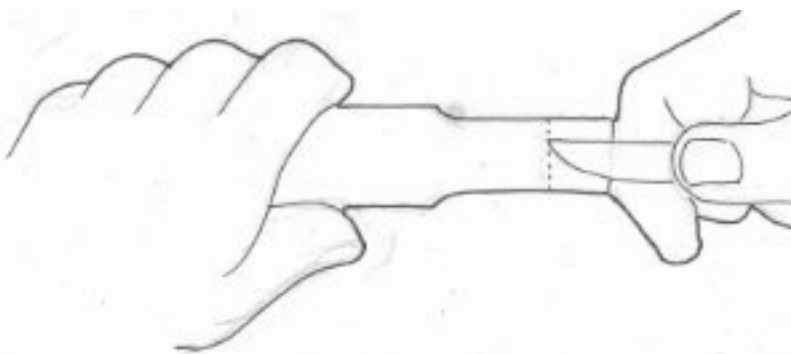
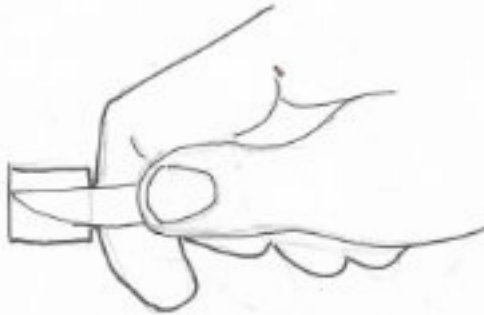


2. Cut off the side at least 2 or three times as long as you think the dice will be. This gives space for a long flat.



3. After one flat is established, rotate the branch and cut another flat 90° to it. Go around the branch until the end looks square. Adjust as you go along.

4. To measure the die, place your knife across the end so the point just touches the opposite side. But your finger against the side of the blank while gripping the blade. That gives you the measure you need to transfer to the length.



5. Without moving the hand holding the blade, flip the wood and place it on the side of the stick. Lift your knife to poke a hole, then draw a line around the stick at that point to show the width.



6. Cut a notch all around the stick just a little wider than where you marked. This allows for the width of the saw blade when cutting off your die. You may want to go around and bevel all the corners at this time too. Once you are done, cut off the cube and carefully clean up the cut end. Paint as you like!