



CARVEWRIGHT™

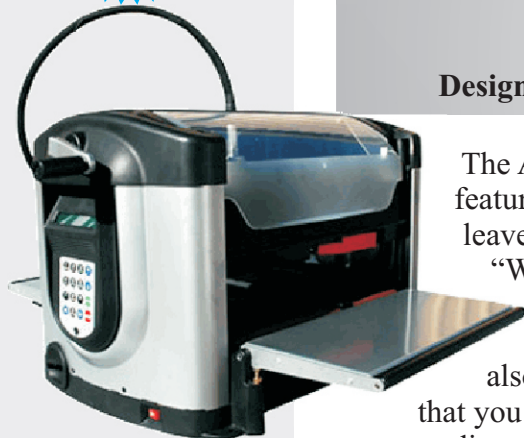
WOODWORKING SYSTEM

PROJECT
BASIC
DIFFICULTY

PROJECT TUTORIAL

Autumn Wreath

Designed for CarveWright™ by Michael Tyler - www.carvebuddy.com



The Autumn Wreath project features a ring of intertwined Oak leaves and Acorns with a "Welcome" plaque to greet your guests as they arrive to your home! The project also includes a "plain" plaque that you can customize with your own wording and/or patterns.

The project uses just the two bits that came with your machine. No other bits are required.

The finished, assembled wreath is about 16½" in diameter x 1½" thick.



Main items you will need:

1) The Project Files (included):

- Autumn_Wreath_TOP.mpc
- Autumn_Wreath_BOTTOM.mpc
- Autumn_Wreath_WELCOME.mpc
- PLAIN_Wreath_PLAQUE.mpc (for custom text and patterns, if desired)

2) Boards with the following dimensions:

Top and Bottom: .75" x 9.2" x 24" (two)
Plaque: .75" x 5.5" x 24" (one)

NOTE: Do not use boards that are shorter in length than specified above.

3) 1" long # 6 Wood Screws (four)

4) Sandpaper, wood glue, CA wood adhesive, wood stain and/or paint and clear finish

5) A Dremel-type rotary tool with assorted sanding wheels and bits to sand small details and speed up preparation for finishing.



STEP 1

Start your Designer software and open the .mpc files. (Fig. 1a)

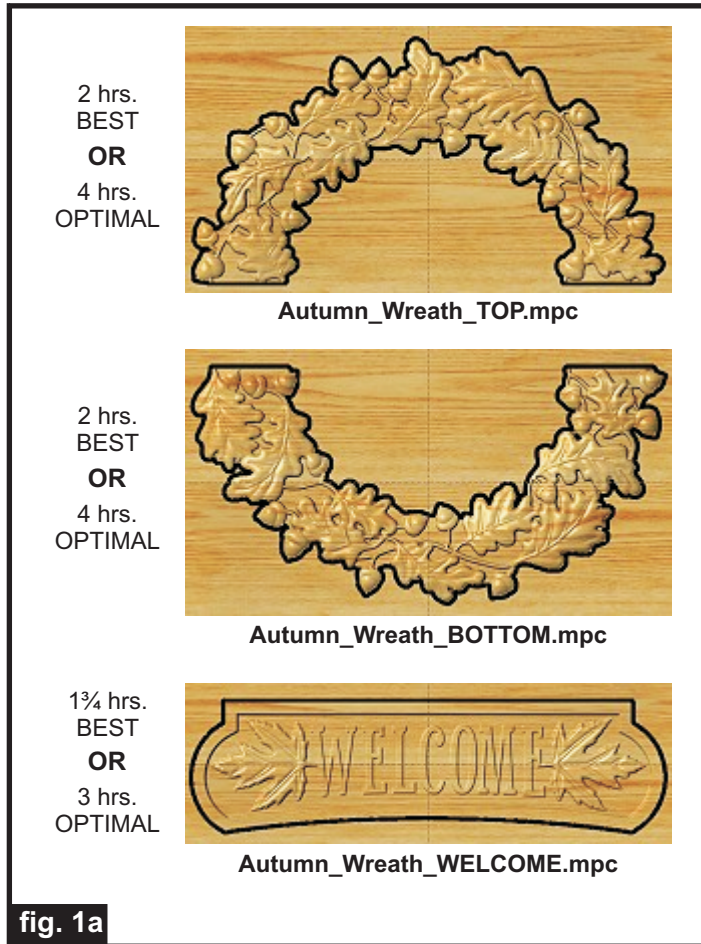


fig. 1a

All you need to do at this point is upload the project files to your memory card. (File/Upload). When you upload, you may or may not get a pop-up window with an "Auto-Jig" warning message (Fig. 1b)

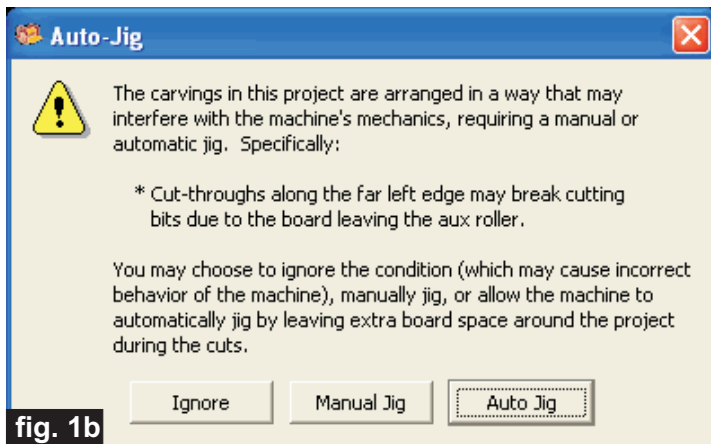


fig. 1b

If you do see the message, you may safely click on "Ignore" because our actual boards will be large enough that it won't cause any problems at all. After each project is compiled, select "Best" or "Optimal" for the File Quality setting. (I recommend "Optimal".)

Click "OK" and upload each mpc project file to your memory card. Insert the card into your machine and load a board that measures the appropriate dimension specified for each particular mpc (see page 1 for board dimensions). Turn on your machine and proceed with the standard project setup in Step 2...

STEP 2

You will see "Project Menu" on your LCD display. Press "1" and scroll to **Autumn_Wreath_TOP.mpc** project, and press the green ENTER button to select it. Then follow the additional prompts....

- **Stay Under Rollers** - press 1) YES
- **DO NOT RESIZE or SCALE the projects!** If prompted, always keep the original size. No scaling!
- **How To Place** - press 1) Center
- **Cut Board to Size?** - press 2) NO
- **Select Cutting Bit: 1/8 "Cutting** - Press ENTER. The machine will move the bit holder to the center of the machine in preparation for the bit installation.
- **Load Bit:1/8 "Cutting** -Insert your 1/8 " cutting bit, then press the green ENTER button. (homes, etc.)
- **Select Carving Bit: 1/16 "Carving** - Press the green ENTER button. (Moves to center of machine.)
- **Load Bit: 1/16 "Carving** - Remove the 1/8 " cutting bit, and insert your 1/16 " carving bit, then press the green ENTER button. After homing and finding surface, the machine will begin the carving process.
- **After it is done carving, you will be prompted to load your 1/8 "cutting bit.** Take out the 1/16 " carving bit, then insert your 1/8 " cutting bit, remove excess sawdust debris from the machine, then press the green ENTER button. Cutouts are always performed last, after all raster carving is completed.

(cont.)

Autumn Wreath

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STEP 2 (cont.)

- The machine will now proceed to perform the cutout as it moves around the component outline. It leaves little tabs to hold the part in the board. When the machine is finished, remove your board and clean your machine of excess sawdust.

- Repeat the entire procedure for the remaining mpc files.

You can customize the PLAIN_Wreath_PLAQUE.mpc, as an alternative to the Autumn_Wreath_WELCOME.mpc.

When the machine is finished, remove your board and clean your machine of excess sawdust.

Your boards will look like this (fig. 2)



Autumn_Wreath_TOP.mpc



Autumn_Wreath_BOTTOM.mpc



Autumn_Wreath_WELCOME.mpc

fig. 2

STEP 3

Separate all the pieces from the boards with a utility knife or hobby saw (fig. 3a)



fig. 3a

Use a Dremel-type tool to sand off the tabs and sand all the components to remove any fuzzies and undesirable tool marks. I use a variety of abrasive bits to clean up the edges and buzz off the tabs quickly and efficiently. (fig. 3b)



fig. 3b

I also use 3M Radial Bristle Discs from www.mcmaster.com to safely remove fuzzies from carvings without loss of detail. (fig. 3c)



fig. 3c

Glue the two halves together on a flat surface covered with waxed paper. I used wood glue and CA wood adhesive (super glue for wood) to tack the parts while the regular wood glue cured. (fig. 3d)

NOTE: The glue seams will be hidden by the plaque.



fig. 3d

Autumn Wreath

(cont.)

STEP 5 - Finishing

Apply stain/paint and clearcoat of your choice. Here's what I used on my Autumn Wreath made from Select Pine:

Welcome Plaque...

- applied Minwax Natural stain #209 overall (helps seal end grains)
- applied Minwax Special Walnut stain #224 (within a few minutes of the Natural #209 application)
- sanded tops of letters and scuffed leaves for contrast
- applied several spray coats of Krylon clear acrylic

Wreath...

- applied Minwax Natural stain #209 & allowed to dry
- applied 2 light spray coats of Krylon clear acrylic
- painted leaves and acorn caps with acrylic craft paints
- 2 more coats of Krylon clear acrylic
- Minwax Cherrywood Gel stain #607 as a brush-on-brush-off, glazing technique over entire wreath
- applied several spray coats of Krylon clear acrylic



Initial Stain Application

Sand Letter Tops



Scuff Plaque Leaves



Gel Stain Application as a glaze on Wreath

STEP 6 - Final Assembly

Position the plaque on wreath, as desired (to span over the joint seams) and temporarily tape in place. (fig. 4a)



Turn the wreath over and drill four countersunk holes from the back side for the #6 wood screws (above and below each glue seam). Be careful not to drill too deep so the screws won't poke through the front side. (fig. 4b)



Fasten the plaque onto the wreath with the screws to complete your project. (fig. 4c)



IN CONCLUSION

I hope you enjoy your Autumn Wreath for many seasons to come!

Happy Carving!

Michael

Materials Source Page

- **3M Radial Bristle Discs** from www.mcmaster.com
(stack 3 discs at a time on your rotary tool mandrel)

80-grit: part # 4494A19

220-grit: part # 4494A18

(also available from <http://www.ottofrei.com>)



- **TiteBond CA Wood Adhesive and CA Activator** from www.rockler.com



Krylon Clear Gloss Acrylic
from WalMart™

Miscellaneous Items Purchased at Lowes™

- **Minwax Stain - Natural # 209, Special Walnut #224, Cherrywood Gel Stain #607**
- **Disposable Brushes and Paint Rags**
- **1 inch long, #6 Brass Wood Screws**

Additional Resources

RESOURCES...

There are numerous resources for the CarveWright/CompuCarve owner to make their experience with these machines much more enjoyable.

Every owner should join the CarveWright User Forum (<http://forum.carvewright.com/forum.php>) where fellow users share their experiences and knowledge with these machines on a daily basis. It is a FREE service that you will surely appreciate. A handy Search Feature helps you find answers to any questions you may have.



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