

Nov - Dec 2009

Noël Holiday Decor Project

Designed for CarveWright™ by Michael Tyler



Welcome to the combined November/December 2009 issue of the Tips and Tricks!

For this special holiday issue I decided to design a fun and easy project for you that could make a nice addition to your holiday decor. The project is a set of four arched panels featuring a basket weave motif and lettering that spells the word Noël. Noël is a French word meaning 'Christmas'. The Latin origin is the word *natalis* which means 'birth'.



The finished project is approximately 13½" wide x 8" tall and can be displayed on a fireplace mantle, table, or shelf. You can hinge the panels together as I did, or keep the panels separate as free-standing panels or hang them on a wall in whatever configuration you desire.

The project uses just the two bits that came with your machine, no other bits required.

Main items you will need:

1) The Project File (included):

- Noel_Panels.mpc

2) Board with the following dimensions:
.75" x 9.25" x 24"

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

3) Sandpaper, wood stain and/or paint and clear finish, electric drill, gold leaf paint pen

4) Small hinges for panels (six ¾" x ⅝")
(I used Brainerd hinges # 5075XC from www.hardwareworld.com)

5) The font used on the project is called Celtic Hand. It is a free font that can be downloaded from the following link:
<http://www.dafont.com/celtic-hand.font>

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



Please visit the manufacturer's website for more information about the CarveWright machines and see the Pattern & Project Depot at:
www.carverwright.com

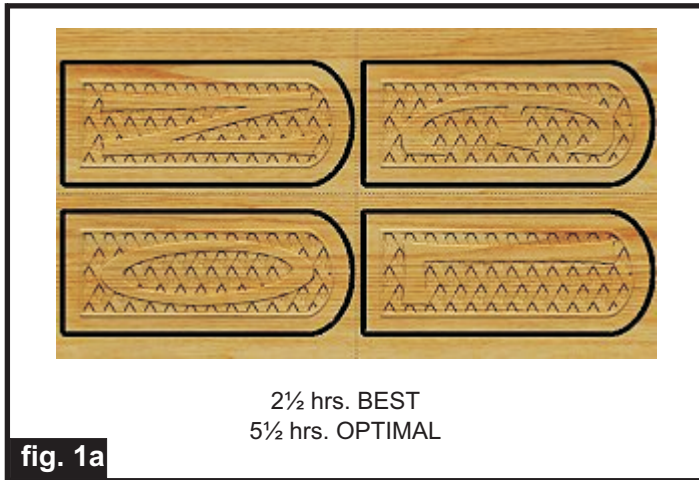
For Additional Patterns you can add to your Designer software library, please visit:
www.carvebuddy.com

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STEP 1

Start your Designer software and open the .mpc file. (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)

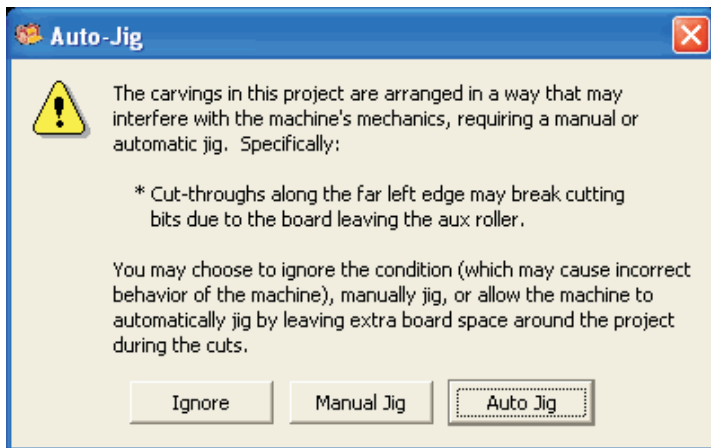


fig. 1b

If you do see the message, you may safely click on “Ignore” because the actual board will be large enough that it won’t cause any problems at all. After the project is compiled, select “Best” or “Optimal” for the File Quality setting. **I recommend the “Optimal” setting for this project.**

Click “OK” and upload the mpc project file to your memory card. Insert the card into your machine and load a board that measures the appropriate dimension specified for the mpc (see pg. 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” then scroll to the **Noel_Panels.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! (Press “1” to Keep Original Size at the prompt or change to a new, correctly-sized board)
- **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, *clean the chuck*, insert your 1/8 " cutting bit, clean out excess sawdust debris, then press the green ENTER button. Cutouts are always performed last, after all raster carving is completed.
- The machine will now proceed to perform the cutouts as it moves around the component outlines. It leaves little tabs to hold the part in the board.

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

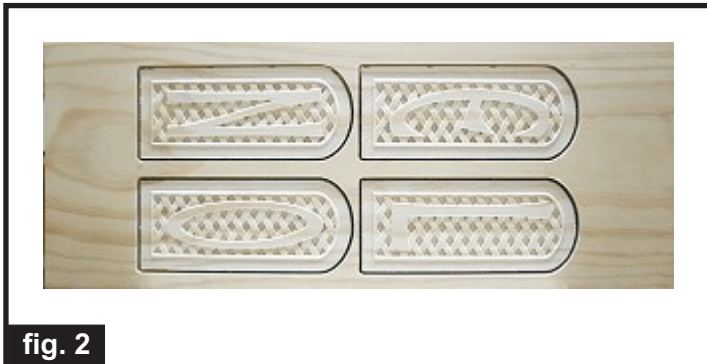
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STEP 2 (cont.)

Your board will look like this (fig. 2)



STEP 3

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

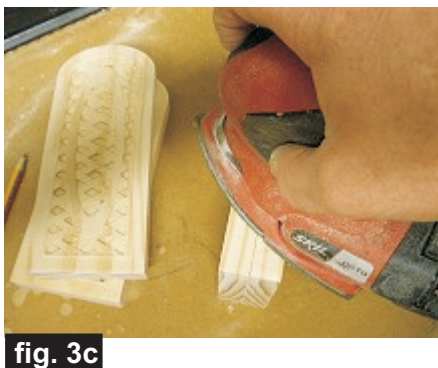


Then sand all the components to remove any fuzzies and undesirable tool marks. Use a Dremel-type tool with various abrasive wheels and tips to make the job go faster. (fig. 3b)



Sand the edges of the panels flush. (fig. 3c)

Sanding the edges



STEP 4

Mark the hinge locations.

TIP: Flip over the hinges when marking so the round body of the hinges will act as a spacer for precise gaps between the panels. (fig. 4a)



Pre-drill the screw holes to avoid splitting the wood. (fig. 4b)



Install the hinges, making sure everything lines up properly. (fig. 4c, 4d, 4e)



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STEP 5 - Finishing

Remove the hinges before applying the finish. Apply stain/paint and clearcoat of your choice. Here's what I used on my Noël project made from Select Pine wood:

- One coat of Cabot-brand Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner.
- Note:** Apply stain *immediately* when using this type of sealer.
- MinWax Stain (Sedona Red # 222)
- Several light coats of Krylon Crystal Clear Acrylic Gloss (spray can), spot-sanding some areas with 400-grit wet/dry sandpaper between coats.

- Krylon-brand Gold Leaf paint marker pen on the lettering. (fig. 5a, 5b)



fig. 5a



fig. 5b

Reinstall the hinges when the finish is dry. (fig. 5c)



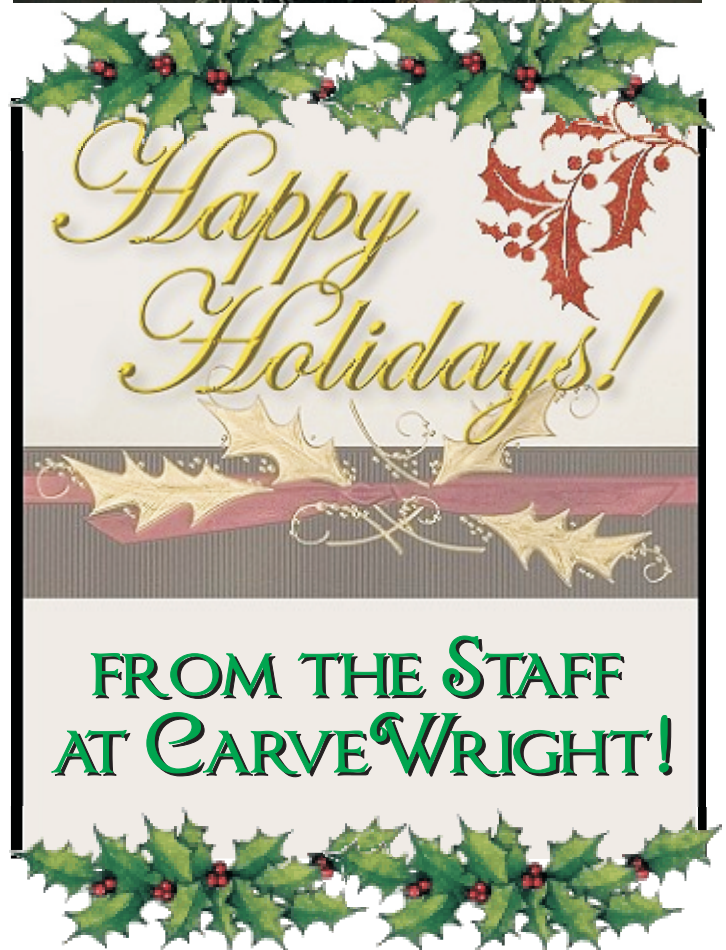
fig. 5c

IN CONCLUSION

I hope you enjoyed making your Noël Holiday project! Feel free to customize it as you wish, with various colored paints, stains, glazes, etc. Have a Great Holiday Season!

Happy Carving!

Michael



Materials Source Page



Cabot Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner
from Home Depot™
part # 8063



Krylon 18K Gold Leaf Paint Pen
from Michael's Arts & Crafts™



Krylon Clear Gloss Acrylic
from WalMart™



Six Brainerd 3/4" X 5/8" Brass Hinges
from www.hardwareworld.com
part # 5075XC
(4 hinges per package)

Other Miscellaneous Items Purchased at Home Depot™

MinWax Stain - Sedona Red # 222

Disposable Brushes and Paint Rags

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.carviewright.com/index.php) (<http://forum.carviewright.com/index.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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picture of June's Project

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