



# CARVEWRIGHT™

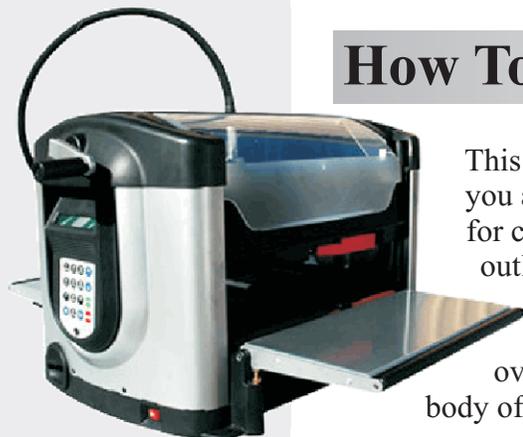
## WOODWORKING SYSTEM

# TIPS & TRICKS

March 2008

## How To Make “Overhang Pattern” Cut Paths

by Michael Tyler of [www.CarveBuddy.com](http://www.CarveBuddy.com)

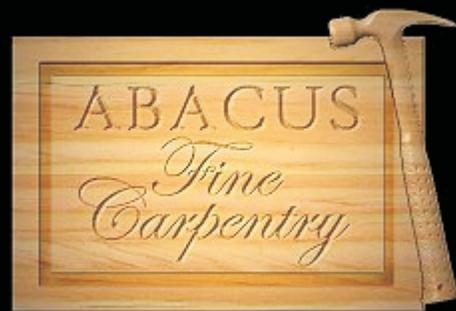


This month I’ll show you a “secret” method for creating automatic outlines and cut paths for projects that have patterns that overhang the main body of the design layout.

I have received many “How did you do that?” inquiries on the subject, so I decided to write up a tutorial about it!

This tutorial should supply you with enough information to get you started with an easy method for creating outlines around the perimeter of your layouts. There are a lot of variations possible with this technique, but I’ll try to keep it simple and leave it up to you to experiment, refine and customize the overall technique to suit your own style.

I’ll show you my “quickie” method that will work for the majority of projects. It’s an alternative to other more common methods, including drawing outlines by hand to create a cut path, as well as simply cutting out projects with a bandsaw or scroll saw. The “secret” method I’m about to show you is one I think you’ll enjoy.



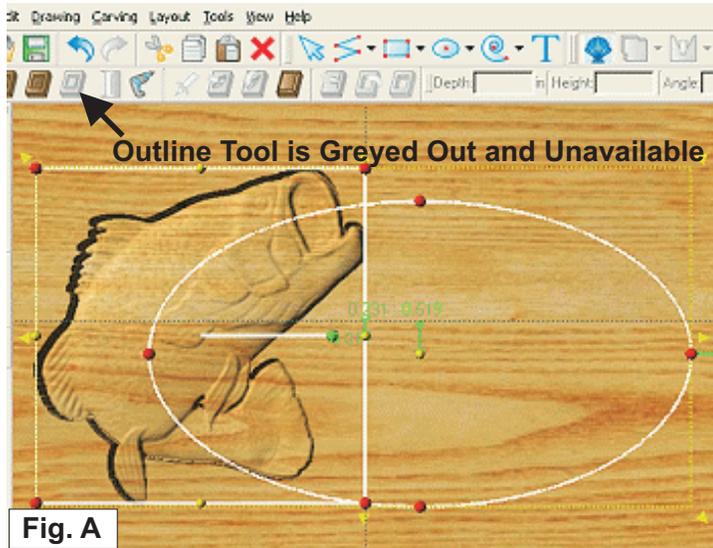
These are all examples of projects with “overhanging patterns” and auto-generated outline for a cut path.

**First, a little background information is in order.** The Designer software is able to create a continuous full-perimeter outline on groups of raster patterns only. If you draw an oval (vector) in Designer, then overhang a pattern (raster), you can make individual outlines but not a single continuous perimeter outline around the oval and pattern as a group. The trick is to create a simple-shape pattern (an oval in this example) and use it instead of a drawn oval, in Designer. View the example photo on the next page to see what I mean (See Fig. A).

Please visit the manufacturer’s website for more information about the CarveWright machines and see the new Pattern Depot at: [www.carvewright.com](http://www.carvewright.com)

For Additional Patterns you can add to your Designer software library, please visit: [www.carvebuddy.com](http://www.carvebuddy.com)

# How To Make “Overhang Pattern” Cut Paths (cont.)



## Notes on Fig. A

I drew an oval and then dragged the fish pattern onto the board. I then selected both objects. I want to create a perimeter outline around the outside of both objects combined, but cannot because Designer is not able to generate that type of outline when vector objects (the drawn oval) are selected along with raster objects (the fish pattern). Notice the “**Outline Tool**” is greyed out and unavailable.

## The Solution - (Quick Method)

I need to create an oval in a graphics program and save it as a pattern (raster) so that Designer will be able to create a perimeter outline. You can use practically any paint or graphics program to create simple patterns yourself. I’ll use Corel PhotoImpact®, but you could use Corel PhotoPaint®, CorelDraw®, Adobe® PhotoShop® or any other reasonably-featured graphics program.

Here’s how I create a “quickie” oval pattern to use with Designer...

### STEP 1

I begin with a new greyscale image with a white background canvas. I make my new image 800px by 800px in size with the resolution set at 300dpi.

I make the canvas (image size) 800x800 just to give me some room to draw. (See fig. 1a)

Data Type: GreyScale

Canvas Color: White

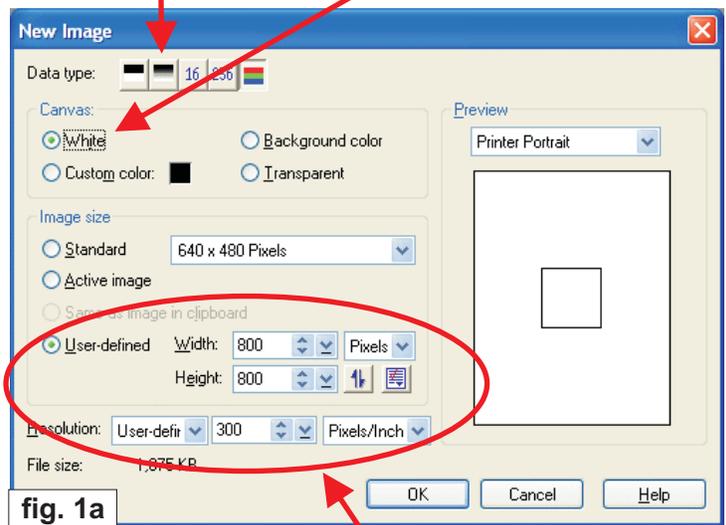
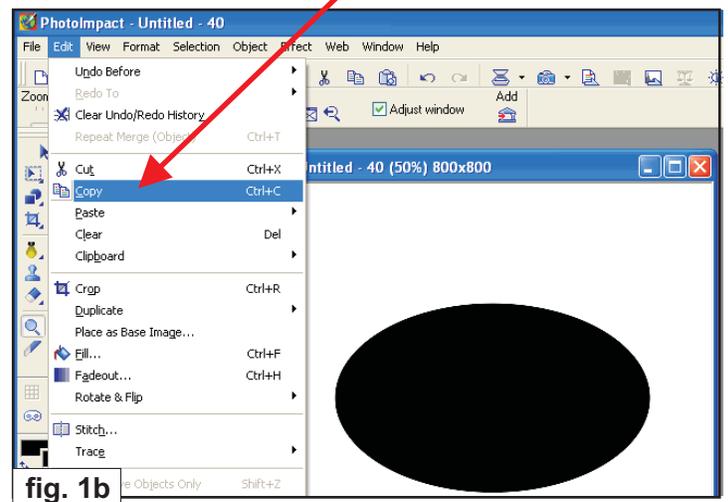


Image Size: 800x800 / Resolution: 300dpi

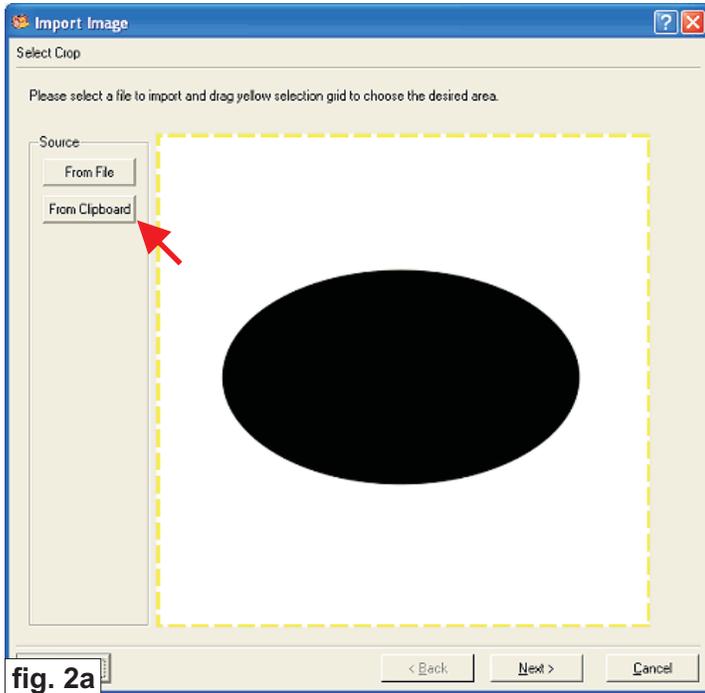
Now that I have my canvas, I just draw out an ellipse (oval) and fill it with black (no outline). I merge the oval to the canvas and then copy the entire image. (See fig. 1b)



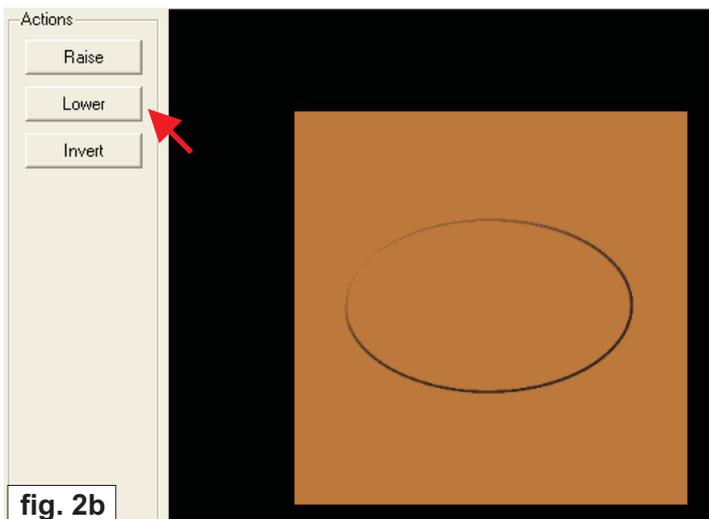
### STEP 2

With the oval copied to the Clipboard, I now open Designer and select “**File/Import Image**” then select the “**From Clipboard**” option. (See fig. 2a)

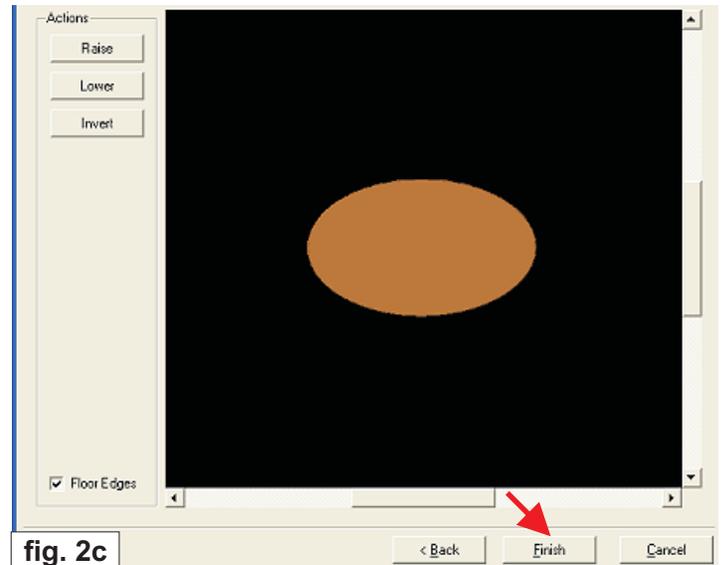
# How To Make “Overhang Pattern” Cut Paths (cont.)



Now click “Next” and you’ll see the oval with a solid background (the background is actually the white portion of the canvas in the original graphic). (See fig. 2b)

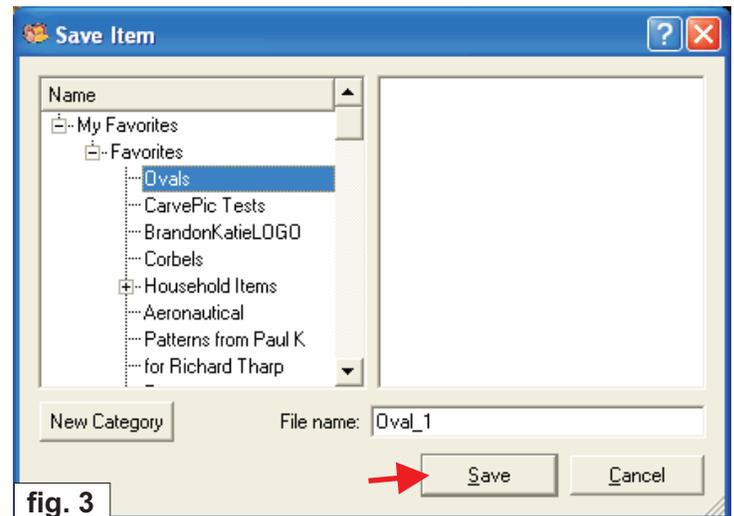


Click the “Lower” button once to get rid of the background and leave the oval all by itself, then click “Finish”. (See fig. 2c)



## Step 3

Now the “Save Item” box will pop up. Save your oval into your preferred Favorites directory/sub-directory and give it whatever name you choose. Then click “Save”. (See fig. 3) Your oval pattern is now ready to be used.



## Step 4

Now drag the oval onto your board and whatever other pattern(s) you wish (I used a Bass from CarveBuddy). Right-click the fish and select **Bit Optimization/Bit Optimization: BEST** from the contextual pop-up menu. You’ll see that the oval overlaps the fish - that’s not what we want. (See fig. 4a)

I’ll show you how I fixed that so that the fish is visible and overhangs the oval.

# How To Make “Overhang Pattern” Cut Paths (cont.)

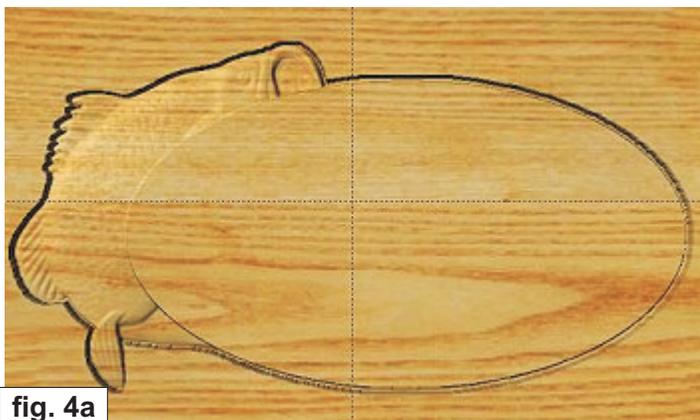


fig. 4a

We need to adjust the depth and height of the oval and fish and also apply a “**Clip Carve**” to the oval to get the layout like we want. Select the oval and set a depth of 0.300”. Set the same depth for the fish but also change the fish pattern height setting to “999”. (See fig. 4b)

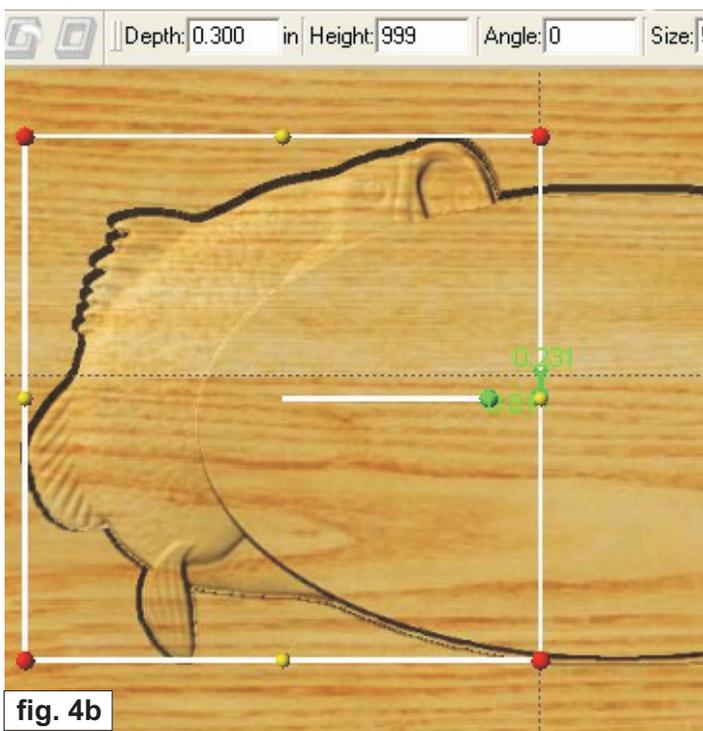


fig. 4b

Now, select the oval, right-click your mouse and select “**Clip Carving/Clip Carving: Exclusive**” from the pop-up contextual menu. This allows the fish to overlap the oval as we intended. (See fig. 4c and 4d)



fig. 4c

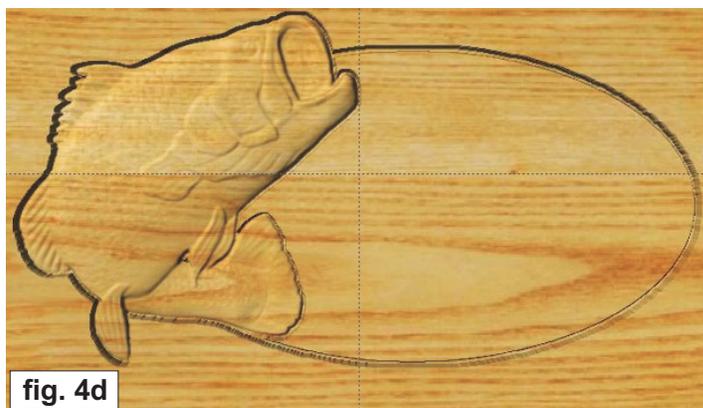


fig. 4d

The oval is still flush with the board surface, but I want it to be recessed so the fish “lays” on top of the oval surface. To make that happen, select the oval, then click the “**Carve Region Tool**”. The default depth of the region is 0.25” and I changed mine to 0.300”. (See fig. 4e)

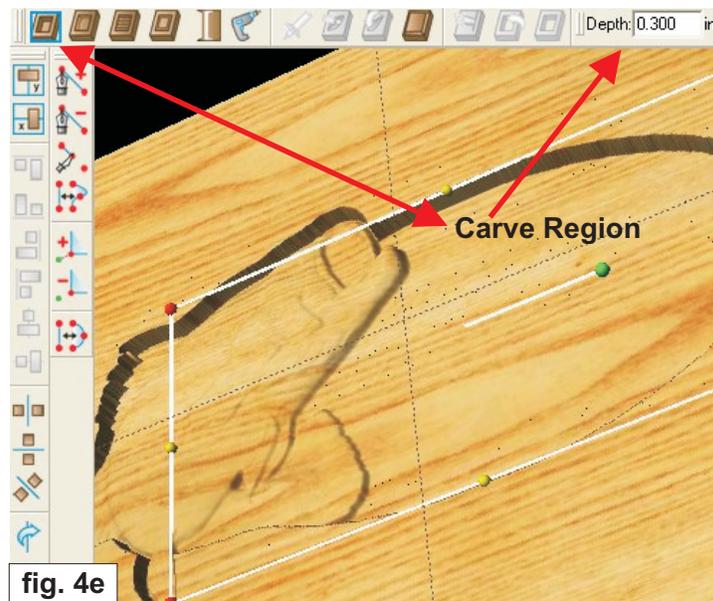


fig. 4e

(NOTE: Depending on your particular patterns, you will have different depth/height settings - simply adjust the settings until you get the look you’re after.)

## STEP 5

Now that the layout is complete for the fish and oval, we can have Designer create the perimeter outline for us automatically. Select both the oval and fish patterns, then click once on the “**Outline Tool**”. The outline now appears around the entire perimeter of selection. (see Fig. 5a and 5b)

# How To Make “Overhang Pattern” Cut Paths (cont.)

Outline Tool

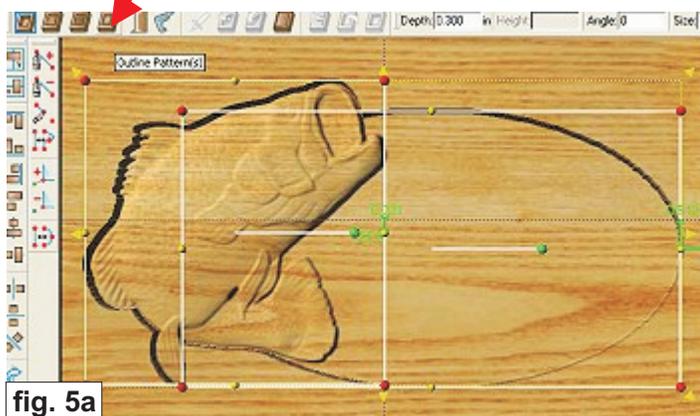


fig. 5a

Completed Perimeter Outline

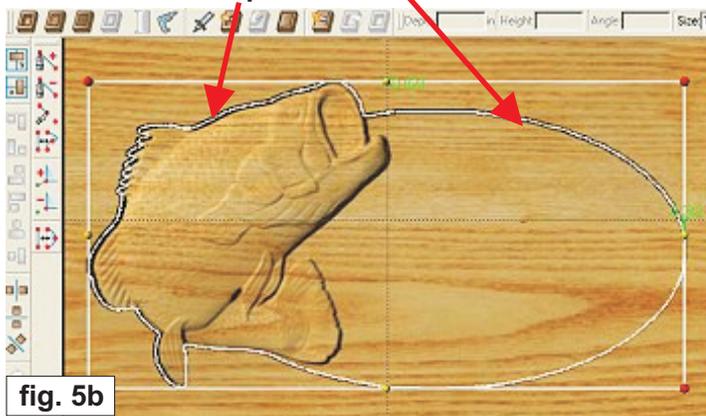


fig. 5b

## STEP 6

Now that the outline has been created, click on the “Cut Path Tool”, flip the cut to the outside of the outline and your design will be cut out when you take it to your machine. Of course you can add text or other elements to your design, as desired. (See fig. 6)

Cut Path Tool

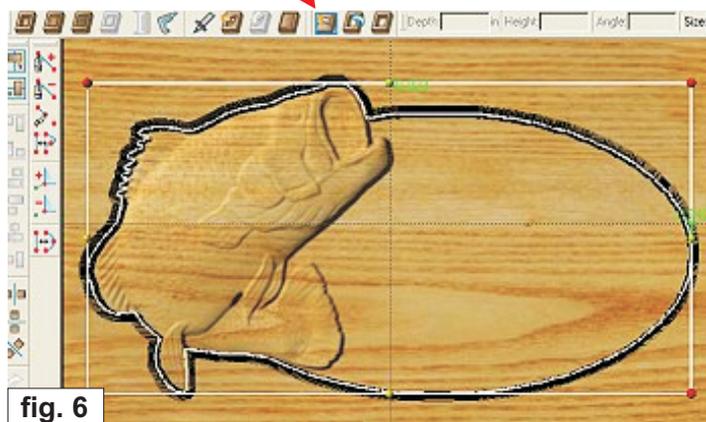


fig. 6

## IN CONCLUSION

You can get “fancy” by creating concentric ovals, circles, rectangles, or any shape desired in your graphics program, then import them into Designer to save as patterns for future use.

To create a “quickie” oval or rectangle with a recessed center, just draw your outer shape and fill with black (greyscale “0”), then draw an inner shape and fill with a medium shade of grey (greyscale “128”). (See fig. 7) That’s how I did the examples on the cover page. Now you know the “secret”. Experiment with different shades of grey for different effects. The possibilities are endless. Have fun!

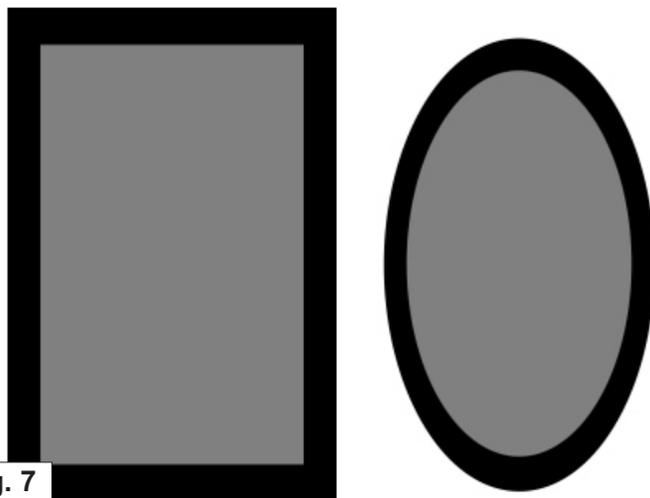


fig. 7

Special thanks to Michael Tyler of [www.CarveBuddy.com](http://www.CarveBuddy.com) for providing the content for this issue of CarveWright TIPS and TRICKS.

