Project Tutorial

Featuring compatibility with nearly all CNC Machines

It is our pleasure to provide our customers with fun and useful projects to enjoy!

Created with:
Aspire 3.5

Sample Carved with:
ShopBot Buddy
PRSalpha BT48
ShopBot®
www.shopbottools.com

Holly Christmas Wreath

Designed for Vectric™ by Michael Tyler

A decorative wreath remains one of the most distinctive symbols of the Christmas season.

This Holly Christmas Wreath project will be a pleasant addition to your holiday decor, hanging on the front door or prominently displayed in an entry foyer to welcome friends and family to your home!

There are two versions included for the wreath project...one *with* a pocket recess for the carved Bow, and a "plain" wreath *without* the Bow pocket, in case you want to embellish your own wreath with real ribbons/bows and so on.

The finished wreath ring is about 17 " in diameter.

The project sample was carved on standard 3/4 " thick stock, but you can use thicker stock, if desired. If you do use thicker stock, be sure to enter your new project thickness dimensions and calculate fresh toolpaths in Aspire as required.

Main items you will need:

1) The Project Files (included):
- Wreath_with_Bow_Area.crv3d
- Bow_Only.crv3d
- Wreath_NO-Bow.crv3d

2) Boards with the following dimensions:
Wreath: 0.75 " x 18 " x 18 "
Bow: 0.75 " x 11 " x 11 "

3) Wood glue, clamps, drill, sandpaper, wood stain and/or paint and clear finish

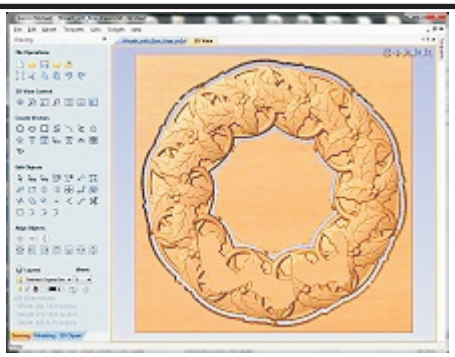
4) A Dremel-type rotary tool with assorted sanding wheels and bits to sand small details and speed up preparation for finishing.

CNC Bits used for the Sample:

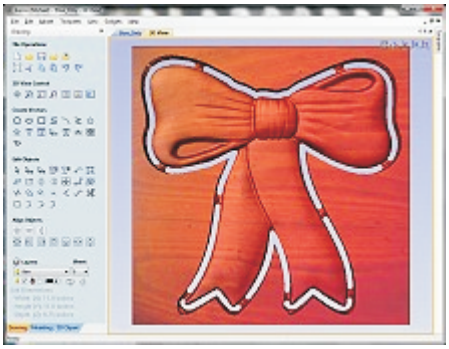
Roughing: 1/4 " EM
Finishing: 1/8 " BN
Cuts/Pockets: 1/4 " EM

Holly Christmas Wreath (cont.)

STEP 1 - Open and Review the Project Files
Start your Aspire software and open the project files. (fig. 1)



Wreath_with_Bow_Area.crv3d



Bow_Only.crv3d

fig. 1

Carefully review all the toolpaths and make any necessary changes to suit your particular bits and machine. The toolpaths are currently set with feed and speeds that were used in creating the original sample. Please don't use them directly until you review them for your own setup.

You can edit the tools and change the settings to your own preferences and requirements. **It is very important to recalculate all toolpaths after making any edits/changes.** Once you have recalculated for your own machine and bits, reset the preview, then preview all toolpaths again to visually verify the project outcome on-screen.

The project is designed with tabs to hold parts in place during the final part cut outs. You may delete the tabs if you use some other reliable hold-down method.

Glue-up your material to the appropriate dimensions. *(see page 1 for dimensions)*.

STEP 2 - Run the Project
When you are satisfied with your tool settings, save the toolpaths to the appropriate Post Processor for your machine, place your material on your machine bed and proceed to run the project. (fig. 2a, 2b)

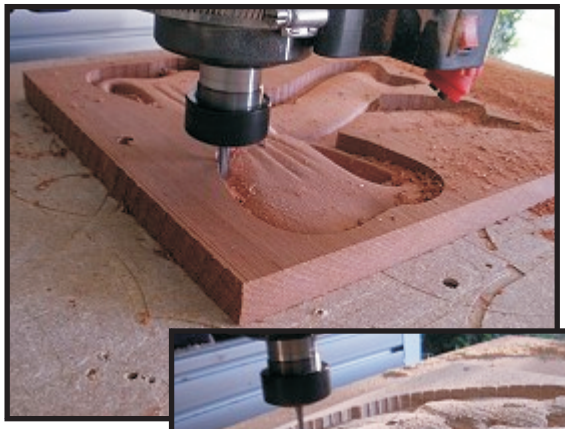


fig. 2a

fig. 2b

Your machined parts will look something like this. (fig. 2c)

fig. 2c

(cont.)

STEP 3 - Release and Sand Parts
Separate all the parts from the boards with a utility knife or small saw and sand off the tab remnants. Use a Dremel-type tool with various abrasive wheels/tips to make detail sanding go faster. (fig. 3)


fig. 3

STEP 4 - Apply Finish
Apply your choice of finish. Here's what I used on my Holly Wreath sample made from Select Pine and Spanish Cedar:

• Two coats of thinned Zinnser Bulls Eye Seal Coat *(50% denatured alcohol and 50% Seal Coat)*, sanding after each coat

• Two coats full-strength Bulls Eye Seal Coat *(Seal Coat is actually clear, de-waxed shellac)* (fig. 4a)

• Acrylic craft paint on the Wreath - Burnt Sienna in select recesses and Cardinal Red on the holly berries (fig. 4b)

• Minwax Red Oak stain #215 as a glaze on the wreath - wiped and dry-brushed most of the stain off (fig. 4c, 4d)

• 4 coats of Krylon Crystal Clear Acrylic gloss spray on wreath and bow


fig. 4a


fig. 4b


fig. 4c


fig. 4d

(cont.)

STEP 5 - Assembly

Simply glue the Bow into the pocket, or do what I did and drill a pilot hole for a 1" brass wood screw to allow the Bow to be removed when storing the wreath. Drill a guide hole from the front, position the bow, flip over, countersink and drill into the bow from the back side. Be careful to choose a location so the screw does not penetrate the front-side of the bow when the screw is driven in from the back. (fig. 5a, 5b)

fig. 5a

fig. 5b

IN CONCLUSION

I hope you enjoy your Holly Christmas Wreath and have a great Holiday Season!

Happy Carving!

Michael

(cont.)

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

Miscellaneous Items Purchased at Home Depot™

- **Zinnser Bulls Eye Seal Coat**
- **Denatured Alcohol**
- **Minwax Red Oak Stain #215**
- **Paint Rags and disposable brushes**

Krylon Clear Gloss Acrylic
from WalMart™

Additional Resources

RESOURCES...
There are numerous resources for Vectric software owners to make their experience with their products more enjoyable. The Vectric website includes videos and tutorials to provide a good overview of the software products and how to use them. (http://www.vectric.com/WebSite/Vectric/support/support_vcw_tutorials.htm)

As well as the resources available from the Tutorial page, please also visit the 'FAQ' and 'How To' pages for more support information...

'How To' webpage
http://www.vectric.com/WebSite/Vectric/support/support_how_to.htm

'FAQ' webpage
http://www.vectric.com/WebSite/Vectric/support/support_faq.htm

Vectric User Forum
Every owner should join the Vectric User Forum (http://www.vectric.com/forum/) where fellow users share their experience and knowledge 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. There are Gallery sections as well, where you can post and view photos of projects created with Vectric software.

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