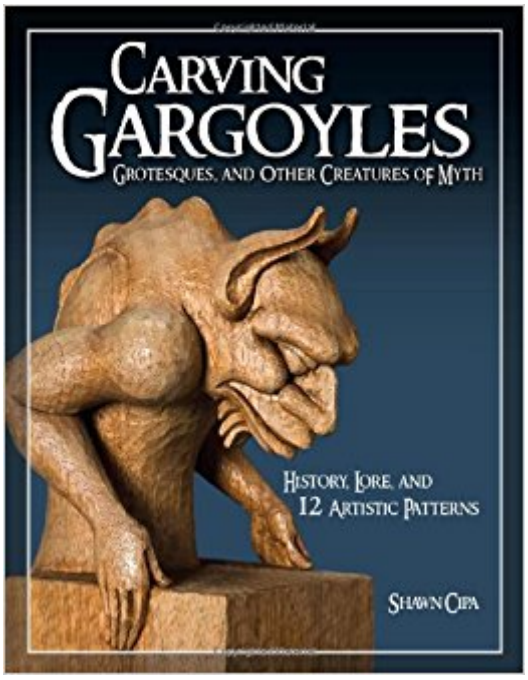
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Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, And Other Creatures Of Myth: History, Lore, And 12 Artistic Patterns



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Synopsis

Two complete projects, fascinating history and myth, and 26 additional full page patterns for creating functional and decorative gargoyles from wood. Learn to carve a traditional water-spouting gargoyle and classic grotesque with step-by-step instructions. Includes 10 additional patterns for mythical creatures incorporated into architectural elements, like a working doorknocker.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

About the Author: Shawn Cipa began carving wood in 1993. Already possessing a solid background in art, it wasn’t long before woodcarving became a driving passion in his life. He began by carving wood spirits, and soon after tried his hand at Old Father Christmas.Although Cipa has carved many different subjects by commission, he admittedly prefers all things whimsical by nature. Walking sticks, canes, Santas, angels and othermythical characters are just some of Cipa’s repertoire. Cipa was recognized as a national winner in Woodcraft Supply Corp.’s 2000 Santa carving contest. He is also the author of Carving Folk Art Figures, Woodcarving the Nativity, Carving Fantasy & Legend Figures inWood, and has been featured in Wood Spirits & Green Men, by Lora S. Irish. Cipa has done several how-to articles for Woodcarving Illustrated magazine, and continues to provide more of the same.He does commissionwork from his website and provides pieces to many international collectors. He hopes to continue his carving endeavors with unending support fromhis friends and family, who have encouraged his efforts. About the Book: Peering down from rooftops with expressions ranging from haunting to humorous, gargoyles have endured for centuries as an

architectural element designed to divert rainwater or-as legend has it-to ward off evil and protect the cathedrals, churches and buildings upon which they were perched. Today, these legendary creatures are as popular as ever-especially as a form of artistic expression. If you've wanted to try your hand at carving a gargoyle-or a grotesque, chimera or guardian-this unique step-bystep tutorial from a renowned woodcarver will guide you from start to finish. After a fascinating introduction into the history, lore and actual differences between each icon, you will learn to carve a Traditional Water-Sprouting Gargoyle and Classic Grotesque. Once you master the two step-by-step projects, you'll discover ten additional original carving patterns, including the Crouching Imp and the Screaming KeystoneGrotesque.You'll even find patterns for functional projects, like a gargoyle cane topper and a Green Man door knocker. Inside the book, you'll also discover: the symbolism of the gargoyles, grotesques and guardians; expert tips and instruction, including"Artist Approach" sidebars; secret finishing techniques for achieving an authentic aged-stone look; professional tips for securing and mounting yourwork; and gallery photos of ancient and modern gargoyles found around the world.Firstly, I love your work! I just wanted to get in touch with you and offer a big THANK YOU for your book "Carving Gargoyles....". 2 days ago I completed my first project (The Classic Grotesque - the one on the front cover) and I could not be happier with the result. I even surprised myself. I've been a high school Industrial Arts teacher (woodwork, metal work, technical drawing etc) for 30 years but over that time, my skills have been channelled mostly into home renovation and other similar large scale projects. My wife has always had a fascination for gargoyles, dragons and other mythical creatures and then about 6 months ago on the British TV series "Grand Designs" my interest was sparked by a couple who built a Gothic style house, complete with hand carved wooden gargoyles and other creatures. It was just after this that I decided that if I could find a book or a website with some basic step-by-step instructions, I might actually be able to carve myself a wooden gargoyle. Onto Google and within minutes I discovered your book and immediately placed the order. As soon as it arrived a few weeks later I went out and bought myself a few basic chisels and a nice piece of "Chile Myrtle" and I got started. Fortunately, a teaching colleague noticed what I was up to, went to his office and returned with an old suitcase that belonged to his grandfather. It contained a beautiful set of about 25 hand-made carving chisels. They were old, and had not been used for many, many years but they were still razor sharp and a joy to use. I have made him an offer on the chisels but he is understandably reluctant to part with them. Your instructions were excellent and set out in such a way that by the time I got to the really hard parts (the head and hands), I had honed my skills on the relatively easy sections and was therefore able to approach the challenging parts with confidence. Mind you, to save embarrassment

if it didn’t work, I kept saying to myself (and everyone who called by from time to time to see what I was up to), that I was really just "having a go" to see if I could do it, and I was quite prepared to abandon the whole project if it didn’t work out. But all went well and now I think I am addicted. I gave the grotesque to my wife yesterday for a birthday present and she has already started looking through the book to pick the next project. Now that I know that this is a pastime I want to explore further, I am now on the lookout for a more complete set of tools and I think I’ll make myself a carving bench like yours. So once again, thank you and best wishes.Shawn Cipa has given us a wonderful and thorough introduction to my beloved gargoyles. The tutorials are clear and easy to follow. This is a must-have book for all gargoyle aficionados, not just for wood carvers.In this book Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth, carvers will discover the history and lore surrounding the gargoyle and his cousins, the grotesque, guardian, chimera, greenman, imp - and learn to tell the difference between them all. Scores of color photos show where gargoyles can be found around the world. And for those wishing to make a creature of their own, master carver and author Shawn Cipa provides two complete step-by-step projects for a traditional water-spouting gargoyle and a classic grotesque. There are also 10 additional patterns for a crouching imp, a keystone, wall panel, even a cane topper and door knocker.Shawn Cipa is the author of some fantastic woodcarving books and happily he has just added another to his series on mythological creatures with this look at gargoyles, the grotesque and guardians. Beginning with an in-depth history of these fascinating characters, Cipa explores their uses throughout the world, before moving on to two beautiful step-by-step projects for you to try your hand at a traditional water-spouting gargoyle and a classic grotesque figure taking inspiration from Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. There are patterns for a dragon-lion styled guardian, a green man door knocker, a grotesque corbel, a crouching imp, and an interesting intaglio lion medallion, among others. There is even a satirical take on a woodcarver as a gargoyle, before the book closes with techniques, and selecting timber and tools. The subject matter is indeed different to many carving books out there but this tome is well worth a look. I had a lot of fun pouring over the pages and feel inspired enough to have a go at one or two myself.Carving Gargoylesoffers a succinct summary of the history and lore of gargoyles and grotesques, while making clear the distinction between these two frequently confused categories of captivating creatures. With the inspiration offered by the many engaging photographs of gargoyles in this book, and by following Shawn Cipa’s extremely lucid instructions, it is possible to create one’s own mesmerizing monster.

Peering down from rooftops with their haunting, even humorous expressions, gargoyles have

endured for centuries as architectural necessities directing rainwater away from age-old buildings, or as others speculate, warding off evil to protect the cathedrals, churches and homes where they were perched. Today, these mysterious beasts are a popular carving subject for anyone looking to add primitive ornamentation in and around their homes. If you've ever wanted to carve a gargoyle, grotesque, chimera or guardian, or just understand their differences, this unique step-by-step tutorial from renowned woodcarver, Shawn Cipa, will guide you from start to finish. In addition to being led through the entire carving and finishing process, you'll also discover fascinating legends and lore about each of these spirited creatures, where surviving gargoyles can be found around the world, and the facts and conjecture surrounding their purpose and meaning. After you master the skills to complete the Traditional Water-Spouting Gargoyle and Class Grotesque projects, you'll find 10 additional original patterns for rowdy characters, like the Crouching Imp and the Screaming Keystone Grotesque. You'll even find patterns for functional projects, like a gargoyle cane-topper, and a green man door knocker. What's Inside Carving Gargoyles in Wood: -The history, creation and symbolism of the gargoyle and his clan of delightful cousins -Two complete step-by-step projects each accompanied by the "Artist's Approach" in which author Shawn Cipa discusses important aspects of carving each piece -Unconventional finishing processes are revealed to achieve an authentic aged-stone appearance -Tips for securing and mounting your work -26 additional full page patterns for gargoyles, grotesques, chimeras, and more -Fascinating photos of ancient gargoyles found around the world

I love the book:Starting with the nice cover 'guy' (the reason to choose the book) I dived into gargoyles history and carving.The shown gargoyles are perfect carved and well documented with helpful carving and finishing tips and tricks.You can take the book also as a guidance to carve other complex figures.I started with watching the nice pictures and dreaming about 'crazy creatures' (-;Next I made sketches of figures in the book and own ideas and started carving 'small examples'.The idea with the gargoyle cane is good!I don't miss more examples, the book gave me enough inspiration,...i.e. to watch old buildings more careful to find funny things-did you know, that the Cologne Cathedral (in Germany) got in the last century some gargoyles figures playing soccer?(-;It's an inspiring book with great pictures, just madeto watchto dreamto carve(-;

If you like to carve this book has some nice patterns pr grotesque patters that are nice. Even though it's a paper back its really great quality it would be at home on the cocktail table or work shop should last for years

definitely not for beginners! love some of the history stuff in this book. i will be trying at least one project from this book.

This, I think would be for the average wood carver. Great pictures, decent instructions. I Love some of the patterns and that’s what I mostly bought it for.

I love just about anything written or filmed about wood carving or turning... so I’m kinda easy to please.This is not one of those times. I was looking for a serious look on a different subject to try my hand at.Most of this book met all my expectations. I took a very critical look at all aspects of this instructional manual. The first characters carving instructions were just right. I just wish EACH of the characters studied were "carved" in detail with photos, like the first one was.I know everyone expects you to learn from the first effort and then carry on what you learned onto the next string of characters... however, I’m a little slow sometimes... so wish there was MORE instructions and photos to go with them.What there was was perfect .... perfection can be increased.....

thanks

Very good book. As good as the Fantasy Book with all new projects. As with His other book the instructions are clear,direct and the photo’s for the step by step instructions are terrific.

Just what we expected..

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