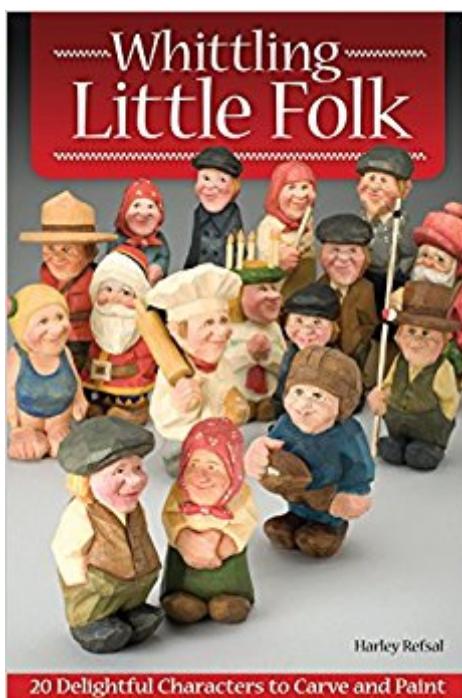


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# Whittling Little Folk: 20 Delightful Characters To Carve And Paint



## Synopsis

A single carving knife and an afternoon is all that is needed to create one of the charming little characters in this book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the informative yet humorous opening to this great little book, the author discusses the difference between whittling and carving. I would interpret his distinction as "a rose by any other name is still a rose": it's all about cutting away pieces of wood. The book, "Whittling Little Folk" is small in size but big in content! Eighteen projects in total, including two "step-by-step" figures provide examples, tips, and techniques to carve (or whittle) the cutest little characters you have ever seen. One of the "step-by-step" lessons, (creating Kristian, shown in the bottom left of the book cover,) has 42 steps, including photos, demonstrating the process. Very in-depth and easy to follow. My Ratings of The Book: Layout and Appearance: Good balance of photos, how-to instructions, projects. Thumbs Up! Instructions: Clear information and instructions Thumbs Up! Projects Selection: A wide variety of characters, creating a small village. Great. Inspiration: There is even a section on "ideas" - oh the possibilities. Thumbs Up! Overall: Thumbs Up! if whittling and caricature carving appeals to you, then you'll enjoy Whittling Little Folk.' 'Plenty of fun guaranteed! These little people are a joy to behold, tiny and cute. Refsal's book is great for both the serious carver and the whittler as well. Refsal provides us with 20 fabulous characters to copy as is or to add your own characteristics to.

The illustrations and photographs are very clear as are the whittling and finishing instructions. So, even if you are a beginner you could have these delightful little people adorning your home. The Lumberjack, the Cop, the Baker and the Amish Farmers are just a few of the diverse characters that you can whittle away at and Refsal shows you how in step-by-step instructions. Have fun!

Little in size, but big in personality! With just one carving knife and two simple patterns, you can carve a whole community of characters in the Scandinavian flat-plane style. Acclaimed artist Harley Refsal will teach you how to carve more than 20 characters in wood- from Monk to Police Officer and Lumberjack. In Whittling Little Folk, you will find step-by-step carving and painting instructions for a Scandinavian-inspired man and woman. Once you have learned to carve these two projects, you can use the same technique to complete patterns with some subtle alterations. Also included is a brief overview of the Scandinavian flat-plane style of carving, as well as four different views of each project for a complete 360-degree view of the character. The figures in Whittling Little Folk vary in complexity- there are projects for the beginner as well as the seasoned carver. They're fun, and won't take too much time- a caricature carver's dream come true.

Disappointing. Lots of Pictures theoretically walking you through a couple of projects but not really that helpful training as the second project left me hanging during the face (the hardest part) and it all fell apart. This was the 5th figure I've carved and I can draw and I know anatomy. Does not sequential method or a focus on anatomy. Not a beginners book. Focus more on videos on line.

When I decided to pick up a caricature carving book I was thrilled by the number of titles available. This excitement soon turned to confusion as I tried to decide which books to add to my cart and which to leave on the .com shelf. A large part of the problem was that most of the books within the field of caricature carving seemed to carry a 4 or 5 star rating which prevented me from enacting Rule No.1 of my RULE OF PURCHASE which states: All things being equal, purchase the item with the highest customer rating. So with Rule No.1 nullified I found myself pouring over page after page of LOOK INSIDE in an attempt to narrow down my choices. Unfortunately, that wasn't much help either so I took the unprecedented step of just buying EVERY caricature carving book I could find that carried a 4 or 5 star rating. 10 days and 5 titles later I'm ready to offer you my feedback, based on a few essential criteria, in the hopes that I'll save you both the time and the money I invested. Before I get to my ratings, let me run down the criteria I used to make my assessments:1) Larger books with good color photography trump smaller books with black & white photography.2) Books

that provide step-by-step instruction are far superior than photographic collections of finished projects.3) Books that provide complete instruction, from wood selection to painting techniques, are better than books offering scant or piecemeal instruction.4) Because individual carvers have unique styles, I found that the books that contained the works of numerous carvers were far more instructional than those containing the works of just one carver. With those 4 criteria in mind, my top 5 caricature carving books are:1) *Caricature Carving: Expert Techniques & 30 All-Time Favorite Projects* ~ The BEST of the bunch. Wonderful photographs outlining the steps required to carve the works of numerous different artists. Instructions run from wood selection all the way to paint selection with everything in between including which tools to use. If you have a limited budget or you just want to own one caricature carving book then this is the one for you. 5 STARS2) *Caricature Carvers Showcase* ~ Unlike the #1 selection, this title does not include ANY step-by-step instructions on carving so if you're looking for an instructional guide, this ISN'T it. So why do I rate it so highly? Because it contains wonderful color photographs of the work of 50 different carvers; and while it's a mystery HOW the artists created their work, you can't help but shake your head in amazement at the finished product. 4 1/2 STARS3) *Whittling Little Folk* ~ A smaller text from a single artist. The work here is more basic than most caricature carvers which is not necessarily a bad thing for the novice carvers among us. Good step-by-step color photography. The first 2 projects are covered in detail from wood selection to final coat of paint. The final 15 or so projects are described in far less detail. Not as flashy as some of the other titles, but this one grew on me and was actually the source book for my very first carving effort. 4 STARS4) *Caricature Carving from Head to Toe* ~ A decent text that contains thorough, step-by-step instructions and photographs leading to the creation of an elderly gentleman caricature. The book contains the work of just one artist so you'll garner just one perspective which I think is a major limitation. A gallery of the artists work rounds out the text, and while his work is of the highest quality it's not as varied as that of a collection of artists. 3 STARS5) *Carving the Little Guys* ~ With just 31 pages this is more of a pamphlet than a book. The text is again the work of a single artist who's forte appears to be basic caricatures. Good photographs instruct the reader in the production of just a single, basic caricature (is the black thing under his nose a tongue or a moustache?). Overall, rather disappointing. 2 STARS

So there you have it, I hope that saves you the time I lost as well as the money I spent!

First, I want to say that the book now includes the pattern for Kristian WITH a hat. Now to the review. I really like this book. The characters are adorable, the book is packed with great and interesting information and should be included in every carver or whittler's library. The only reason I did not

give it five stars is because of the content that is NOT included. Any book that describes itself as being for everyone from beginner to the seasoned carver (see description on back cover and on site) should include a section for beginners. In order to carve these wonderful characters, you will have to know how to execute push cuts, paring cuts, stop cuts and v-cuts or you will be in for a lot of frustration. The closest this book comes to that is on page 56 when the author suggests that the beginner start out whittling on a stick or a carrot to develop a feel for a whittling rhythm. While this might be enough to get you started on the beginner project on page 58, the fish, it is not enough for you to do the characters you fell in love with when you "looked inside" the book on this site. You will need another source for that information, such as YouTube videos or an additional book. These cuts are not difficult to learn and will serve you very well in your whittling future. Now, that being said, and being a believer in sandwiching the negative between two positives, I'll conclude by saying that you can't go wrong buying this book. It is a great deal at this price for the information provided. Harley Refsal is a treasure and his passion for these characters and this style of carving really comes across in his writing. I will always have a copy of this book in my carving library and plan to purchase other books by him. Happy Whittling!

I respect Harvey Refsal for his encouragement of the art of whittling and Scandinavian carving. This book falls short of the quality of some of his earlier publications. How Fox Chapel Publishing could have allowed this book to be published with the glaring error of a Pattern (Kristian) which did not match the instructions, is unbelievable. What are editors for? The pattern (which I followed religiously) is totally wrong and they have submitted an errata via the website of the magazine, Woodcarving Illustrated. Why not include an errata page in the book sold by for those who paid for the pattern. The errata on the magazine page has to be resized to match what was supposed to be in the book. The photos of the "Little Folk" are cute and interesting to carve. I have to say that the photos of the step by step process are less than adequate for anyone who is picking up this technique for the first time. Interesting, yes....useful, probably not. You have to do a lot of interpolation to convert what is in this book into a successful carving....and I have been carving for a number of years. I would have given it a one-star rating had it not been for the clever designs of the "Little Folk".

Love this book. Can't wait to start project.

very explicit pictures and carving instructions. On my second carving from this book. Great book!

Great little book.

For the missing and mistaken patterns I found corrections for those that are interested. Since I cannot post a direct link, do a google search for "whittling little folk correction" and look for the "woodcarving illustrated" website. Finding the corrections is actually how I found out about the book in the first place.

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