



# TOOL LIST

THE ART OF WOODCUTS

W/ GENE SHAW

Hello!

I'm looking forward to our week together at the WoodenBoat School for "The Art of the Woodcut" class and wanted to update you on a few things.

It would be helpful for everyone to come to class with several preliminary drawings (especially students with prior woodcut experience), ideas prompted by images seen in photographs, books, magazines, or from your own imagination - anything you find attractive. The more light/dark contrast there is in the image the better. We'll start the class with a review of everyone's ideas. By doing this at the start, students can get some solid ideas for what makes a good print. For first-timers, it would be best to start with a block no larger than 9" x 12."

Gene Shaw

## SUGGESTED TOOLS:

### **Chisels:**

Students have purchased and tried tools from different makers. But after using the various tools, almost everyone comes back to either the standard-quality wood carving tools or the superior-quality tools from McClains. If you really want to splurge, get the two-part carving tools, which are the professional line, in the sizes below. You won't be disappointed.

The basic chisels I would recommend getting include:

- C2753 vee-gouge
- C2642 u-gouge
- C2646 u-gouge

The students in the past have found the smaller tools more useful, plus they're easier to push through the wood and give you more control. If you already have some tools designed for woodcuts or small carving tools in the 2 to 6-millimeter size, you'll probably be fine. I also have several sets of tools that I'll bring along for students to try. We'll also be making a straight knife from a hacksaw blade. Come and try out the different tools to see what really works best for you. McClains has a very nice catalog of printmaking supplies for relief printing: McClains: [www.iMcClains.com](http://www.iMcClains.com) or 1-800-832-4264. Another name-brand to check out is the Flexcut. They offer carving tools in smaller sizes with comfortable handles ([www.flexcut.com](http://www.flexcut.com)).

Better-quality chisels stay sharp longer and cut cleaner with less effort. Japanese tools are my first choice, not to say there aren't other good tools available. If you have questions, call or email me and I'll be happy to talk about different tool options.

### **General Materials:**

**Blocks** – I'll have a variety of both hard and soft wood, plywood and linoleum (at no cost) that we can cut up and fit to your drawing.

**Paper** – Three or four different kinds and sizes of paper will be available to try along with a paper sample book to look at.

**Sketchbook** – Bring one in a size that you like. I prefer the spiral-bound type.

**Pencils** – For drawing and sketching and drawing on the blocks. Numbers 2B, 4B and 6B are good because they are soft and don't make impressions on the soft wood blocks.

**Pair of kitchen rubber gloves and bib apron** – For cleaning up inky blocks and brayers.

**General Information:**

For reading, check out your local library for any books they might have on relief printmaking. Check out illustrations in magazines and books for woodcut examples.