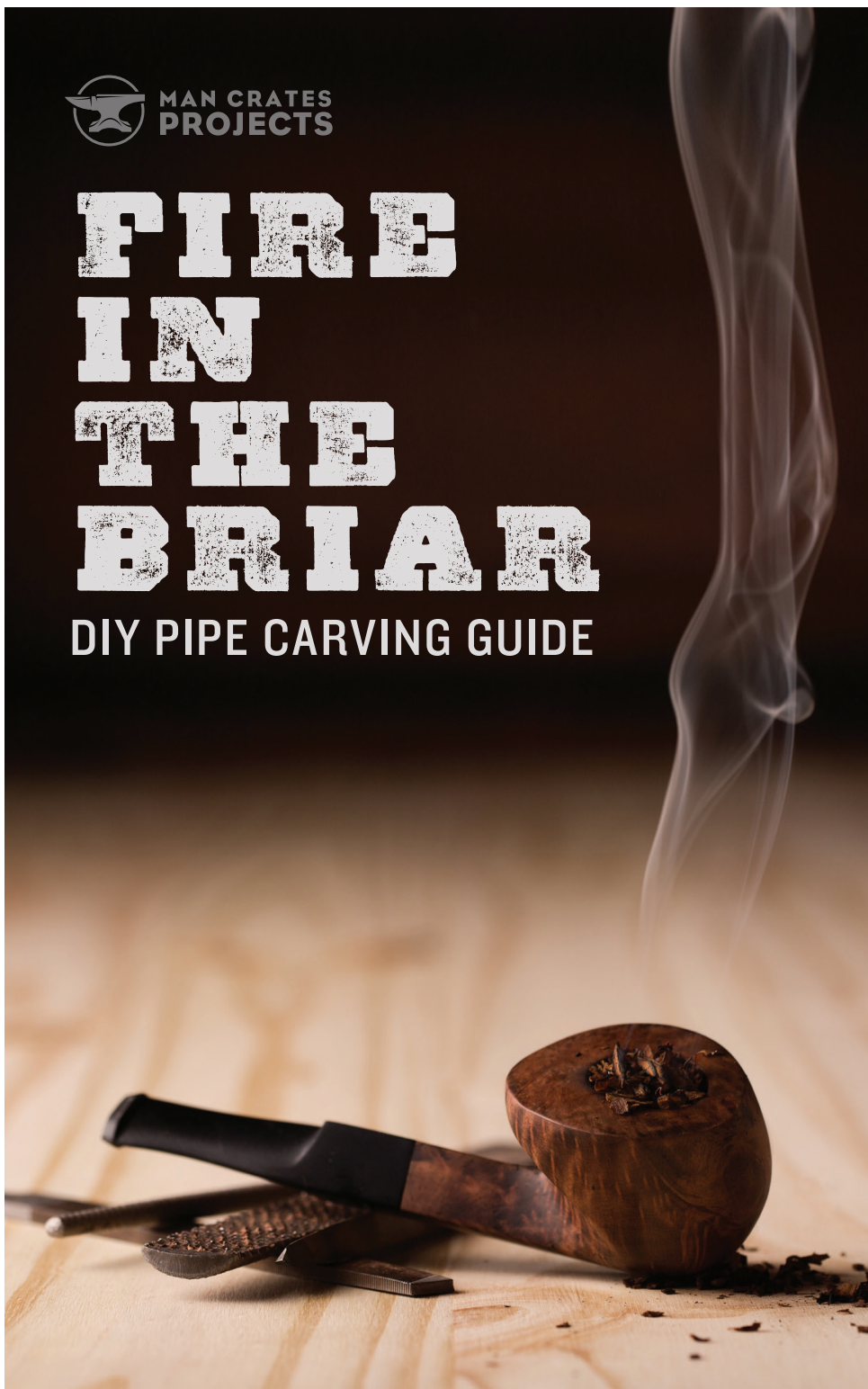




FIRE IN THE BRIAR

DIY PIPE CARVING GUIDE



**BEHIND EVERY
GREAT MAN IS A
DISTINGUISHED
TRAIL OF
PIPE SMOKE**

You know better than most that there's nothing more settling than a long draw from a pipe that sits perfectly in your cradled hand. Unfortunately, such well-fitting bowls are near impossible to come by.

Sure, you can whip out the big bucks and commission a custom pipe, and while you're at it, why not pay another man to change your oil and tell you who to vote for? The only thing better than a pipe made for you is a pipe made by you, because if you want something done right, you've got to do it yourself.

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BRIAR WOOD

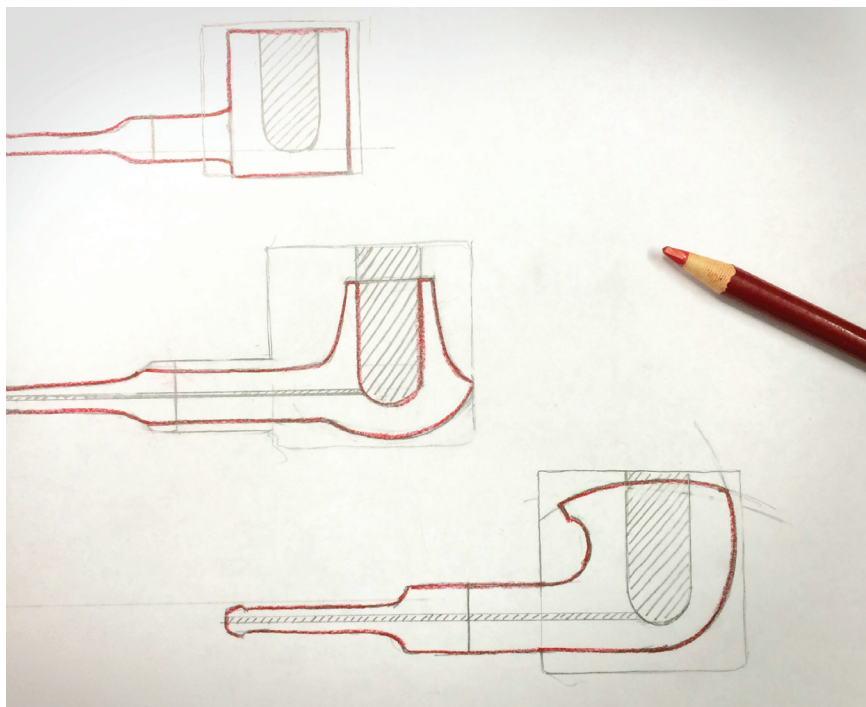
Briar is the Hercules of the wood world, a hard, heat-resistant burl wood that could traverse the fires of hell with only a fine aroma to show for it. Any pipe worth its puff is made from this stuff. This Briarwood was painstakingly harvested from the undergrowths of the white heath tree which grows exclusively near the Mediterranean Sea, so show some respect when you sweep up those shavings.

TOOLS

Perhaps you imagined yourself whittling away with your trusty pocket knife. Once you experience the hardness of the Briar you'll realize you'd have better luck getting a ring into Mordor. To craft your masterpiece you'll need the right tools, which is why we've provided you with a cast iron bench vise, a cross-cut blade pull saw, and a hardened file and rasp set.

FINISHING PRODUCTS

You would never see stray splinters or exposed wood in handmade Amish furniture, and you're not about to let them have the last word on American craftsmanship. Give your pipe a finish smoother than a 25 year old single malt with the variable grit sandpaper and high contrast stains.



STEP I:

LAYOUT

Sketch your pipe designs on paper. Make sure to include the chamber and airway in your layout. If you haven't already done so, lower expectations about your artistic ability.

Measure and draw out the chamber, airway, and design onto the side of the pipe block. Also draw the view from the top down. If unsatisfied, erase and redraw, or repeat previous step of lowering expectations.

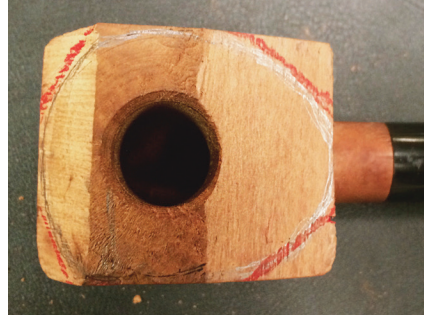


PRO-TIP: you can remove the stem for safekeeping while cutting and filing the block.

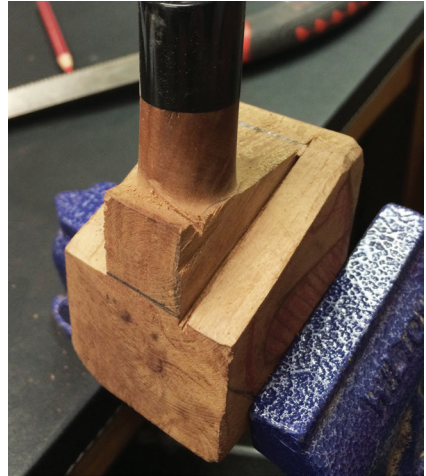
STEP 2:

ROUGH CUTS

Draw lines for your initial cuts, then use the saw to remove corners to create an octagon. Keep cutting corners to achieve a rounded shape while brainstorming variations of “cutting corners” jokes you can use when showcasing your finished pipe.



Cut out a square along the stem to form the shank, and extend it to where the bowl will start.



After cutting, you should be able to clearly visualize the final shape your pipe will take. If you must squint and strain to do so, you're not done with the saw.

STEP 3:

SHAPING



Use the rasp and file set to finish shaping the pipe. Remove corners and edges to help your pipe self-actualize.

The round and corner file are perfect for shaping where the bowl meets the shank. When in doubt, file with the passion of a disinterested 1960's secretary keen on nail care.



PRO-TIP: You can file the acrylic stem too. Shape the stem while attached to the shank for a smooth, seamless transition.



Easy there, cowboy. Make sure your pipe has its final shape and symmetry before moving onto sandpaper.

STEP 4:

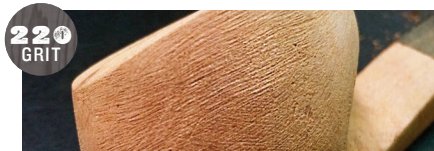
SANDING

Take your first pass with the 80 grit sandpaper to remove deep scratches. Yes, you can pretend it's a Karate Kid training exercise for blocking little, tiny mouse punches.

Proceed to the 220 grit sandpaper, then repeat with the 400 and 800 grit paper 'til the finish is smoother than a whimsical Kenny G solo.

This sanding process can take several hours, so put on a movie or some music. (We advise against Kenny G so you don't start sanding your ears off.) Make sure the finish is perfect before moving on.

Sand and finish the stem with the same process as the wood.



STEP 5:

FINISHING

Finish the pipes with either stain, or create a high-contrast by using both. You can decide for yourself since you're a grown man. The American Walnut will leave a dark stain, and the Cherry a lighter one.

Apply the dark stain first by using a rag to rub it all over the pipe (not in the chamber), then clean off the excess. Apply 1-2 coats, letting it dry for 10 minutes between each coat.

Next, sand with 800 grit paper to remove the stain from most of the pipe. Finally, finish by applying two coats of the light stain, patting yourself on the back, and cleaning off your hands (not necessarily in that order).



STEP 6:

SHARING



Showcase your creation at [facebook.com/mancrates](https://www.facebook.com/mancrates). We'd love to see how your project turned out.





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