



Guilloche Moulding

Introduction:

I hope you enjoy carving the guilloche; it really is a wonderful pattern which, for me, is best in its simplest form.

And it's a great carving workout too!

Frame Wood & Dimensions:

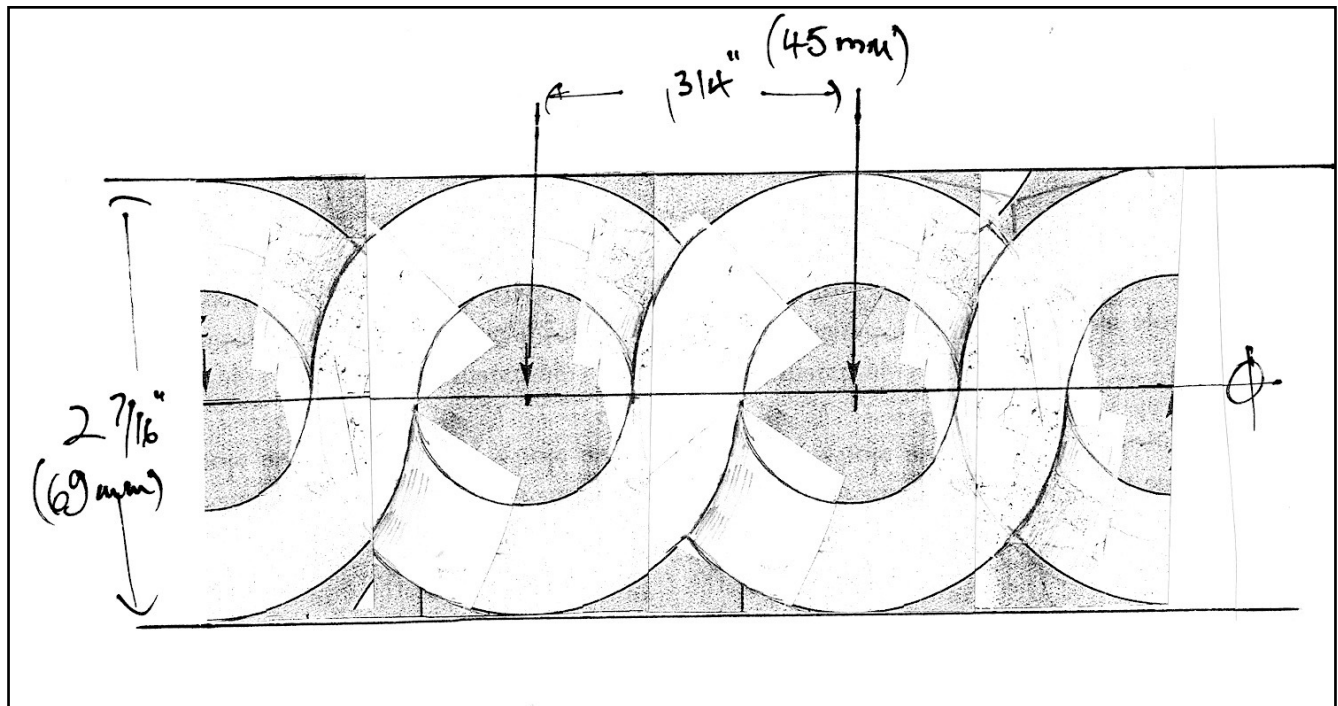
I used 3in (75mm) wide Limewood, 1in. (25mm) thick. Guilloche will work in any carveable wood. The outside dimensions of the frame were 38.5in (980mm) x 25.5in. (650mm)

Layout:

The guilloche appears to twist to the left or right. Don't forget to mirror opposite sides of a frame. Don't stab your compass point in too deep; you'll be skimming off this mark with your chisel.

Here is the basic unit I used for my frame.

Please draw it out as I do in the video so you know what's what, and look at my note on the tools, below.



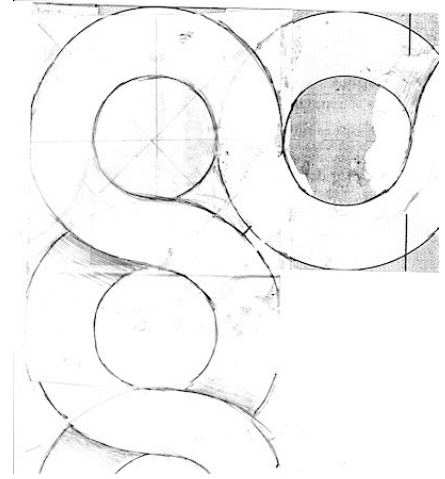
Corners:

Trying to run the guilloche through right angles doesn't really work, (though I have seen a guilloche running around an arch).

Here is a sketch of the sort of thing that happens...

- and it can work the opposite way too. I think it's not a good look. Far better to stop before the corner and make the corner itself a separate item, as I do in the videos.

The other thing to avoid, to my mind, is cutting a centre boss in half. If you want to finish to a square edge, make a full round with the band and add a half delta in the little corner spaces.



Tools:

Below is the list of tools with which I carved my particular guilloche, at this particular size.

The main tool about which I needed to be exact was the one used to stab in the boss (centre button): you may not have this. Find a gouge with which you can cut around a circle more or less the same size and adapt the guilloche to that: make the ribbon/band larger or smaller etc., working it all out on paper. All you need to do is work out one complete 'unit' that repeats...

Boss:

- Gouge #8 x 1 3/16in. (30mm) - stabbing in edge
- Gouge #3 x 1/2in. (14mm) - shaping the dome
- Gouge #3 x 1/8in. (3mm) - cleaning the junction
- Chisel #1 x 1/4in. (6mm) - cleaning very top of boss dome

Lines:

- 45° V tool x 1/8in. x (3mm)

Ribbon Flutes:

- Gouge #6 x 3/8in. (10mm) - don't make them too deep.

Deltas:

- Fishtail gouge #3 x 1/2in. (14mm)
- Fishtail chisel x 1/2in. (14mm)

Lastly:

Do look online and elsewhere for other examples of guilloche; they can anything from basic to very complicated: the boss might in a floret; the ratio of boss diameter to band/ribbon width can change; the deltas between the bands might be carved leaves; the bands or ribbons themselves might be multiplied - and so on.