

SOLENT GUILD OF WOODCARVERS & SCULPTORS

SUGGESTED SUPPLIERS FOR WOODCARVING TOOLS & WOOD

Tools

Carving chisels and gouges can be obtained from the manufacturers direct or through other more general tool suppliers. Be careful as some quoted prices exclude VAT. Also do not be tempted to buy sets as they often contain gauges not really required at the onset. Be expected to pay £30 plus for new gouges; second-hand ones maybe from £5 upwards. Details of some are given below:

1. [Classic Hand Tools Ltd](#) – for Pfiel gouges, which are Swiss, as well as other tools
2. [Toolnut](#) – for a selection of carving tools
3. [Ashley Iles](#) – own make of gouges
4. [Flexcut](#) - these can be fixed handles or interchangeable handles. The latter are not recommended as it would be easy for the user to cut their hand when changing the blades. These are quite different to the others listed as they are flexible.
5. [Yandles](#) at Martock sell a large range of tools and supplies. They also have a good range of seasoned woods of various types.
6. [Axminster Power Tools](#) sell a large range of tools and supplies. Their main shop is in Axminster but they now have branches UK wide.
7. Car Boot sales.
8. Chapel St Tools and Garden in Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3DZ – second hand tools.

Wood

The main type of wood used by carvers is Lime and this should be the beginner's first choice. However, any hardwood (except Balsa) can be used. Softwoods should be avoided as they can be difficult to carve and obtain a smooth finish. Wood can be obtained from various timber merchants locally and UK wide. However, a cheaper option is through friends who may be cutting down trees; the disadvantage being that the wood would seasoning – about 25mm per year.

Some local (to Portsmouth) suppliers are:

1. [English Woodlands Timber](#) at Cocking in West Sussex hold a large range of seasoned wood of many varieties however you may have to buy long lengths, e.g. 2.5m and above. They also have a 'Timber Rack' for shorter lengths.
2. [W. L. West](#) in Selham, West Sussex are timber merchants and have a small user department.
3. [English Woodland Timber](#) at Cocking, West Sussex are timber merchants and have a small user department.

Some others are listed on the [Guild's web site](#). See Links page.