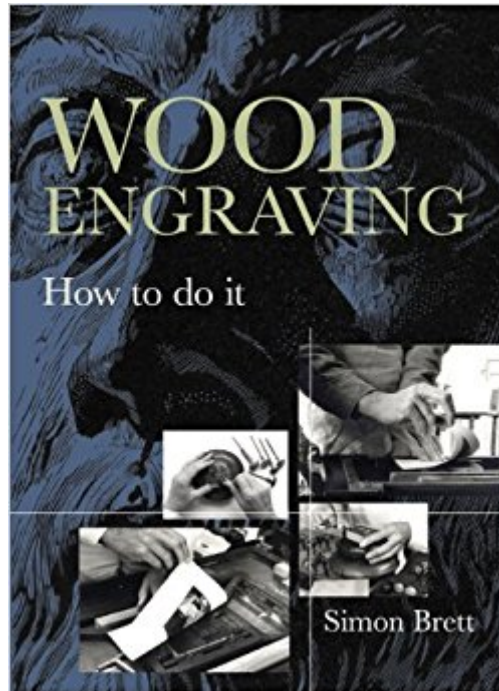




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# Wood Engraving: How To Do It



## Synopsis

Wood Engraving is an easily followed, practical manual on wood engraving for the beginner, written by a master in the field. The processes of printing and engraving are clearly explained, together with their material requirements. Up-to-date variations on techniques, and all the tips and methods that the author has found helpful in 30 years as a practitioner are included. The book is also a beautiful object in its own right and as the author Simon Brett's work is highly collectible. It is a must have for all those who treasure his work and fine wood engraving in general.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: A&C Black Visual Arts; Rev Exp edition (May 24, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1408127261

ISBN-13: 978-1408127261

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #558,195 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Prints](#) #163 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Printmaking](#) #14081 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies](#)

## Customer Reviews

The definitive guide to this technique [Printmaking Today](#)

Simon Brett, chairman of the Society of Wood Engravers, is an artist, printmaker and prize winning book illustrator. He taught for 18 years, from 1970 to 1989, and has written widely on the history and practice of wood engraving, editing the Engravers handbooks for the Society of Wood Engravers and the Contemporary Wood Engravers series for Primrose Hill Press, as well as curating major exhibitions for the Society and for the British Council.

A great resource for those wanting to learn more about wood engraving. Detailed and illustrated with many photographs of art and techniques. The book is in a different order than you might expect, starting with the hand and how to carve, then the mind, how to think about your work. It ends with the tools and materials. Backwards from the normal way books like this are set up, but it

works. The author has a section of excellent notes at the back also. I enjoyed the book a lot as it also includes the author's thoughts and reasoning more than simple technique guidance. Written in almost a conversational style, an enjoyable read.

Simon Brett's *Wood Engraving: How to Do It* is (as far as I can find) the definitive contemporary wood engraving tutorial book. It is intended for beginner's, and I think most higher level engraving practice will likely come from time and experience. But finding a first step down the wood engraving path can happily start here. Brett brings a wealth of engraving experience to this book, and it helps that he is an effective and thoughtful writer. There is a very good outline of the basic needs and methods to get started engraving wood, as well as a lot of helpful reference material and guidance for finding and defining a piece of your own. That mixture of practical, historical, artistic, and reflective aspects of creating work of your own is what really elevates this beyond just piecing together odds and ends online or from a handful of other selections. Brett knows you are looking for the basic instruction of cutting, inking, and pressing, but offers so much more. The structure of this book gives some history and establishes the basics right away. After that, Brett does a good job of stressing the process of developing an idea, thinking in the language of wood engraving (tones and lines), and offers a realistic and flexible perspective throughout. Each person's work is a product of something more than just how they hold a tool, and Brett leaves plenty of room for you to peer into someone's process without insisting it is the only acceptable process. I would happily recommend this book for anyone looking to start out with wood engraving. You don't have to read it cover to cover, though I did because it was both well written and interesting. If you are looking for other books to start with, Barry Moser's *Wood Engraving: The Art of Wood Engraving and Relief Engraving* is also quite good (though not as comprehensive) and Brett's *An Engraver's Globe* offers a lot of inspiration and contemporary examples.

Probably the best of the wood engraving books available today. Wood engraving is not easy if you want to achieve the look of the best engravers. You don't need any other book. Simon Brett gives you everything you need to embark on your own journey. For starters the author's work is of a very high standard. He describes the tools, techniques, sharpening, different materials to engrave, then how to transfer the art work. Many engraving techniques are explained so that the student can understand and over-come the difficulty of light on dark engraving and achieve the desired values for the ultimate print. Finally different printing processes are described. No press is required and just a few high quality tools. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to try wood type

engraving. Keep in mind there are many types of material you can engrave images on as a step in the block printing process.

This book is a mix of the practical with the indefinable... perhaps you could call it spiritual... approach to wood engraving. His standards are high. His approach to one's frame of mind in working in this technique is inspiring. Helpful, wonderful and surprising book.

This book delivers. The instructions are clear and methodically layer out. The images are clear and voluminous. What helps that is the fact that, even though this is a paperback, the paper is hefty. It really helped to bring out the subtle differences in prints in the book. This is the purpose of this book. Buy it you won't be sorry.

This book shows the ins and outs of wood carving. It'll be a great resource for engravers and wood block printers.

Very detailed and full of information.

This is a fantastic book! It covers all angles of wood engraving for printmaking at every level. I'm taking a college level printmaking course and I showed it to the professor. He was very impressed and said he would be buying his own copy.

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