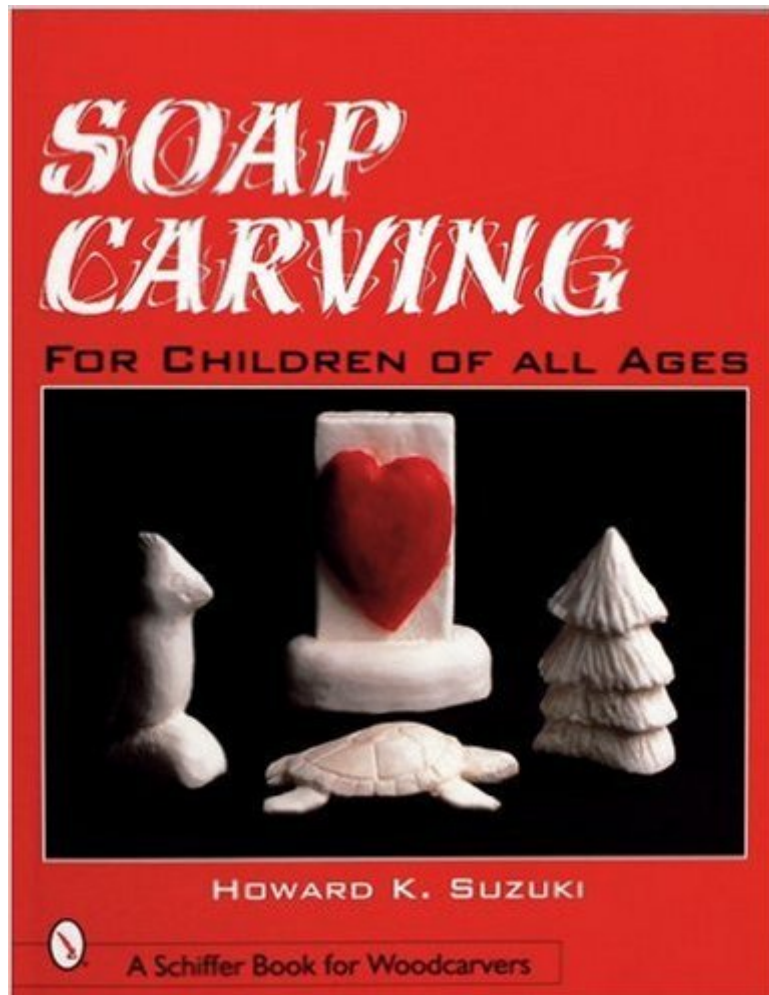


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# Soap Carving: For Children Of All Ages (Schiffer Book For Woodcarvers)



## Synopsis

Howard K. Suzuki demonstrates the basic techniques of carving by teaching the reader to carve on bars of soap. He integrates art and science to produce a super learning experience for children (of all ages) who would like to learn to carve.

## Book Information

Series: Schiffer Book for Woodcarvers

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (26 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a gem in the rough. It is not slick or up-to-date looking, but it contains excellent instructions on carving soap as a prelude to carving wood. The author, an engineer, shows you how to create carving tools out of popsicle sticks. This is the one of the coolest craft ideas I have ever seen and it worked very well with a group of children from my church. Not only does he describe how to make a basic carving tool (by cutting a diagonal and then sharpening the "blade" on sandpaper) but he shows how to make a gouge and other tools too. The main part of the book contains detailed instructions on how to carve several different objects (a heart, a turtle, a dolphin coming out of water, and more), with a picture showing each stage of the carving process. These were great instructions for me; the children I worked with (ages 5-10) could have used easier models/instructions. This book is great because it shows how to introduce a new fun craft activity, carving, in a way that works for groups of kids safely and without much expense. The kids loved it!

I am a teacher and I carve in my free time. I have always regretted that the tools for carving are too

sharp and dangerous for kids to use , so sharing my hobby with the children was out of the question until I read this book. What a nice idea, tools made out of popsicle sticks!!! I made a class set of the tools and my kids happily carved some of the figures suggested in the book. I did it with a grade three class when the kids learned about Inuits carving soapstone. The kids enjoyed it a lot. Children in higher grades will have as much fun doing it and hopefully they will be as proud of their creations. I can recommend this book for anyone who would like to carve with kids but is afraid to do so. One suggestion. Have the children bring a serving tray, or baking sheet and have them carve on that so the chips of soap will stay in the tray rather than fall on the floor!

Bought this for my 12 yr old grandson. He had a lot of fun carving the soap. It is easy and very safe way for him to get started learning to carve.

Great book, has lots of detail. Especially like the instructions for making your own carving tools out of popsicle sticks. My 6 yr. old grandson carved a soap owl and it came out good.

Exactly what I was looking for. I am intending to teach my granddaughter how to carve. As a carver myself starting at the young age of about 10, I know that the initial problem with carving was the strength in one's hands versus the density of the material being carved. I started out with soap, but with no instruction, didn't use the right kind of soap and became quickly frustrated. I then went to Balsa wood, which became even more frustrating due to the absolute requirement for SHARP tools. Had I had this book back then, I would have been able to learn a great deal more about how to work in three dimensions. I loved the part about making your own tools from popsicle sticks.

You'll find more examples with patterns on-line by googling, but this is a good starter book to test your interest in soap carving simple items yourself or with your child. That's worth the 4 stars to me; if it had a good number more patterns, I'd go 5. Ok price, quick delivery... a bit thin against what you may expect... good amount of info about making popsicle stick carving tools, though... not sure I'd take the time to do that - a dull paring knife, or metal and/or fiber board nail file might do just fine. A sharp Swiss Army Knife would do, too, but if working with a child parental oversight and hands-on instruction would obviously be important. Kids would love to have an Owl or Bear or Fish from soap as a gift or to make themselves. And to think that the mess that's made cleans itself, too!

I actually used his techniques for an art project for middle-schoolers. Worked great. Shows you how

to make your own tools from craft sticks. Inexpensive, low fuss, and fun way to teach subtractive sculpting or as an introduction to whittling. I also found this author has another book on the same subject with additional and useful information in it and it would be nice if it was all in one volume, but this one includes enough to get you started.

I purchased this book to have some advanced patterns for cub scouts/boy scouts for learning carving. As it turns out, I love having this book for my own purposes as well. It is very nicely done with clear instructions and great photos/illustrations. Great section on simple tools and techniques, easy to follow instructions and great care taken with photo examples. Very nicely done.

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