# CWCA NEWSLETTER

May. 2026 Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

1976-2026
50TH ANNIVERSARY

## Upcoming Events

Apr. 25 - **Berlin Peck Mem. Library** maker event 10am-2pm - setup @ 9:00am RSVP to Lynda
Apr. 26 - **Nature Day, Peoples Sate Forest** 12:39-5:30 walking sticks setup 11a RSVP Mike
May 1-2 - **Fine Woodworking Show** CT School of Woodwork Manchester 9-3 RSVP Mark
May 3 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA
May 16 - **Carving Competition & Decoy Show @** Westbrook Elks Club
May 16 -17 - **Mystic Carving Classes** see Mystic woodcarvers website
May 21 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
June 6 - **Elanor Buck** maker event, Wethersfield, ct Farie Wands
June 7 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA (usually CFPA on 1st Sun.).
June 18 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
June 27 - **Meriden Library** maker event 9:30-3:30
July 16 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
Aug. 8 - **Portland Library** maker event 4-6 RSVP - see calendar on web site
Aug. 20 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
Aug. 22 or 29 - **CWCA picnic** More info later.
Sept. 18 - 21 - **Woodcarving Retreat** at Wisdom Retreat House in Litchfield.

**Check the club calendar** for updates & more info. Hold *control* & right click**:** Calendar
**Novice projects** - page 3

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**Upcoming spring classes/monthly projects:**

- Quick Carve Snowman – we have a small one for night carve, a larger for stand-alone class
- Hummingbird and Crane ornaments
- Stylized Shorebird and chickadee
- Wonky Whittled Ladybugs; Flag Pin; Shelf sitting cat

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CWCA Facebook page Connecticut Woodcarvers Association | Facebook
CWCA Web Site HTTPS://ctwoodcarvers.org
CWCA email address ctwoodcarver@gmail.com

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# What Do Cut Ratings In Carving Gloves *Really* Mean ?

***ANSI*** has a standard used to rate safety gloves. It measures resistance to force a straight blade needs to cut through material.

- **A1–A2**: Light assembly, warehouse work
- **A3–A4**: Metal edges, automotive, food prep
- **A5–A6**: Sheet metal, glass handling
- **A7–A9**: Extreme hazards, heavy industrial cutting

ANSI also measures **Puncture Resistance (1–5)** & **Abrasion Resistance (0–6).**

However, real world cut risk depends on factors the test does **not** simulate: Blade sharpness, Angle of contact (a slicing motion is worse than straight pressure), & blade movement. So the rating is not 'real-life'.
It's also important to understand glove dexterity, and balance it with cut protection. Better cut and puncture resistance mean thicker, stiffer gloves, which reduce dexterity.
When selecting gloves, another rating system - ***EN388*** can provide useful information for carvers - like the dexterity-critical factor *tear resistance*. This standard has also been updated with an **ISO** standard which more accurately rates newer fabrics discussed below.

| EN 388 Metric | What It Measures | Why It Matters for Wood Carving |
|---|---|---|
| Abrasion (1–4) | Wear from rubbing | Wood dust, rough bark, sanding |
| Cut (1–5) | Blade slicing resistance | Knife slips, carving tools |
| Tear (1–4) | Force to rip material | Prevents glove from catching/splitting on wood grain |
| Puncture (1–4) | Nail/point penetration | Wood splinters, awls, sharp corners |
| ISO Cut (A–F) | High - precision cut rating | More accurate for modern fibers |

**Recommended Profile for Wood Carving** if you want protection *without* losing dexterity:

✓ **Abrasion: 2–3 -** Durability without thick coatings.
✓ **Tear: 2–3 -** Prevents glove failure from wood snags.
✓ **Puncture: 2–3** (EN 388's puncture scale tops out at 4, so ANSI Level 5 is a higher puncture resistance against splinters & tool points.
✓ **ISO Cut B–D (EN 388), or ANSI A2–A4** - Enough to protect from slips but still somewhat flexible.

**UNDERSTANDING GLOVE MATERIALS** - There are a wide variety of cut-resistant materials on the marketplace today. Gloves can achieve cut-resistance through a wide range of options, such as: high-performance polyethylene (HPPE), Dyneema knit, PVA yarns, heat-resistant Aramid fiber, or ultra-strong tungsten. More common cut-resistant knits include fiberglass or steel fiber-reinforced materials.

For knit gloves, newer yarns like TenaLux™ can provide cut-resistant without irritating fiberglass or steel fibers found in more traditional cut-protective gloves.

Armortex, Kevlar and polyethylene (PE) fibers can improve dexterity and cut-resistant in cut-and-sewn gloves.

In knit dipped gloves, Nitrile foam palm improves grip on wood and tools, ASX™ (All Surface Extreme) and DSX™ (Dry Surface Extreme) allow airflow and moisture escape to keep hands dry with good grip power and dexterity.