

## Turning And Carving A Chess Set By Ken Calkin

### General Guidelines:

The standard chess set is called a Staunton set. It was designed to be easily turned.

1. King is tallest piece, has a cross on his crown, and is 3 ½ to 4 ½ inches tall.
2. Queen is second tallest and has a ball on her crown.
3. Bishop is third tallest and has a mitre or oval with a slit.
4. Knight is fourth tallest, is in the shape of a horse and requires the most carving.
5. Rook is smallest of the major pieces and resembles a castle battlement.
6. Pawn is the shortest piece with a plain ball on top.

Chess sets that don't follow traditional guidelines are called Themed designs.

### Carving tools I use:

1. Foredon Rotary tool and bits. (Wecheer, Dremmel)
2. Ram 45 micromotor (NSK, Mastercarver, Optima)
3. Dremmel
4. Knives and gouges

### Hints:

1. Use a dark wood, (walnut) for the dark pieces and a light wood, (maple) for the light pieces. Alternately, use a light, easy carving wood, (poplar) for both and stain dark pieces.
2. If there is a lot of carving on a piece, e.g. the Knight, leave the carved section square. It's easier to place the pattern on a flat surface.
3. Cut out the carved outline with a band saw or coping saw.
4. Draw a "center line" down the middle of the piece. "Round" to this center line.
5. Sand the carved section to the same grit as the turned section.
6. Wooden chess pieces need to be weighted, so they don't tip over with a little bump. Drill a hole in the bottom and glue in lead or other metal.
7. Cover the bottom with leather, cork or felt for a smooth surface

### Finish:

1. After sanding, I apply 2 or 3 sealing coats of 50% Deft Sanding Sealer and 50% lacquer thinner, sanding between coats with increasingly finer grit sandpaper.
2. I spray a coat or two of Deft Satin Finish and when dry, then polish with Renaissance wax.

Design: Look at other sets to find a design you like

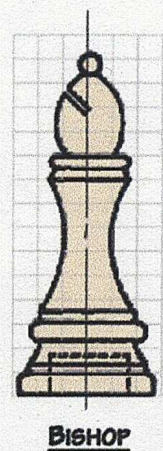
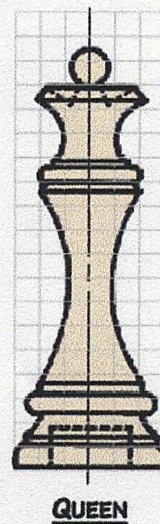
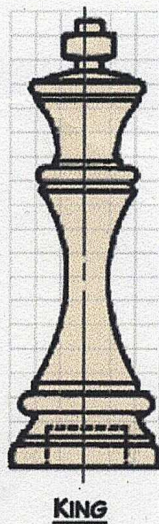
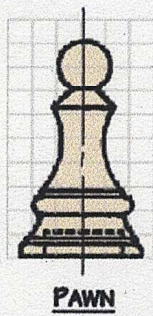
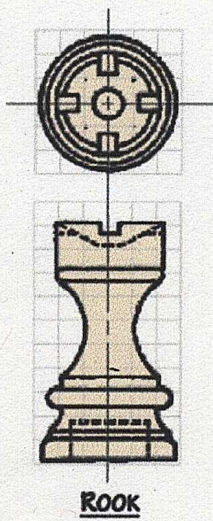
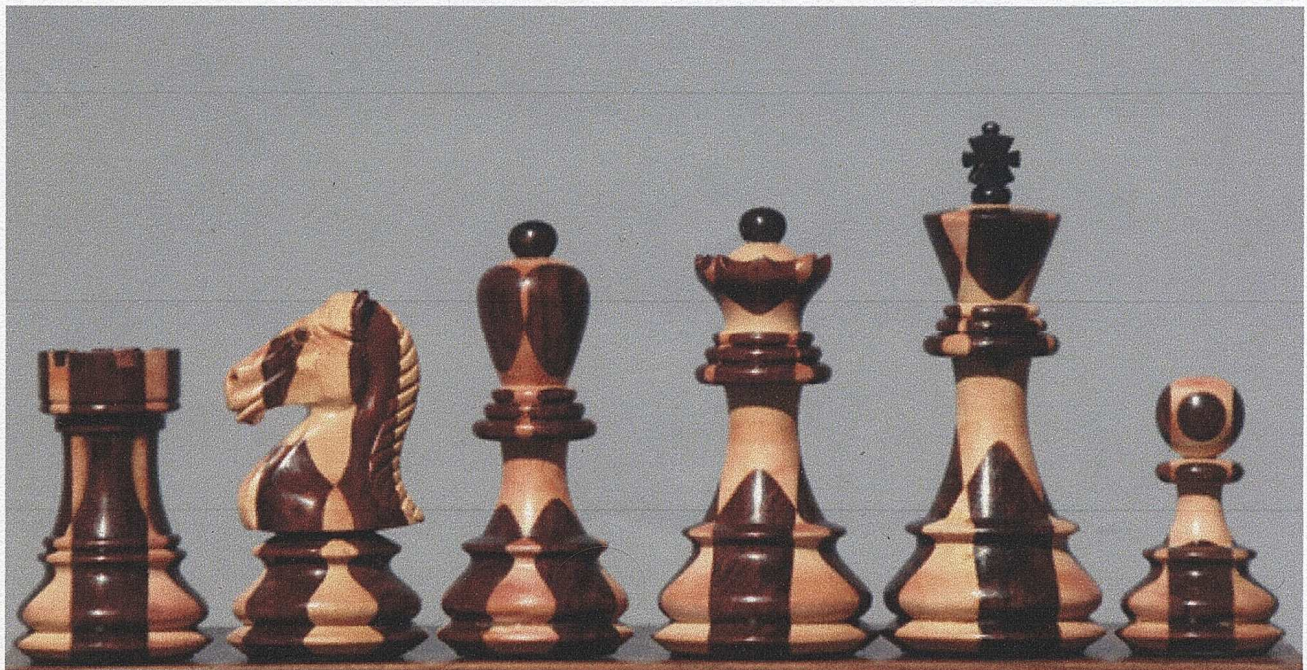
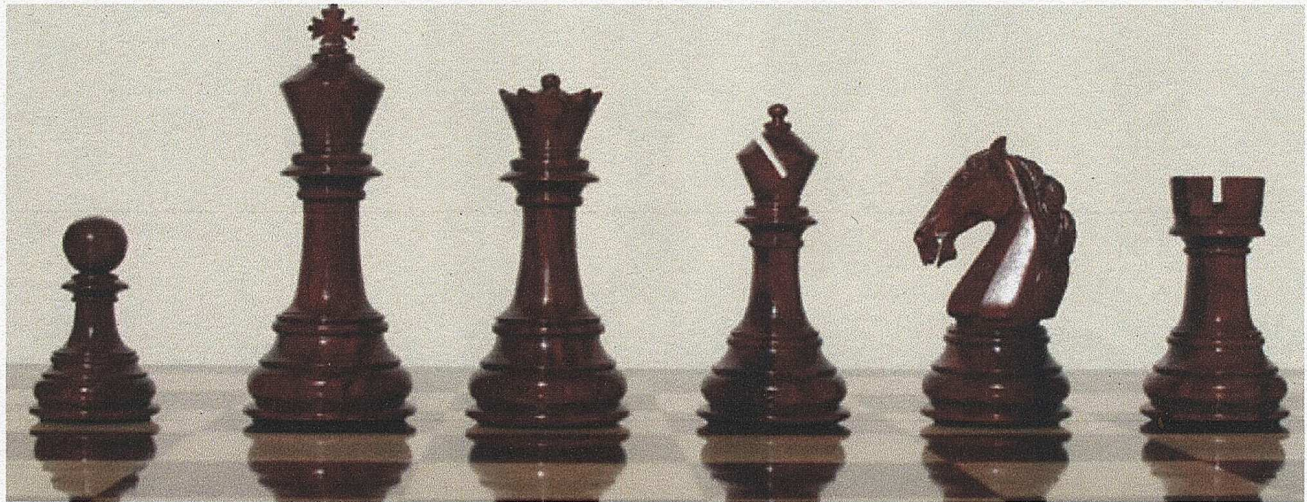
### Websites:

Using formed cutters to make it consistent

<http://books.google.com/books?id=jfsDAAAAMBAl&pg=PA18#v=onepage&q&f=false>

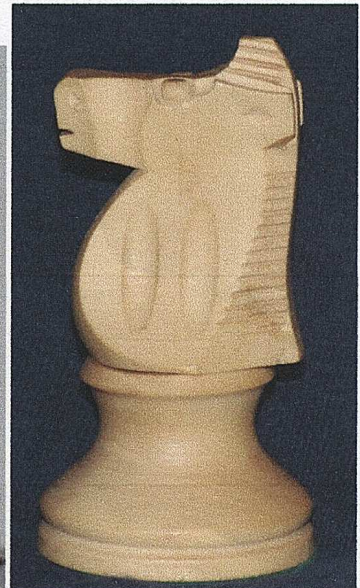
Examples of expensive sets <http://www.thechesspiece.com/>



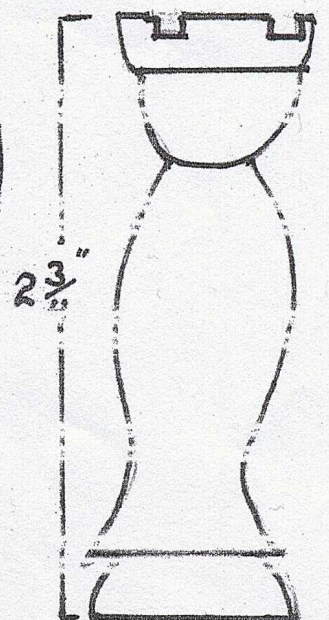
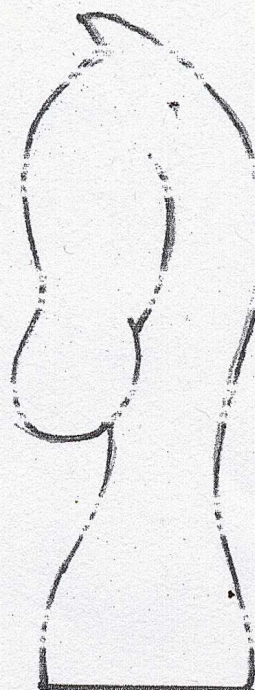
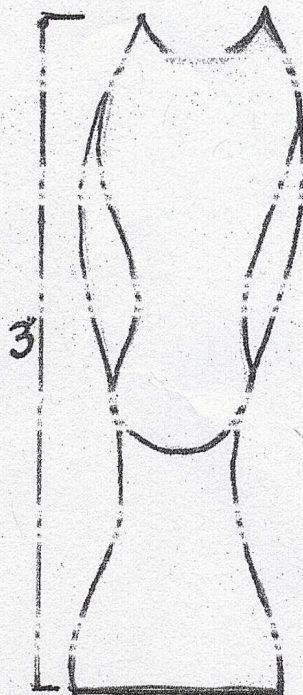
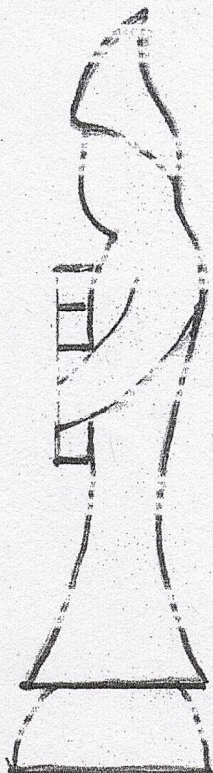
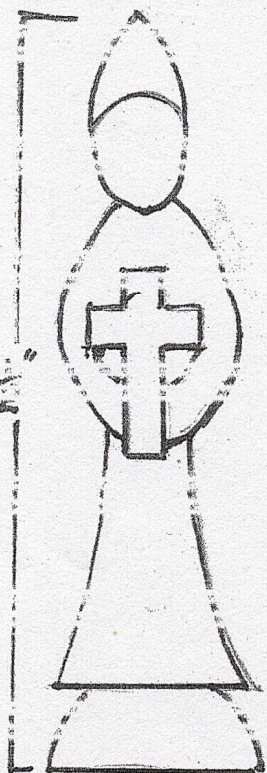
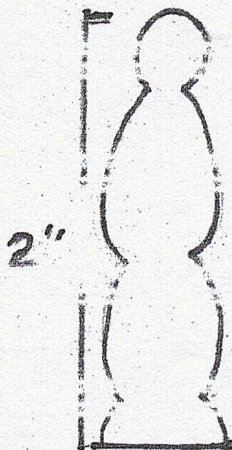
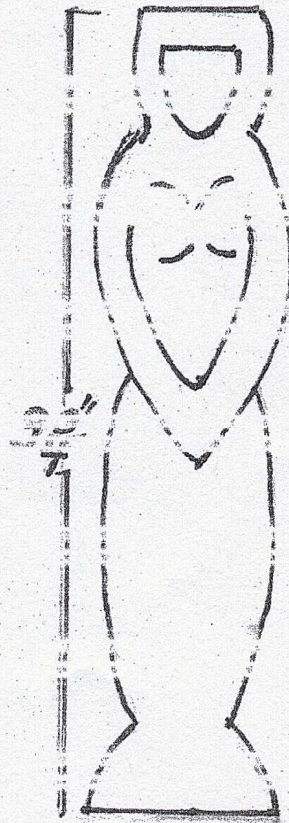
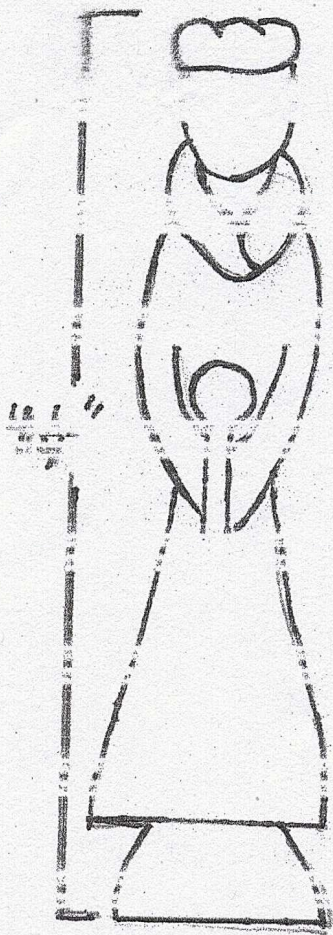




## Knight pieces







Chess pieces by K. Calkin