



Dogs can take two to five days depending on detail. They are finished with stains, Danish oil and preservative.

## The Dogs He Carves Look Like They Could Bark

Since a photo of his wooden pit bull went viral on social media, chainsaw carver Mike Jones has been bombarded with requests from people in Europe and the U.S. wanting carvings that look like their dogs.

Jones, who lives in England, first tried wood carving in 2013 and discovered he had a passion for it.

"A couple of years later I got really lucky. I was trimming trees for a customer, and they wanted someone to make some sculptures for them. I took the opportunity with a hope and prayer and managed to make a bear for them. Once I had made that they allowed me to spend another two months creating whatever they wanted for their patch of woodland, and we grew from there," Jones says.

His connection to the owner of a tree cutting service supplies him with the wood he needs for carvings of all sizes. He's carved a variety of soft and hardwoods but prefers to work with cedar. Jones begins carvings with a chainsaw, but also uses an angle grinder for sanding and rotary tool for detailing the nose, mouth and life-like eyes that are hand-painted.

"I use a finger sander with an inch-wide belt sander for sanding the muscle and contours on pieces," he adds.

Dogs can take two to five days depending on detail. They are finished with stains, Danish oil and preservative. While that helps preserve the wood, Jones says he can't prevent it from cracking.

The U.K. carver competes in carving events throughout the country and has experience carving horses, mythical creatures and African wildlife. But most of his work is commissioned.

"I have worked for commercial clients such as local councils, large businesses and even a Saudi prince. But the foundation of our client base has been built on and continues to thrive with everyday people with private commissions and stump carvings in their gardens," he says.

Currently, he has a 6-mo. lead time and is working on finding the best way to ship to the U.S. His popular dog carvings typically sell for between \$850 and \$1,500 plus shipping.

For information, check out Jones' website and his social media posts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Jones, Man and His Dog Carvings, Aldershot, Hampshire, U.K. (manandhisdogcarvings@gmail.com; www.manandhisdogcarvings.co.uk).



Hawkes combined a battery-powered drill with a small clamp-on vise to make a nutcracker.

## Drill-Powered Vise Cracks Nuts

A hammer just wasn't doing it for Gerry Hawkes, so he figured out a better way to crack the hard shells of black walnuts using a small vise and a cordless drill.

"I use a lower speed and go light on the trigger to get a precise crack, so it doesn't smash the walnut," Hawkes says. With his setup mounted on a board that rests on his lap, he often cracks walnuts while watching television.

He removed the vise handle and welded square stock to the back end of the screw that opens and closes the jaws. The other end of

the square stock slips into the drill's chuck. When a walnut is placed between the jaws, he uses the drill to crack it, then hits reverse to open the jaws.

A sheet of polyethylene under the vise lets the jaws slide freely and everything is secured in place with zip ties to the board.

"It's proving to be a very powerful, precise and fast nutcracker," Hawkes says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerry Hawkes, Eco Systems, Inc., 796 Wayside Road Ext., Woodstock, Vt. 05091 (ph 866-638-7337; Gerry.Hawkes@gmail.com).



Lines mimic the horizontal and vertical lines on the Danish red flag.

## Protest Pig Was A Living Flag

For a time under Prussian oppression in the late 1800's, Danish citizens weren't allowed to raise their country's flag. So instead, they bred a red and white pig to be a "living flag" that was a symbolic snub to Prussian authorities.

Farmers crossbred several varieties to create the red pig with a white shoulder band and white belly or back. The white lines mimic the horizontal and vertical lines on the Danish red flag.

In 1911, Austrians officially recognized the "Danish Protest Pig" as the Austrian national pig - "a sign of patriotism, an honor

for Austria and a humiliation for Prussia."

While the breed was politically significant it wasn't practical with its thick layer of fat and slow growth rate. The last piglets were born in 1968 and it seemed to be the end of the story for the Danish Protest Pig.

However, similar-looking pigs showed up in 1984 in Berlin and the German federal state of Schleswig-Holstein now supports their preservation. Renamed the Husum Red Pied pig or the Red and White Husum pig, they can be found in limited numbers, mostly in German zoos.



Photo by Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

Manpukuji carrots, developed in Japan over 400 years ago, can grow to over 3-ft. long and have a sweet taste.

## Rare Carrots Grow To Over 3-Ft. Long

Large vegetable enthusiasts will love the Manpukuji carrot. This Japanese heirloom variety is considered the mammoth of carrots and frequently grows to over 3-ft. long.

The Manpukuji carrot was developed in Japan over 400 years ago during the Edo period. It almost disappeared in the 1950's, but heirloom seed enthusiasts brought it back from the brink of extinction. Today, you'll find this carrot growing in gardens worldwide and as a novelty item in many farmers' markets.

The carrot is traditionally harvested after fall frosts and served as the main ingredient within a grated carrot salad served on Japanese New Year. And thanks to its sweet flesh, the Manpukuji makes a tasty snack when eaten fresh.

When grown in loose soil or tall raised beds, the Manpukuji carrot should thrive without much fertilizing or handling.

For best success, plant this carrot early in the spring. They need to stay in the ground as long as possible to reach full size. Before planting, work the bed deeply to ensure the roots have plenty of room to grow down.

Like all carrots, this mammoth variety requires light, fluffy soil and lots of moisture. Plant the seeds 1/8 in. deep, spaced 2 to 3-in. apart, in full sun. If you plant them closer, you

can thin the seedlings as they appear. Refrain from adding too much fertilizer, and make sure the soil stays wet until the seeds sprout, usually around 12 to 18 days after planting.

As with all heirlooms, the carrots are open-pollinated. This means that it's best to isolate the crop from other carrot varieties if you plan to save the seeds.

The carrots will grow best if they receive consistent moisture throughout the growing season. Leave them in the ground through a frost or two, as the colder temperatures will concentrate their sugars and make them sweeter.

Prior to harvesting, make sure you loosen the soil around the roots, so you don't snap the carrot as you pull on it.

After harvesting, Manpukuji carrots keep well in cold storage and will last for several months, another reason for their popularity in ancient Japan. You can also leave these carrots in the ground to overwinter in many growing zones.

Many heirloom seed suppliers sell Manpukuji carrots, including Baker Creek.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, 2278 Baker Creek Road, Mansfield, Mo. 65704 (seeds@rareseeds.com; www.rareseeds.com).