

# LathArt How to and Patterns

Wood Lath Art patterns. How to make lath art. Where to buy wood and paint. Examples of Wood LathArt examples. Other information of interest. All content on this blog is protected by Copyright unless otherwise noted.

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## How to make a Lath Art Painting

Step by Step procedure for making Authentic Wood Lath Art.

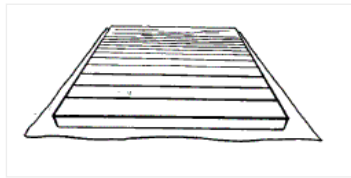
You can enlarge the

[First Project Preview - Original Pattern](#)

by clicking on either of the pictures so that you can better see the lath direction lines.

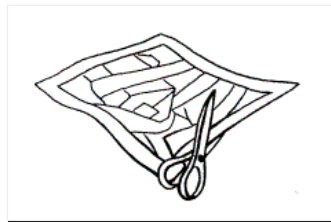
You can buy the lath wood strips, (the suggested sizes are in this guide), or you can rip them yourself from a 2 by 4. I can usually make a large painting using one 2 by 4.

### The Guide



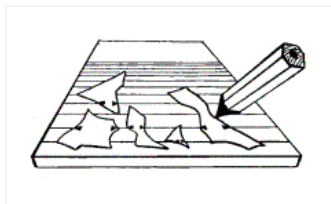
#### 1. Making the lath sheet

About 30 to 36 strips of lath (1/4" x 1 1/2" x 24") are required. These are glued (white glue is fine) to a single long sheet of kraft paper leaving a small, just noticeable, gap between each piece. Dry-bond glue sheets are even more convenient. For this method the lath is laid in place (good side down) with the dry glue sheet covering it and the kraft paper over that. Then ironed on with an old iron.



#### 2. Cut apart the pattern

Each 'Primary' piece of the pattern is cut out for marking on the lath sheet. 'Secondary' pieces are pieces that lie within certain primary pieces and are cut apart and marked on the lath sheet after all the primary pieces have been marked. These appear as dotted lines on the pattern.



#### 3. Marking the pieces on the wood

'Primary' pieces are positioned on the lath sheet and 'oriented' so the black arrows line up with a given crack between the lath. This ensures the lath lines of the wood will run in the correct direction for each separate picture piece.

### Our Other LathArt Sites and Contact Info

All our LathArt sites contain some examples of LathArt, so look around.

[LathArt How to and Patterns](#)

[LathArt Discussion Help and Examples](#)

[LathArt Paintings](#)

[LathArt for the Pro](#)

[Mailing List and Contact Form](#)

### Discussion Forums

Some of our posters regularly chat on these forums about LathArt. Search Lathart and Lath Art.

[Woodworks and Crafts Magazine](#)

[Scrollsaw Woodworks and Crafts](#)

### Other LathArt and Woodcraft Sites

[Christopher Hildebrand Picture Site](#)

Picture gallery of Christopher Hildebrand, a contributor to our Discussion and Help page.

[Classic LathArt - Rod Skramstad](#)

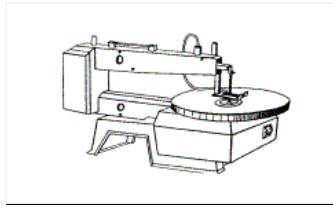
Rod Skramstad's LathArt gallery. Rod is a contributor to our Discussion and Help page.

[Slatcraft](#)

Fantastic collection of LathArt by Dave Lampman of Florida. He has been doing LathArt since 1979 and has a wonderful take on subject and treatment. Not to be missed.

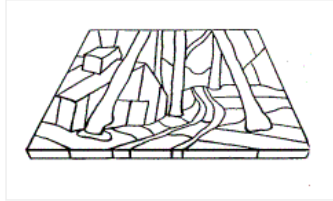
[Scroll Saw Goodies Blog](#)

Lots and lots of scroll saw ideas. Travis has featured LathArt and our contributors a few times.



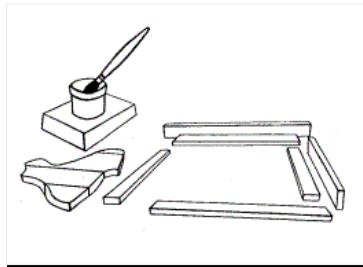
#### 4. Saw out the pieces

All the primary pieces are cut out on the scroll saw or band saw. Try to stay right on the 'inside' edge of the pencil line. Then those pattern pieces which contain 'secondary' pieces are cut apart and the secondary line is marked the previously cut primary piece. This completes the scroll-saw work.



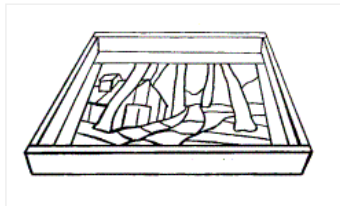
#### 5. Final fitting of pieces

The picture pieces are put in place on the assembly pattern (2nd copy) to check for fit. Some trimming is usually required on a few pieces, but a little trimming goes a long way. Lathart pictures tend to look even better without perfectly flush joinings. In fact I have always created gaps in certain places if the sawing produced too few on its own. The darker line produced with a slightly bigger gap can produce an attractive emphasis.



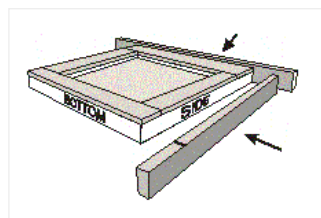
#### 6. Painting or staining

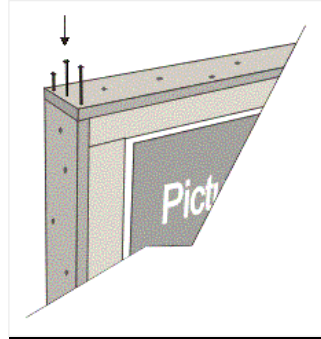
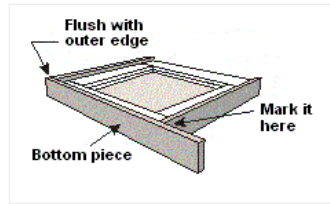
Lathart looks best when lots of blonde wood shows through the paint or stain, so we suggest you always use thinned out paints which you paint on and wipe thoroughly off. Ordinary Craft or Tole paints (available in all craft stores - eg: Delta brand) work very well. Each pattern pack comes with Delta color names/numbers and a basic blending guide for getting the color right. But you may want to create your own look, perhaps with deck stains, or other paints. you have around. The 8 frame pieces (3/8" x 1 1/2" x "X") are done the same way.



#### 7. Final picture assembly

The painted pieces are glued on to the assembly pattern first (spot glue them), then that is in turn glued on to a backer-board (1/2" particle board is fine). Then the frame is nailed in place. (More info on framing is included below)





## 8. Framing

The backer-board is cut bigger than the picture to exactly accommodate the inner frame pieces which lay flat and are nailed to the backer-board (backer and inner frame pieces must be flush). Then the 4 piece outer frame is fitted (like the inner frame do the top and bottom first, then the sides) and nailed to the side of the backer-board. A 1/4" 'lip' is created by the edge of the outer frame extending higher than the inner frame.

Note how the top and bottom pieces of both the inner frame and the outer frame extend out to the edge, with the side pieces of both inner and outer frames abutting the top and bottom components.

The outer frame is nailed with 1 1/4" finishing nails, aimed toward the backer-board, plus 2 or 3 extra nails set into the adjoining outer frame pieces at each corner. This gives additional support when handling the picture.

**Note** Both Chris and Rod have photos of the steps they use to create their LathArt on their websites. Be sure to check them out under **Other LathArt and Woodcraft Sites**

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