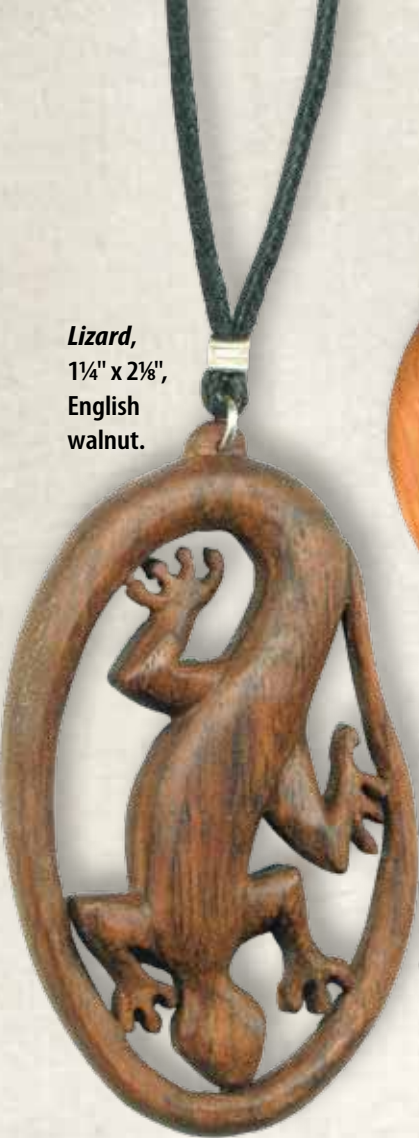



Scrolling Wooden Jewelry




Lizard,
1¼" x 2⅞",
English
walnut.



Slipknot,
1½" by 2",
English yew.



Dragon Coil,
3" x 2", English yew.



Curling Locks,
3¼" long,
English walnut.

Celtic woodworker Geoff King creates intricate scrolled jewelry

By Kathleen Ryan

Geoff King's unique designs feature intricate detailing with a distinct Celtic flare. Geoff creates his jewelry, which includes brooches, earrings, and necklaces, using local wood harvested from his personal garden.

Geoff started his woodworking career in 1985, introducing a line of bears and animals that evolved into jigsaw puzzles and Noah's Arks. That's when Geoff taught himself how to use a scroll saw. For the next six years he racked up awards in many aspects of woodworking, including furniture making and carving, but major health issues forced him to think in smaller terms.

"I started experimenting with jewelry and found I loved the work," Geoff said. "It was very exciting because with the scroll saw, I discovered I could cut any intricate design I could imagine. When the jewelry actually began selling, I expanded the line and I've been at it ever since."

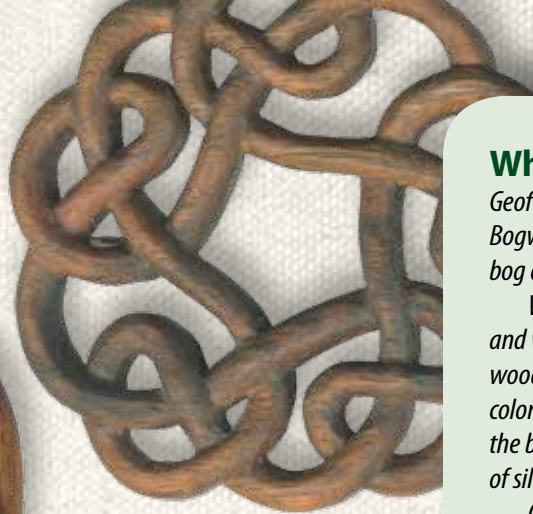
A native of England, Geoff moved to Scotland with his wife, Fiona, and their son, Robert. They purchased a 150-year-old Scottish farmhouse nestled at the edge of the Scottish moor. Here, Geoff planted and maintains a lush garden.

"I am a passionate tree lover, so I never use new rainforest or tropical timbers. My wood comes from the off-cuts from furniture or musical instrument makers or from my garden trees that are thinned in maintenance," Geoff explained.

To date, the family has planted over two acres of lush garden. Geoff prunes the trees to obtain the timber used in his jewelry making. Geoff visits his garden often to gain inspiration for new creations.



Green Marble Trees,
1½" by 2½",
English walnut .



Penticoil,
2"-diameter,
English walnut.

Geoff also uses bog oak for special pieces. Bog oak comes from ancient trees that have been buried for thousands of years in bogs and moors. After a good kiln drying, the wood cuts nicely and offers unique characteristics. Each of Geoff's bogwood pieces comes with a certificate of authenticity, dating the wood used for that particular piece.

**“With the scroll saw,
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“My supply of this precious bog oak is shrinking and people are very protective of their sources,” Geoff said. “I plan to spend some time exploring later this year in an effort to unearth more of this rare wood.”

To add interest and excitement to his work, Geoff experiments with combinations of colors and textures. He frequently incorporates gemstones as well as amber and green marble. “For me, jewelry making is a fulfilling way to satisfy my creative urges.” Geoff explained. “I truly enjoy making beautiful things that bring happiness to other people, whether they buy the pieces for themselves or give them as a gift. I simply love wood and love working with it.”

What is Bogwood?

Geoff King often uses bogwood for his special jewelry pieces. Bogwood is cut from trees that once grew in the moist soil of a bog or wetland.

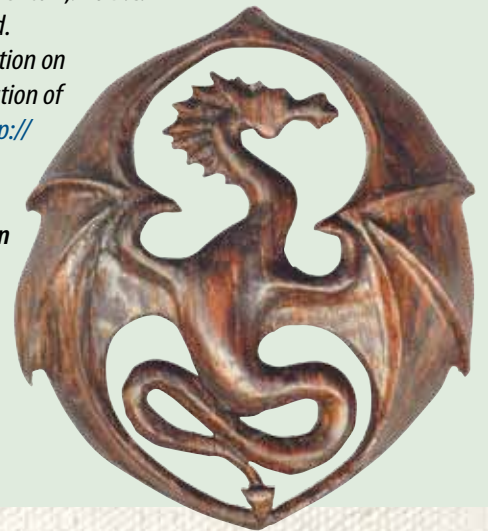
When a tree dies and falls into a bog, the highly acidic soil and water, caused by decaying plant life, soften and preserve the wood for hundreds, even thousands of years. The distinctive tan color of bogwood results from high amounts of organic matter in the bog. The tree's submersion also leads to deposit of tiny grains of silica, which can be seen as white flecks.

Over the past 500 years, the bogs have slowly been drained away. As the land dries up and shrinks, it forces buried bogwood to the surface. Geoff's bogwood was discovered this way.

Geoff sent a sample to The Queen's University School of Geosciences in Belfast, Ireland, for analysis. They dated the tree back to 2,976 B.C.—nearly 5,000 years old.

For more information on the history and formation of natural bogs, visit <http://tinyurl.com/7acuc>.

This bogwood *Dragon Brooch* comes with a letter from the Queen's University of Geosciences, verifying the age of the wood.



SCROLL SAW TIPS FROM GEOFF KING

- Be aware of the direction of the grain when orientating your design.
- Always keep in mind that short grain breaks easily.
- Avoid timber with knots—these are weak points.
- Don't push too hard—this causes the blades to break more often.
- Select the right blade for the thickness and hardness of wood.
- Be sure to use adequate lighting.
- Relax your shoulders and neck. Don't clench your jaw with concentration.



About the Artist

Geoff King's finely-carved jewelry and accessories also come as one-of-a-kind, custom made pieces. His finished jewelry ranges between \$30 and \$400. For more samples of his work, visit his website at www.woodlandtreasures.co.uk/.

Making Inlay Jewelry

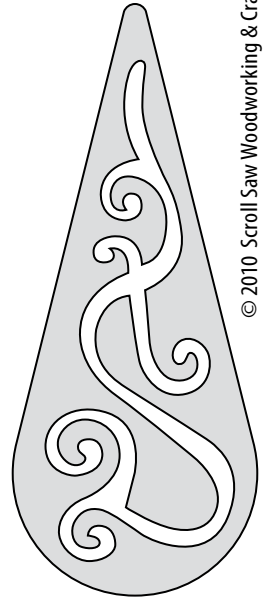
Highlight this fun, fashionable design with contrasting woods

By Geoff King



These beautiful inlay designs are easy to make and can be used as a pendant or earrings. Handmade jewelry makes a thoughtful gift.

Chose sharply contrasting colors of wood for best results. I prefer to trace the design directly onto my blank, but you can also attach a copy of the pattern with spray adhesive.

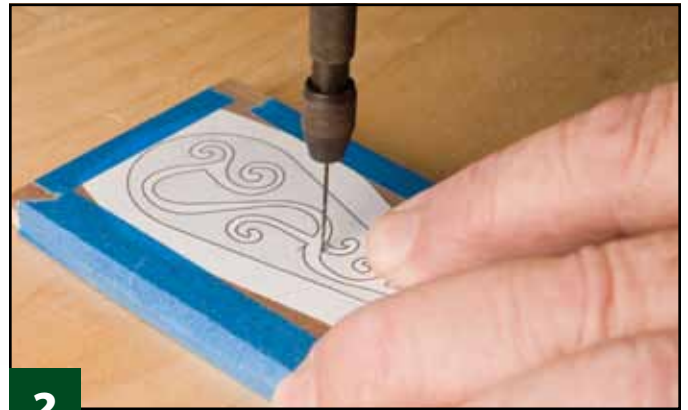


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1

Prepare the blank. Stack together two pieces of $\frac{1}{4}$ "-thick contrasting wood. Drill holes in the waste area on all four corners of the blank with a #67 drill bit. Drive four small nails or brass pins through the holes.



2

Drill the blade-entry hole. Drill a blade-entry hole with a #76 drill bit. Position the hole on an inside pattern line in one of the corners. Use a drill press to make sure the hole is perpendicular to the blank.



3

Cut the inlay. Thread a #2/0 reverse-tooth blade through the blade-entry hole and cut along the inside lines. Carefully remove the inlay segments from the wood.



4

Cut the perimeter pattern line. Use a #4 reverse-tooth blade to follow along the outside pattern line. You will now have two teardrop shapes with contrasting inlay designs.



5

Insert the inlay. Dilute wood glue slightly with water and apply it to all of the sides of the inlay pieces with a small brush. Apply diluted glue to the inside edges of the teardrop shapes. Insert the contrasting inlays, making sure the inlay is flush with the main piece.



6

Fill any gaps. Spread glue on the top of the piece to fill in any tiny gaps. Wipe away any excess glue and let the glue dry. You can leave the pieces 1/4" thick if you are using them as pendants. To make matching earrings, cut the stock in half.



7

Resaw the earring in half. Use a marking gauge or ruler to draw a centerline on the outside edge. Clamp the stock in a vise and cut along the mark with a razor saw to create two identical earrings. Smooth the cut surfaces with 150-grit sandpaper and apply a thin coat of diluted glue to fill in any tiny cracks.



8

Finish the jewelry. Mark the location of the hardware hole with an ice pick, brad, or awl. Carefully drill a hole through the wood with a #67 drill bit. Sand the sides and edges with 220-grit sandpaper followed by extra-fine synthetic steel wool. Apply a waterproof oil finish and allow the oil to dry for two days.



9

Attach the hardware. Open the jump ring with round nose pliers. Insert the ring through the hole in the top of the earring. Thread a chain through the ring or attach the ear hook to the ring and bend the jump ring closed.

Materials & Tools

Materials:

- 1/4" x 1 1/2" x 3 1/4" (6mm x 40mm x 85mm) dark-colored close-grained hardwood
- 1/4" x 1 1/2" x 3 1/4" (6mm x 40mm x 85mm) light-colored close-grained hardwood
- Wood glue diluted slightly with water
- Sandpaper: 150 and 220 grits
- Extra-fine synthetic steel wool
- 4 each ear hooks and jump rings
- 4 each small brass pins or brads
- Waterproof furniture oil finish or finish of choice

Tools:

- #2/0 and #4 reverse-tooth blades or blades of choice
- Drill with #67 and #76 drill bits
- Hammer
- Pencil
- Small paintbrushes (applying glue and furniture oil)
- Round nosed pliers
- Brad, awl, or ice pick
- Marking gauge or ruler
- Vise
- Razor saw