

## First Stone Carving Class FAQs

**How hard is it to carve?** It's relatively easy to break off bits of limestone with a chisel and hammer. Like every art, the success is in the finesse. It is not a difficult skill to learn, but the work itself requires persistence. One of the best ways to have success at carving is to create and execute a simple design as opposed to starting off with a complicated piece of elaborate knotwork. You can build up your skills and try more complex designs as you learn. The best way to help yourself get started is to BRING A SIMPLE DESIGN WITH YOU or create one when you get here.

**What tools will I need? I have plenty of loaner tools, as it is critical to have the one or two correct chisels to learn the technique.** To do relief carving, you need flat, thin and sharp chisel designed for carving limestone and marble. In order to succeed in the class, a student must be able to hold and learn how to use a chisel and hammer, sandbag and safety goggles in classes. Chisels and extra pieces of stone will be for sale separately, but this is not required.

*All students in all classes should supply their own safety goggles and sandbags. The sandbags are critical to your success- and they are not supplied for you. Make your own with an old pillowcase partly filled with sand or unscented kitty litter.*

I have information on purchasing tools available during class. I recommend you wait until the beginner class is complete, if you want to get more tools, so you can choose tools that work well for you.

YOU SHOULD BRING:

- a pair of safety glasses or goggles, (no exceptions, all must wear safety glasses)
- one or two old terry cloth towels
- your sandbag!

If you happen to have any carving tools, especially a flat chisel about 1/2 inch wide, please bring them along. So -called 'cold' chisels, usually painted in vivid colors, will not work for carving.

ALSO HANDY TO HAVE IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE THEM but not required:

- dust masks
- sandpaper in various grits (wet/dry type),
- small needle files, riffler rasps, hacksaw blades, old screwdrivers
- sharpening stones,
- old t shirts for polishing cloths, a small bucket or large ice cream tub for water

You probably have many of these things hanging around in the basement or garage.

**How old do students need to be?** Typically, only students over age 16 will be admitted as students. Some locations will vary as to this rule, so please check ahead. Adolescents need not be accompanied by parents; they are most welcome, and will find the class very suitable for them. All students must wear protective eye gear and paper dust masks. Tell your teenager.

**Any other questions?** E mail me at [celticinfluence@gmail.com](mailto:celticinfluence@gmail.com) if it has to do with the carving class. Questions about registration, accommodation and other information for the week long classes and most weekend workshops I teach at are usually available at the hosting organizations' websites. Please contact them for more info. Stop by [lauratraviscarving.com](http://lauratraviscarving.com) or see my Facebook page at [facebook.com/lauratraviscarving](https://facebook.com/lauratraviscarving) and have a look around!

I look forward to seeing you in class! - Laura Travis