

Engraving Patterns with Shade Lines

If you are working from a standard pattern (such as a GRS laser-marked pattern), you will notice that the lines are not generally tapered as they are applied to the piece. This is because the lines indicate the centerline of your graver cut, not how wide the cut should be. By varying the width and depth of cut, you add your individual flare to the finished piece. If you cut each line a consistent width and depth, your finished piece

may look too sterile. Study the work of other engravers you admire. See where they widen and deepen their cuts and apply these principles to your work.

While the main lines in many engraving designs are often cut in a fairly consistent width, shading lines are more graceful when you cut them with a definite, gradual taper. Start at the thin end and cut toward the thick part of the shade line. This allows you to

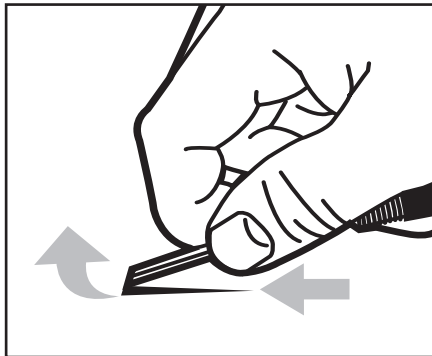
control the taper better and lets you end the shade line more precisely with a quick upward wrist motion that “flicks” the chip out of the cut.

NOTE: If you get slightly off the marked centerline of a cut, don’t correct too abruptly... smooth out the cut by eye and gradually get back on centerline. By doing this gradually (versus an abrupt correction), any slight errors will be unnoticeable.



This GRS pattern shows the centerline of each graver cut. For maximum beauty and effect, the actual cuts you make should vary in depth and width. As an example, study the leaf in the two circles. In the small circle, the shade lines are shown in the same width. In the larger circle, the shade lines are tapered to add a much more dramatic effect. That’s what you are after.

Do THIS...



Cut shade lines from THIN to THICK. Use a quick upward wrist motion at the end of the cut to “flick” the chip out of the cut.

NOT this...



Wrong direction!