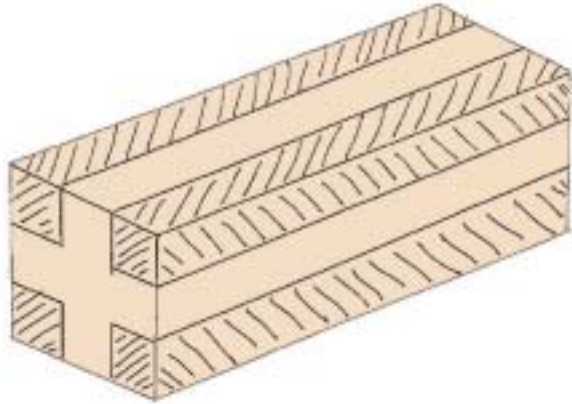


# Unlocking the Links

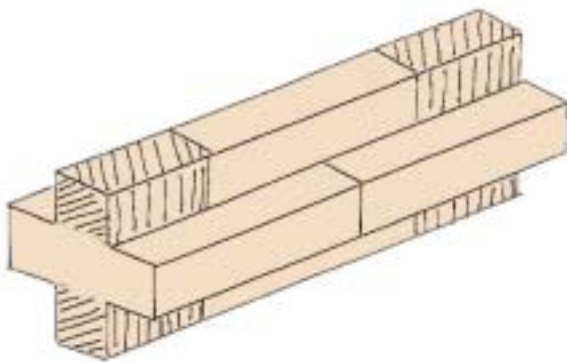
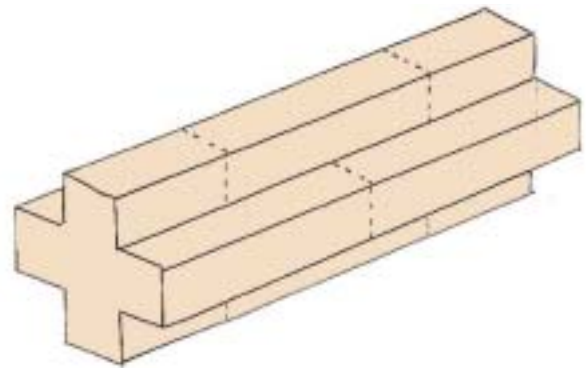
Text and illustrations by Mike May



## STEP 1

Divide each long surface into three equally wide strips. Connect the lines on the ends to make a "plus sign" shape. Then, use a knife (or carefully saw) to remove the areas marked with hatches in the drawing.

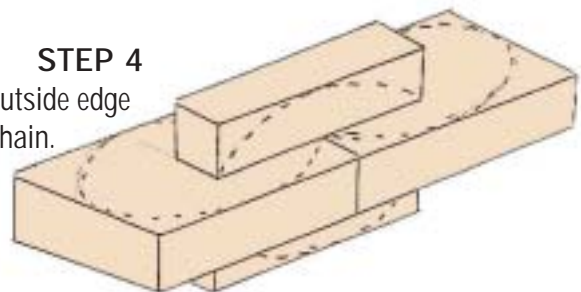
**STEP 2**  
To start laying out the three links, divide the side arms of the "plus sign" into two equal pieces (shown by the dotted lines). On the upper and lower arms of the cross, mark in 1 inch from each end. This lays out two 2-inch pieces on the side arms and one 2-inch piece in the middle of the upper and lower arms of the cross.



## STEP 3

Use your knife to remove the excess material, shown as the hatched areas.

**STEP 4**  
Using a pencil, draw the outside edge of the three links in your chain.

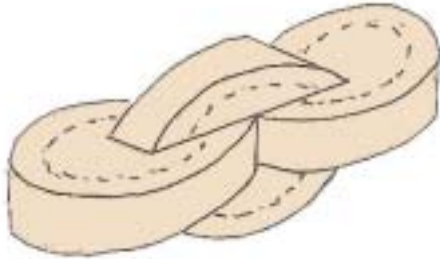


In the January 2003 *Boys' Life*, TV personality Roy Underhill gives plans for three of this favorite woodworking projects.

As your carving skill progresses, you might consider adding a wooden chain to

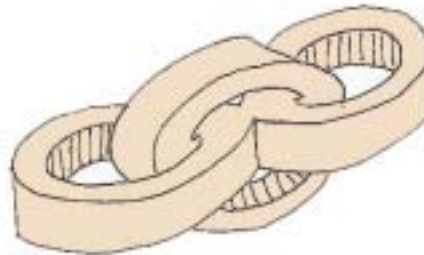
the caged ball or another of Underhill's projects.

Here's how to carve a 3-link chain from a block of wood that is 1½ inches square and 4 inches long.



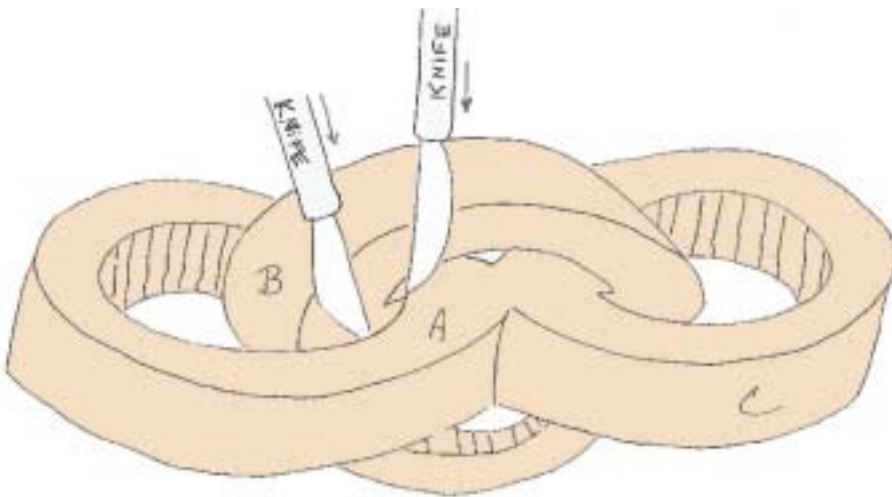
#### STEP 5

Whittle away the material outside the three links. Then, use your pencil, again, to draw the inside edges of the links of your chain.



#### STEP 6

Carefully whittle away as much of the insides of all three links as you can, but let them stay connected at the center.



#### STEP 7

To unlock the links, start by freeing the side links from the center one. Push the edge of your knife down along the inside edge of link A to make a stop cut and—working from link B—slide away little shavings that come back to your stop cut. Also make stop cuts down the side of link B and then slice back toward it to free up the sides. Keep making stop cuts on the top, bottom and both sides to free link B from Link A. Then, free link B from link C the same way.

#### STEP 8

Finally, use your knife to cut apart links A and C.

