

How to make a wooden spoon, the viking way

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Intro: How to make a wooden spoon, the viking way

I will show you how to make a wooden spoon out of green applewood. Using only my handmade viking tools.



Step 1: All my tools

This is an overview of all my tools.



Image Notes

1. A selection of tools that I use everyday.

Step 2: The tools I use.

This is the tools you need to make a spoon. My tools are hand forged reconstructions of viking tools.

You need:

Axe: any small hand axe will do fine. It just needs to be sharp. A good hand axe weighs around 500-600g

hammer: you need a heavy hammer. If it is too small it will not have enough force to split the wood.

wedge: A heavy iron wedge made for splitting firewood will work fine. Alternatively use a old axe and hammer it through the log. Don't use your good axe for that. You ruin the axe that way.

Knife: a small sharp knife will do.

Spoon knife: You **need** a spoonknife, in my book there are no alternatives. You will probably not find it in your local hardwarestore, but you can buy it online. The best are handforged made by S. Djǫrð but you can also go after the cheap ones made by Frost Sweden.

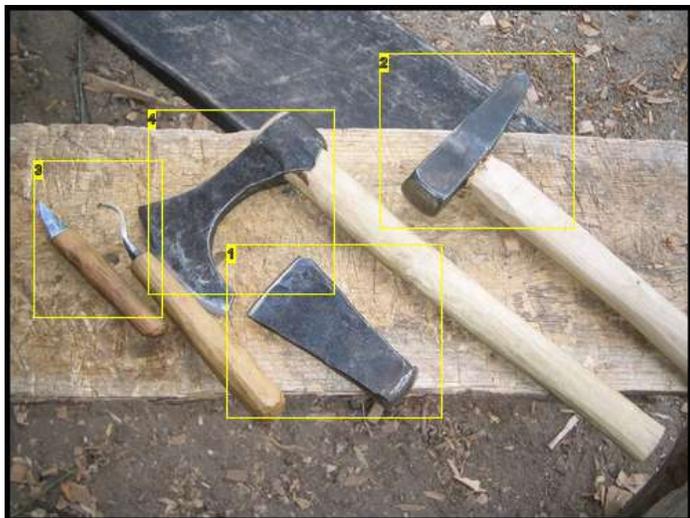


Image Notes

1. wedge
2. hammer
3. knives, normal knife and spoon knife.
4. axe



Image Notes

1. Handforged spoonknife
2. Small handforged knife.

Step 3: The wood

You need a log of wood. It needs to be 10-15 cm longer than the spoon you want to make. It needs to be newly cut. The wood you don't use right away you can leave it some high grass. Then it will be wet and workable for 2-4 weeks.

All wood can be used, but fruit tree are best. For this spoon I'm using applewood. That's a very good wood for spoonmaking. It's hard and very durable in use. And it looks nice with the all white grains.



Image Notes

1. This log makes 4-8 spoons depending on the size of them.



Image Notes

1. This log are newly cut.

Step 4: Splitting the log

Now you need the hammer and wedge. Split the log into 4 triangular pieces.



Image Notes

1. Start by splitting the log down the middle. If you see a crack in the log, use the crack as a guide to where to split it.





Step 5: Cut the rough shape of the spoon with the axe.

I use a piece of charcoal to draw the shape of the spoon. I cut the rough shape of the spoon as close to the drawing as possible. That way I have less work to do with the knife. When I work in greenwood I have to work fast so the wood don't dry and crack. If I need to leave the wood or I want to finish it later, I can place it in a bucket of water or in a plastic bag in the refrigerator.



Image Notes

1. this is the front of the log. I just removed the bark. And drew a center line.



Image Notes

1. This is the side of the log. Here I draw the shape of the spoon.

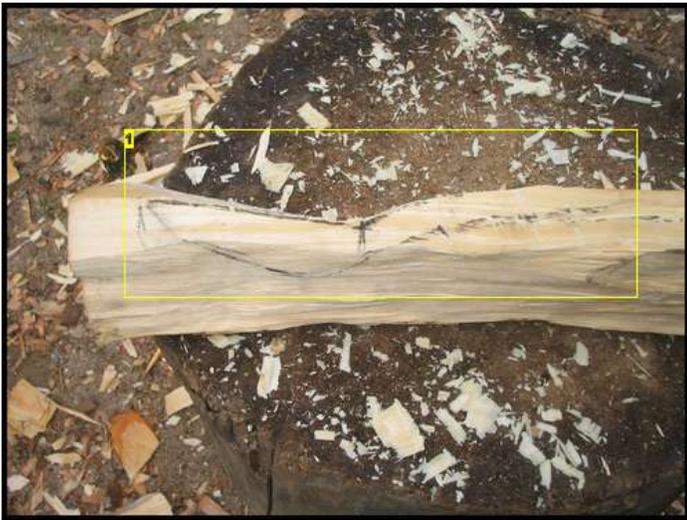


Image Notes

1. With the axe I remove the wood from the front of the log.



Image Notes

1. you can see the shape and angle of the spoonhandle. It has to be just right so the spoon will have the right feel when it is finished.



Image Notes

1. now I remove the wood from the back of the spoon.



Image Notes

1. First I remove from the head, and then from the handle.



Image Notes

1. When the wood has the right thickness I draw the shape of the spoon on the



Image Notes

1. keep it as close to the line as possible.



Image Notes

1. now the spoon has the rough shape on all sides.

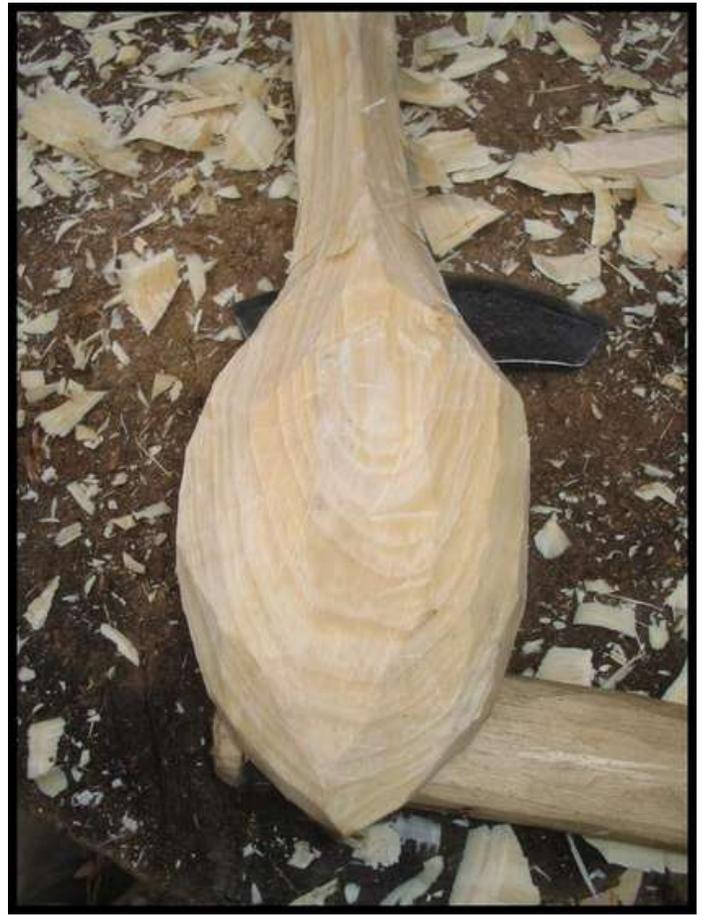


Image Notes

1. now cut the back of the spoon head. Try to make it as exactly inverted on both sides as possible.



Image Notes

1. Now your finished with the axe.
2. front view

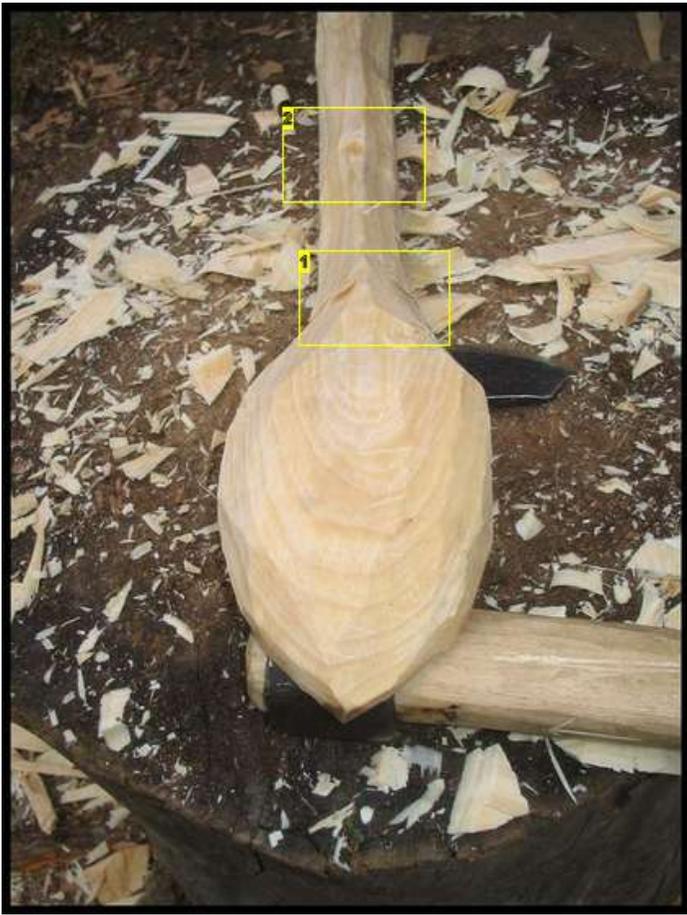


Image Notes

1. Watch out for this area, if you make it too thin the spoon will break.
2. Note the triangular shape of the handle. That gives it more strength.



Image Notes

1. back view

Step 6: Using knives to finish the shaping.

With a knife I finish shaping the outside of the spoon. When it is smooth I make the bowl with a spoon knife. The last thing I make is the carving at the end of the handle.

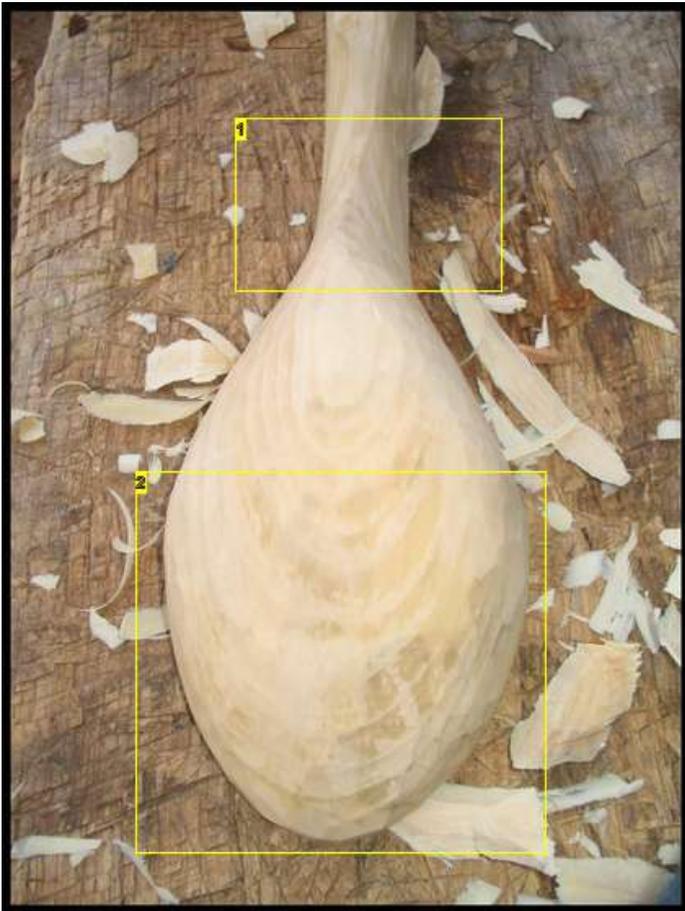


Image Notes

1. I keep the triangular shape of the handle.
2. Try to make it as smooth as possible with the knife. It will save you a lot of work when sanding the spoon later.



Image Notes

1. now I start carving the bowl.

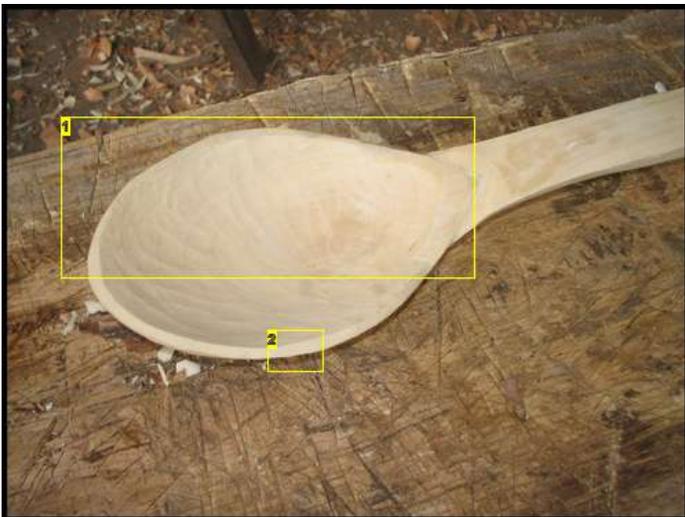


Image Notes

1. The thickness of the spoon needs to be very even. Or else it will crack while drying or later when used. The thinner you make the spoon the more elegant it will look.
2. I make the spoon 2-3 mm thick.

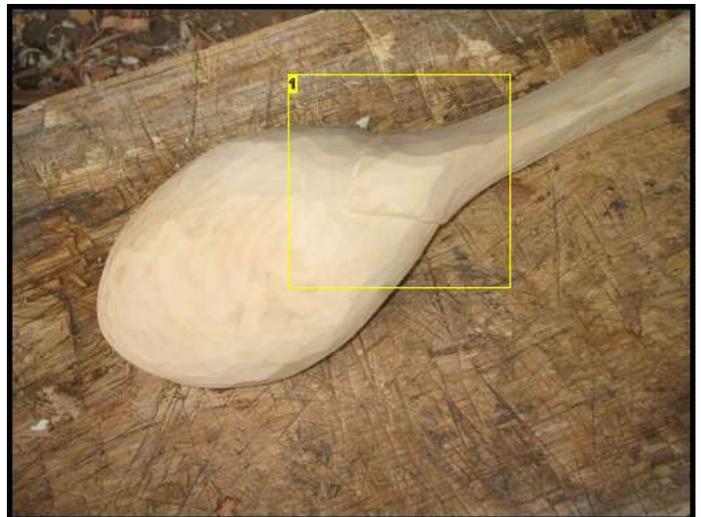


Image Notes

1. I make this triangular shape here. For one it looks nice, and it makes this fragile part of the spoon stronger.

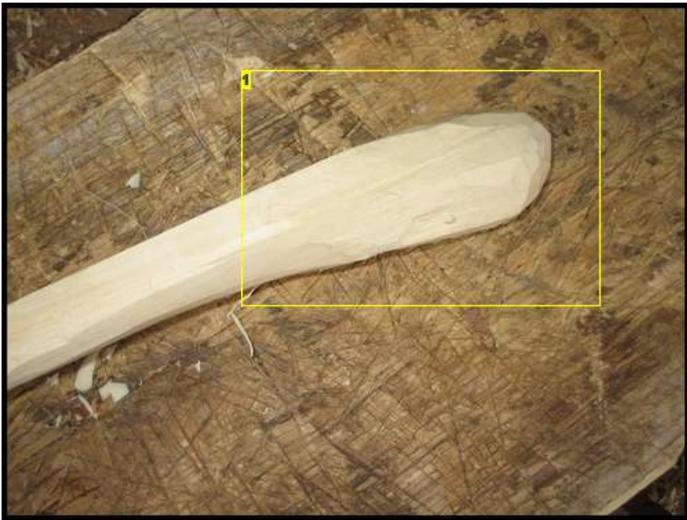


Image Notes

1. In the rough shaping of the spoon I left the end of the handle thick. That is to make room for the end carving.



Image Notes

1. this twist are a typical way of ending a viking spoon.

Image Notes

1. The curl looks nice and it prevents the spoon from falling into the pot when in use.



Image Notes
1. finished front.

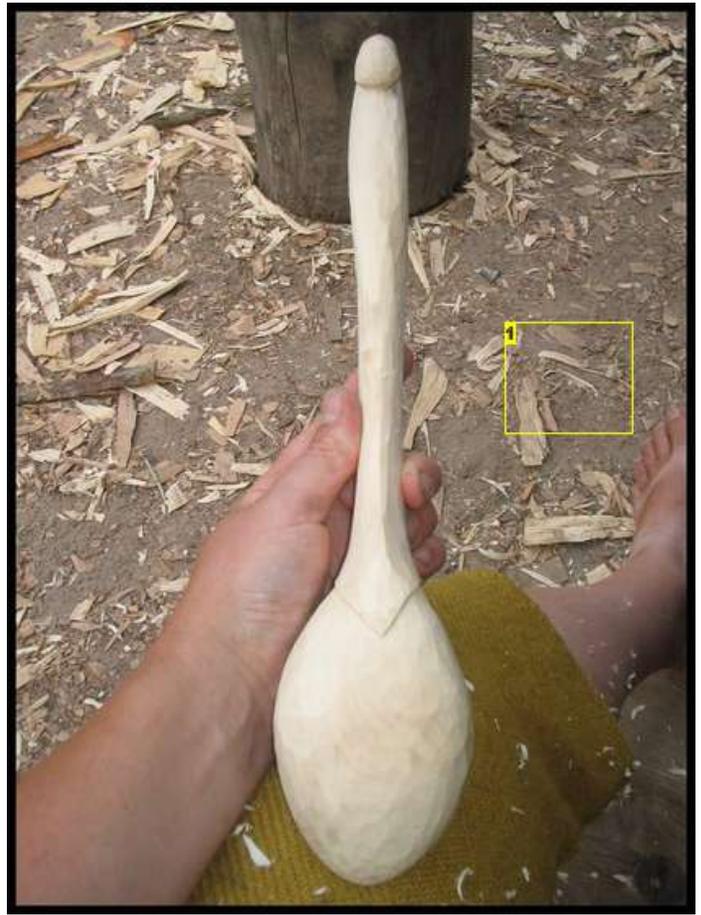


Image Notes
1. finished back

Step 7: Sanding

The spoon needs to be all dry before I start sanding it. It takes 3-5 days depending on the weather.

I start with sandpaper grain 100, then 180, 240 and 400. If I'm doing it the real viking way I'm only using the special kind of horsetail called "Skavgraes"
Sand outside or wear dust mask, or both.

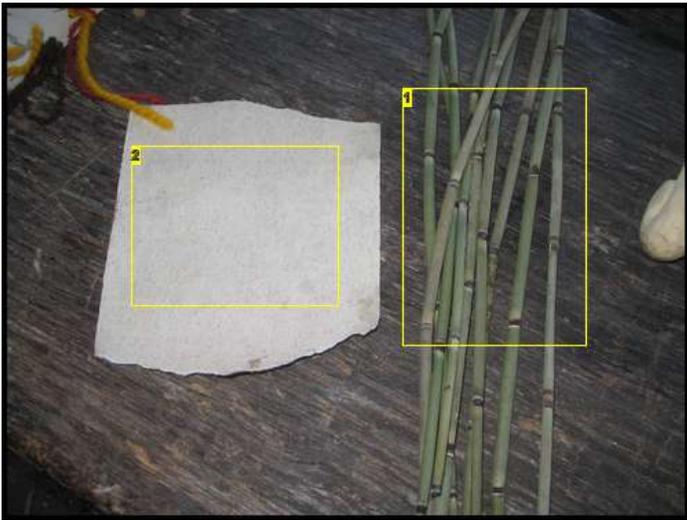


Image Notes

1. Skavgræs=Equisetum hyemale=horsetail
2. Normal sandpaper.

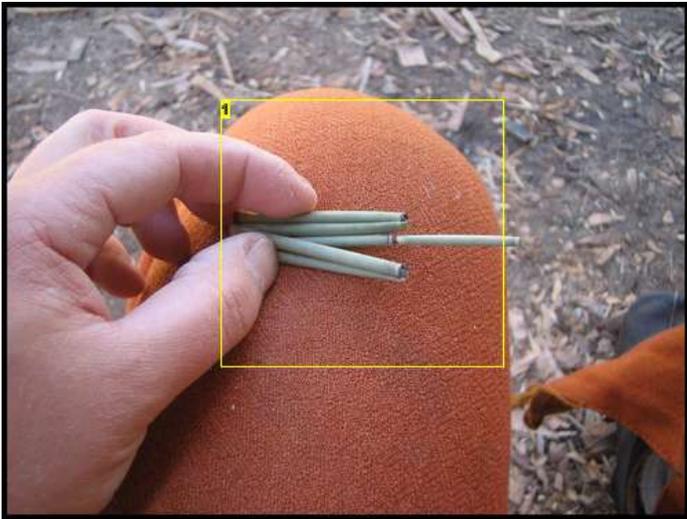


Image Notes

1. The way to use skavgræs. Pack it in a small bundle.

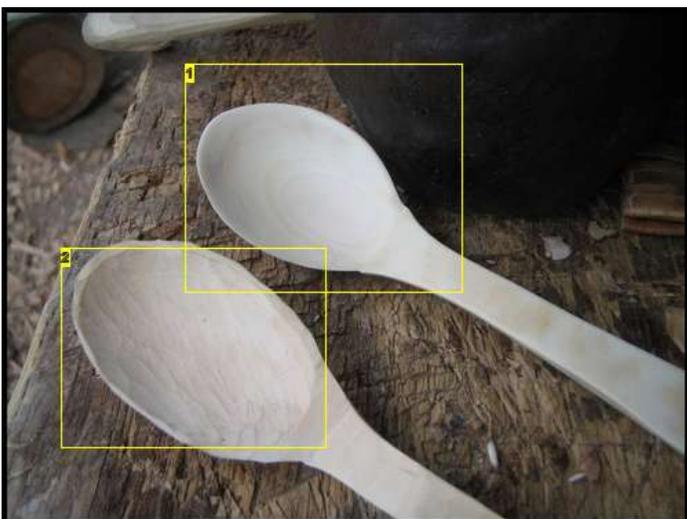


Image Notes

1. After sanding.
2. before sanding.

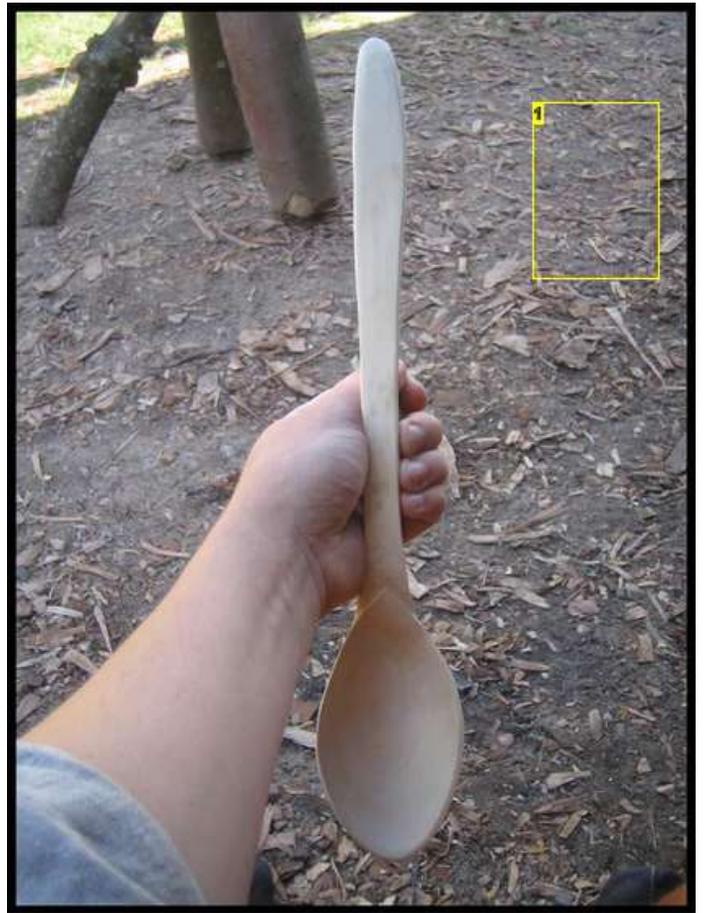
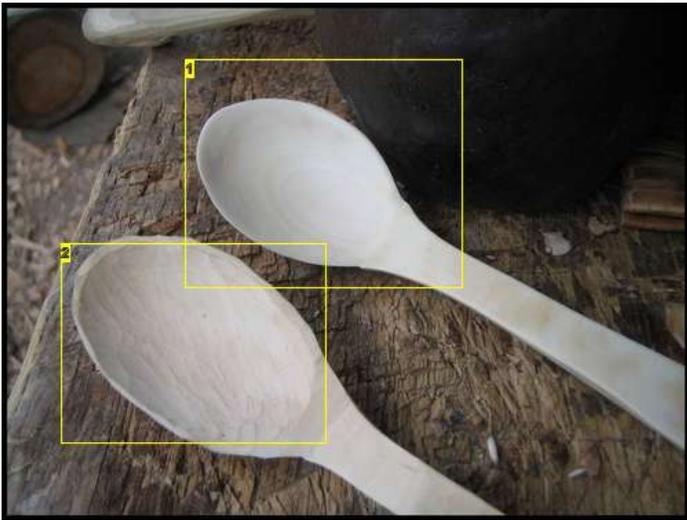


Image Notes

1. Finished sanding. Front view.



Image Notes

1. Finished sanding. Side view.

Step 8: Oil and wax

I use linseed oil. Put on a thick layer, let it sit for a few hours then remove the remaining with towel paper. Let it dry to the next day, and then you can add wax. I only use wax when I'm making spoons for sale on vikings markets. The wax protects the spoon from dirty fingers but will be washed of when you wash it the first time.



Image Notes

1. linseed oil.



Image Notes

1. This is another spoon. Polished with beeswax.

Step 9: The spoon is complete

Now the spoon is completed. And ready for the kitchen. When the spoon have been washed a few times the wood fibers can rise and you need to sand it lightly with fine sandpaper (400)



Step 10: Other sizes and designs of spoons

Here you can see some other spoons I have made lately.



Image Notes

1. Flat spoon. Made from red alder.



Image Notes

1. Made from cherry wood.



Image Notes

1. look at the beautiful color patten. The white outer and the red inner core.



Image Notes

1. Made from the other side of the apple wood.



Image Notes

1. A small eating spoon made from apple wood.



Image Notes

1. Apple wood.