

## VCarve Pro Software & CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Router Introduction

Instructors: Jeff Heffington, Gary Roberts

**Prerequisite:** This is a class for beginners on the CNC. The software used runs with Windows 10. If you have a good background in Windows file management, and remember some high school geometry, this class will be easier to comprehend quickly. If not ... prepare to be inundated with complex information.

**Enrollment:** Limited to four per class, with a minimum of two.

**Schedule:** This class is normally held once a month (verify dates and times using on-line wood club monthly calendar).

### Student Preparation Prior to Class:

Student should go to <https://www.vectric.com/> and download V carve Pro Trial version. V carve Pro is the software used by SCW Wood Club.

The trial version allows unlimited use of the design side of the software.

Watch and understand tutorial videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hDQyd6x3x8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnOmsJZMiTg>

**Description:** This is a 2-session class - which are NOT done on successive days.

A flash drive is provided at class time.

Wood used for projects to be provided by each student.

The actual wood size should be at least an inch longer & wider on each side than the final project size. This added size allows for the wood to be securely attached to the machine bed without the clamps coming in contact with the cutting spindle and potentially damaging either the clamps and/or cutting bit.

**Session 1:** Covers creating a CNC computer design using the Vectric (VCarve Pro) software to create the instructions (tool paths) to tell the CNC machine how to move to create different types of projects. The student will also learn how to save all related job files to their flash drive, and be given the software key to link their trial software to the SCW Wood Club computers.

After Session 1 is completed, the student will complete their software design project at home. When that is finished (be it several days, a week, or even a month) the student and instructor will meet for a second time in a one-on-one meeting at a date and time agreeable to both.

**Session 2:** The student will create the desired tool paths, and learn how to correctly set up the software on the CNC machine, and finally to actually cut the student's project in wood mounted on the CNC. Class loaner bits will be used for the first 2 student projects. The student is to provide their own bits for additional projects. Bits are available in the lumber room for purchase. Bits may also be purchased from other outside sources.

**Note:** Although this class introduces the student to the software and hardware for the club's CNC machine, this course alone is NOT sufficient to allow unrestricted use of the CNC Stinger I machine. The student will need to complete a mentoring program that the instructor

will discuss with the student to reach full certification. The instructor and student will set up a timeline to complete the student's mentored project.

Reservations are required to reserve time on the CNC machines. The instructor will determine when the student will be placed on the list of users that can make reservations.

**Fee: \$30:** - not including student pre-purchase and preparation of material. This fee includes multiple sessions of 1-on-1 instructor time to help modify and finalize each student's project design - done after the initial group-class.

**Sign Up:** [CNC Class - Basic](#)