

[How to Whittle a Ball in a Cage](#)

Whittling is a relaxing hobby in which you pare small shavings of wood from a blank to create or fashion an object. Most whittling tends to be for small toys or objects and not sculpture. A good beginner's whittling project is a "Ball in a cage." This toy will amaze your friends and they will exclaim "How did you get the ball in there!?"



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1. Start with a small blank of soft wood (pine, basswood or balsa) 1" wide by 1" tall, 4" long.



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2. Mark on the wood with a pencil the trace lines as shown in the image. Notice that the circle overlaps the edge lines a little.

3. Chisel cavities on both sides of the outlined ball.

4. Turn the block over and repeat. What you're doing is chiseling from the outside only a sliver remaining in the center, as shown.



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5. Cut the slivers from the ends of the block.
6. Carefully whittle the slivers from the ball until it can roll freely within the frame.