

Sheila Landry Designs

Pattern by Keith Fenton

7344 Hwy #1, P.O. Box 410, Meteghan, Nova Scotia, Canada B0W 2J0

Phone Number: 902-482-7174 Email: sheilalandrydesigns@gmail.com

Website Address: www.sheilalandrydesigns.com

SLDK356 Fretwork Dessert Platter

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Our current free pattern can be found at:

<https://sheilalandrydesigns.com/free-pattern/>



An Original Pattern With Complete Instructions

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SLDK356 Fretwork Dessert Platter

Materials and Supplies

- One piece of approximately 1/2" thick hardwood 9" x 13" *
- Scroll saw blades – #2, and #5 reverse tooth recommended
- Temporary adhesive spray glue
- Blue painters masking tape (2") (packaging tape can be substituted)
- Drill press and small bit for entry holes
- Hand-held orbital sander and various grits of sandpaper
- Router with 1/8" to 1/4" roundover bit (3/16" roundover recommended) (optional)
- Mineral oil for finishing (optional)
- Spray varnish of your choice (Shellac or lacquer is required if you wish to varnish on top of the mineral oil finish)
- Clear-drying wood glue

**You could use up to 3/4" thick if you choose a wood that isn't too hard (poplar, cherry or walnut for example), but blade size will have to be adjusted accordingly. In this case you may also want to lessen your saw angle slightly for the bevel cut and use 1/4" roundover bit on your router to accommodate the thicker wood.*

Introduction

This great dessert platter would be at home in any scroller's kitchen. It can be used as a serving platter for desserts, as a trivet or even as a tray for your centerpiece. I would not recommend that you submerge the tray in water to wash it, so it would be best that you use a glass plate over the platter when serving any food that could get messy. Feel free to enlarge or shrink the pattern a little to suit your purpose.

Procedure

-Make photocopies of the original patterns and keep them for future reference. Patterns may be reproduced for the purpose of making the project – not for resale purposes. Finished items that are made by hand may be sold for profit, but not mechanically manufactured. Credit to the designer is encouraged.

Preparing the Wood & Cutting

-Beginning with 100 grit sandpaper, sand both sides of your wood with your hand-held orbital sander to remove the planer marks and smooth out the wood. This will make it much easier to finish your project after you are done cutting out the design. Graduate up to 150 grit paper. Clean the dust from your pieces of wood.

-Place a layer of blue painters masking tape over the entire surface of the design to help prevent burning and to facilitate removal of the pattern after cutting. If you prefer to use packaging tape to prevent burning, you may find it easier to put the tape over the pattern rather than under it. Apply the pattern over the masking tape layer by lightly spraying the back with a misting of temporary spray adhesive. Allow the spray to tack up for a couple of seconds until it feels sticky like masking tape and apply the pattern to your wood pieces.

-Use the smallest bit you have that will fit the #5 blade and drill the entry hole at the mark indicated so you can cut the inner bevel cut in the next steps.

-Tilt your scroll saw table 4 degrees to the left (so that the left side is lower than the right side) and lock it into place. If you have a saw with a tilting head such as the Excalibur, you will be tilting the head to the right. You should do a test cut on a small scrap of wood which is planed to the same thickness as your work piece to make sure that the resulting recess in the frame is satisfactory. Use a #5 blade for this cut. To do this test cut, simply, draw a small circle on the scrap, drill an entry hole and cut the circle in a clockwise direction (so that the blade is cutting clockwise) at the 4 degree angle. If you want your circle to drop deeper, decrease your angle by .5 degree increments until the desired depth is reached. If you want less depth of your circle, increase the angle by .5 degree increments until you are satisfied. Different thicknesses of wood and also different blade thicknesses can vary the results so it is a good idea to check before cutting the actual piece.

-When you are satisfied at your saw angle, thread the #5 blade through the entry hole and cut the inner bevel cut in a clockwise direction. This cut should allow the inner oval to recess back in the frame. Set the inner piece aside until later. (fig 1)

-Reset the saw to zero degrees.

-Cut the perimeter, again using a #5 blade.

-Using a small drill bit, drill all the entry holes of the rest of the design. After drilling the entry holes, turn over the pieces and sand the backs so that they are perfectly flat. You can now cut all the inside cuts. A #2 blade is recommended for this, but a #3 would work as well if you prefer. When cutting the curly flourishes, it is recommended that you cut the innermost curls first, before cutting away support from this area. (fig 2)



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

-If you wish to rout the edges of your platter, it is best to do so now. You can use the roundover bit on the outside perimeters of the platter piece and the handle holes on both the top and bottom side of the wood. You can also rout the hole for your inner circle on the top side only. Also, do not rout the center piece itself! A 3/16" roundover bit is recommended. A 1/4" bit could be used but you will have to limit the depth so as to not remove too much material. If you rout too deep you may not be able to do any routing on the bottom side since your bearing will not have a flat surface to ride on (fig 3). Also, your inner circle piece may not be recessed deep enough to go beyond your rounded edge. It is possible to go too deep even with a 3/16" bit so do a test cut on a piece of scrap to be sure of your depth.

-The following image shows the bottom side of your platter. Note that you do not round the circle cutout on this side! (fig 4)

Finishing and Assembly

-When you are finished, remove the pattern pieces and finish sand the wood by hand or with the orbital sander working up until you reach 220 grit paper. Clean the pieces to remove any dust.

-You can now apply a mineral oil finish if you wish. Brush mineral oil on the whole platter and allow the oil to soak in for a bit before wiping it off with a paper towel. When wiping it off, be sure to shake out any oil that may be trapped in the fretwork. After wiping the oil as much as possible you will need to leave the platter so that the oil can soak in. You want the entire surface (and inside the fretwork) to be dry to the touch before applying varnish. Leave the plaque to dry for at least 24 hours before moving on.

-To glue the inner circle into the platter, run a small bead of glue along the bottom edge of the platter piece. A small, dampened brush works great for applying the glue if your bottle is too big. Gently press the inner circle into the platter. Wipe any glue that may seep from the joint immediately and allow the glue to dry.

- Spray several light coats of varnish on both sides of the platter from all angles in order to get it into the tight fretwork as much as possible. (Shellac or lacquer will be required if you wish to varnish on top of a mineral oil finish). Be sure to allow the varnish to dry between each coat. For a smoother finish, sand the platter lightly with 600 grit paper and wipe the dust off before applying the last coat. Apply enough coats so that the top surface is thoroughly sealed. This will make the platter easier to wipe clean. Allow the varnish to cure thoroughly and your platter will be ready to use!



SLD392
"Cheese Please"
Cheese Tray

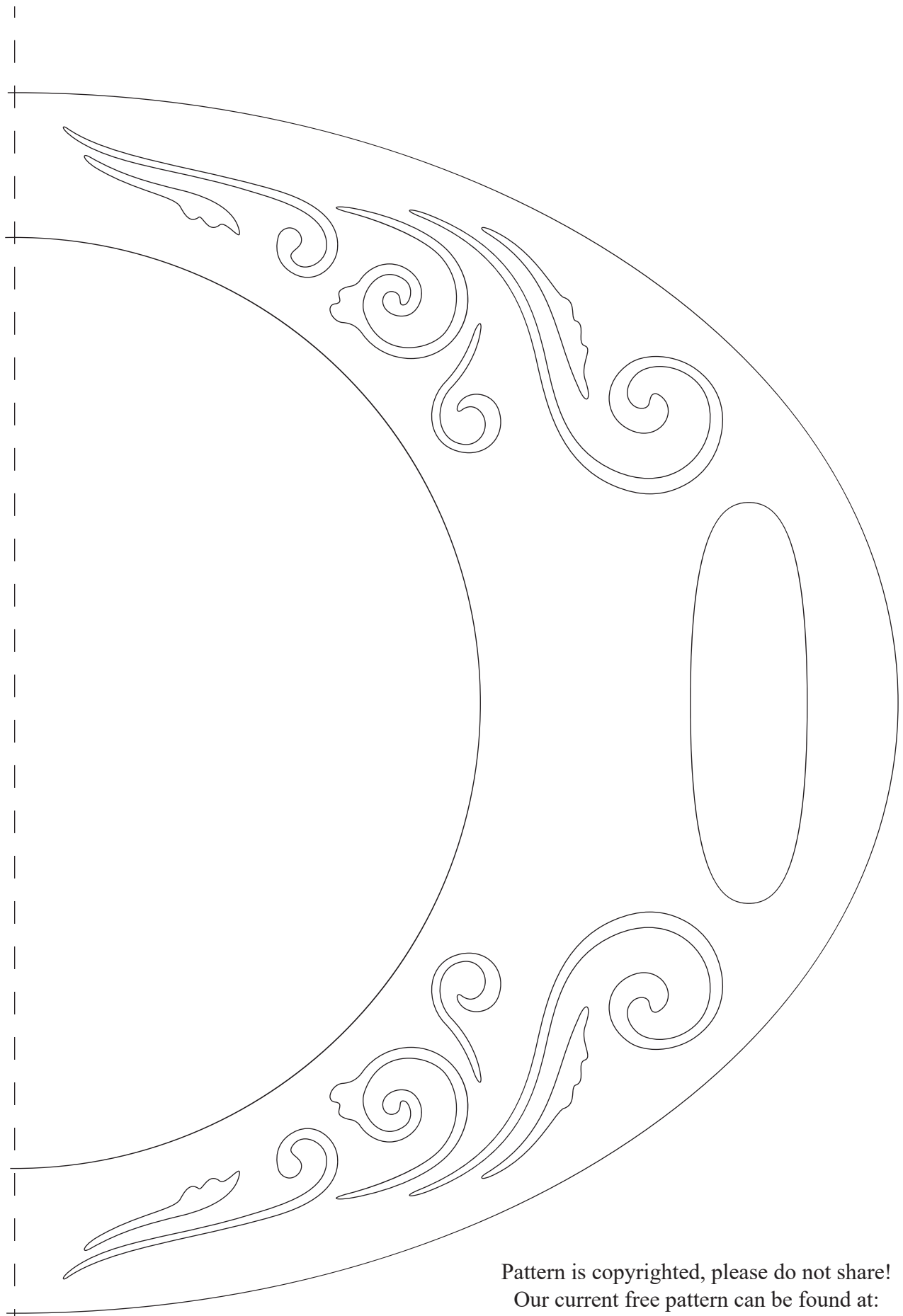


SLD422
Filigree Candle Tray



SLDK136
Classic Collection
Round Basket

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact us at 902-482-7174 or by email at sheilalandydesigns@gmail.com. Visit our website at www.sheilalandydesigns.com to browse our selection of patterns. Pattern catalog also available by mail or digital download.



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