

# Intricate Fretwork Basket

Showcase your scrolling skills with this elegant design based on an antique French basket

By Pedro Lopez  
Cut by Dale Helgerson

Baskets were popular projects in the early days of scroll sawing. This basket was originally designed by a French company in the late 1800s or early 1900s. I found an image of the original basket and recreated the entire pattern using modern software.

The modern software helps make sure all of the pieces fit together properly. The original patterns were hand drawn and woodworkers would often encounter problems during assembly.

The original design used  $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm)-thick wood, which can be hard to find if you don't plane your own wood. The patterns have been resized to use  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm)-thick wood. To create the basket using  $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm)-thick wood, photocopy the patterns at 75%.

Stack cut the sides to speed production and produce matching sides. Be careful when cutting the slots and tabs. If necessary, sand the slots or tabs for a perfect fit. After all of the pieces are cut, remove the patterns and sand the pieces with 220-grit sandpaper.

Dry assemble the basket, matching the letter of the tab with the letter of the slot. Carefully take the basket apart, apply wood glue to the tabs, and reassemble the basket. Make sure the sides are square and then wrap masking tape around the basket to hold it together while the glue dries. Carefully remove any glue squeeze out while the glue is still wet. After the glue dries, remove the masking tape and any tape residue. Apply several coats of clear spray lacquer. Sand lightly with 320-grit sandpaper between coats.





## Materials & Tools

### Materials:

*This basket is cut from red oak. Plywood is recommended for a sturdier project. Stain the plywood to suit after cutting.*

- 2 each  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) x  $12\frac{3}{4}$ " (324mm) x  $16\frac{3}{4}$ " (426mm) wood of choice (long sides)
- 2 each  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) x  $7\frac{1}{4}$ " (184mm) x  $11\frac{1}{4}$ " (286mm) wood of choice (short sides)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) x 2" (51mm) x  $12\frac{1}{4}$ " (311mm) wood of choice (handle)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) x  $12\frac{1}{8}$ " (308mm) x  $17\frac{1}{2}$ " (445mm) wood of choice (bottom)
- Assorted grits of sandpaper

- Spray adhesive
- Wood glue
- Masking tape
- Clear spray lacquer

### Tools:

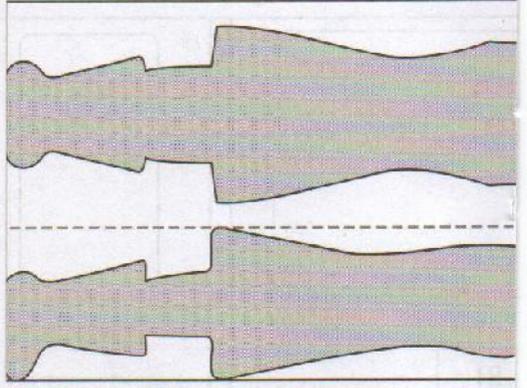
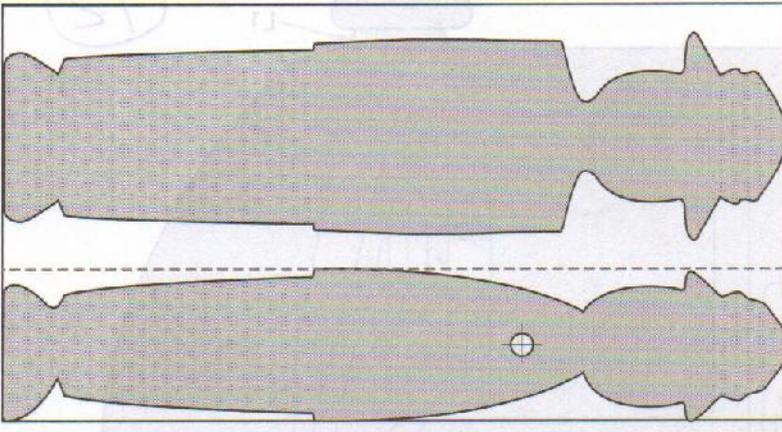
- #1 reverse-tooth blades or blades of choice
- Drill with assorted small drill bits



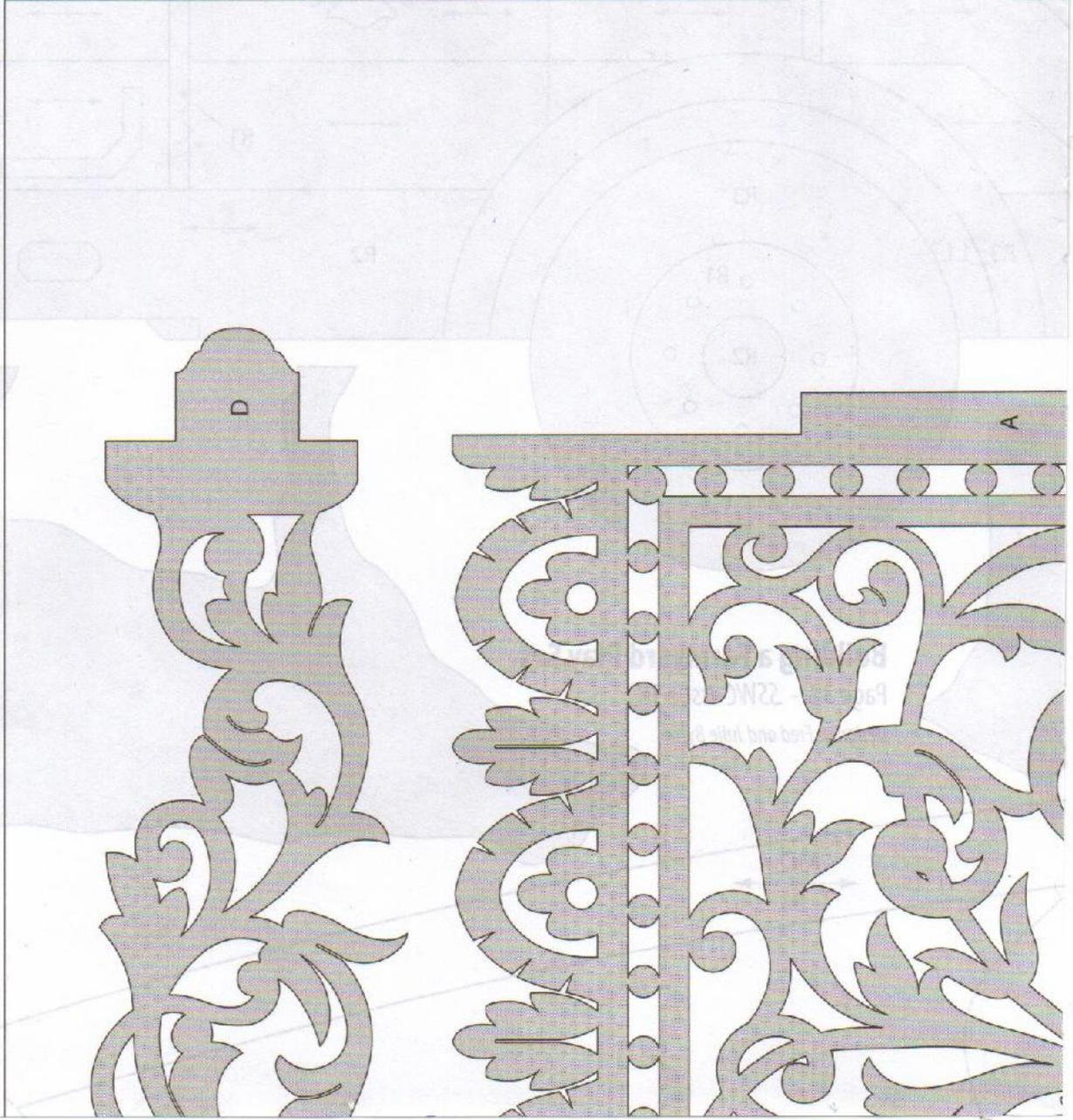
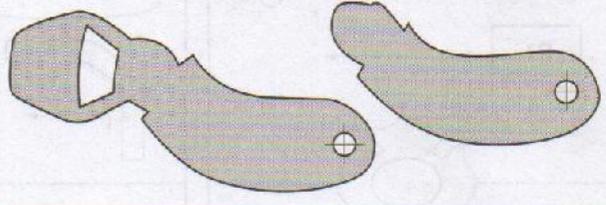
Patterns for the **INTRICATE FRETWORK BASKET** are in the pattern pullout section.



Pedro Lopez lives in Seville, Spain. A mathematics teacher, he restores historic patterns as a hobby. For more of his work, visit [www.finescrollsaw.com](http://www.finescrollsaw.com).



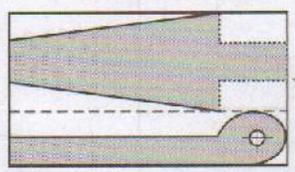
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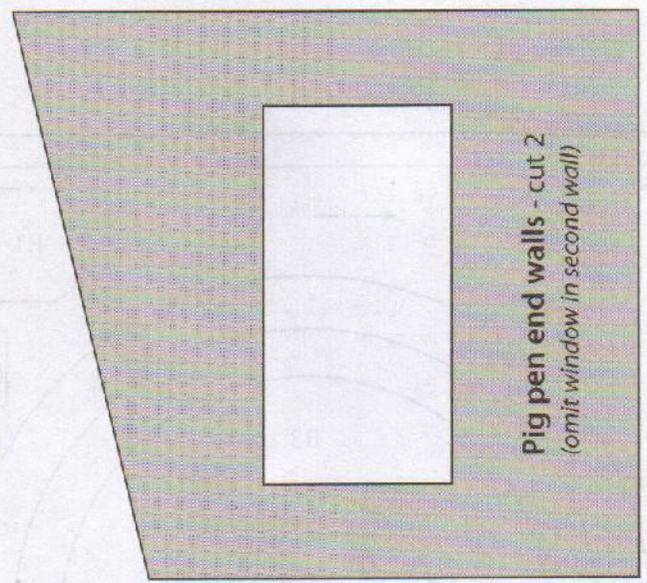
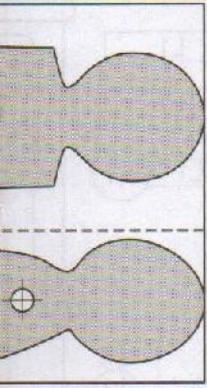
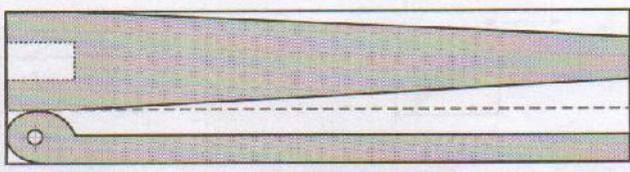
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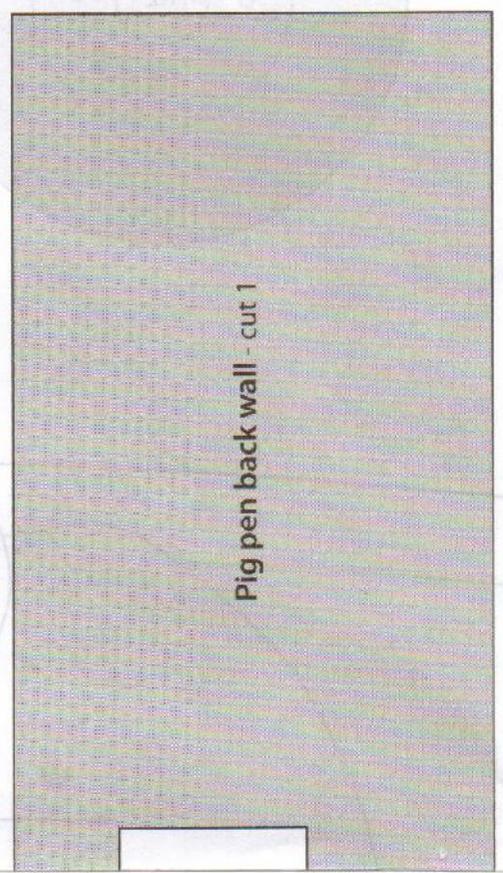
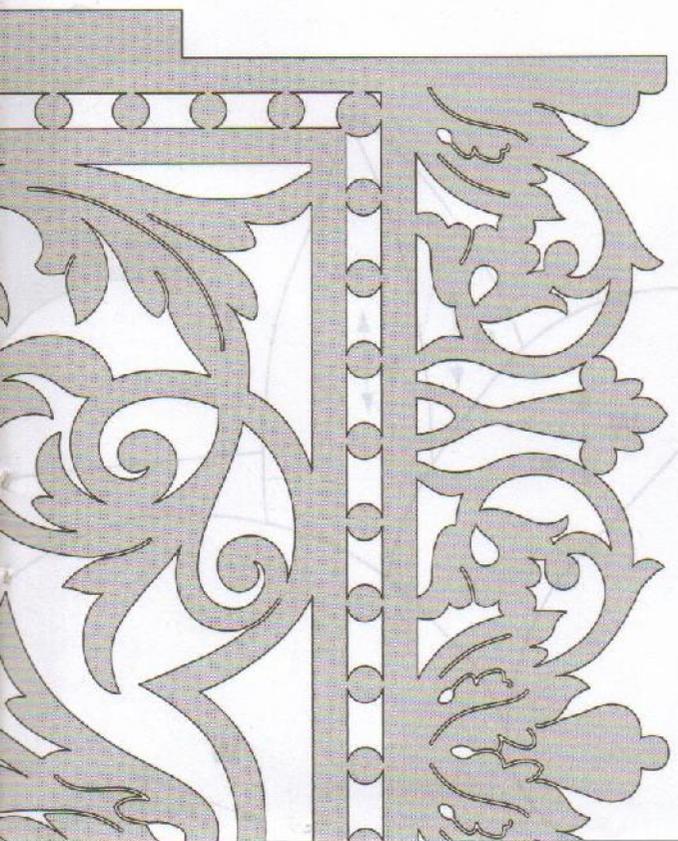
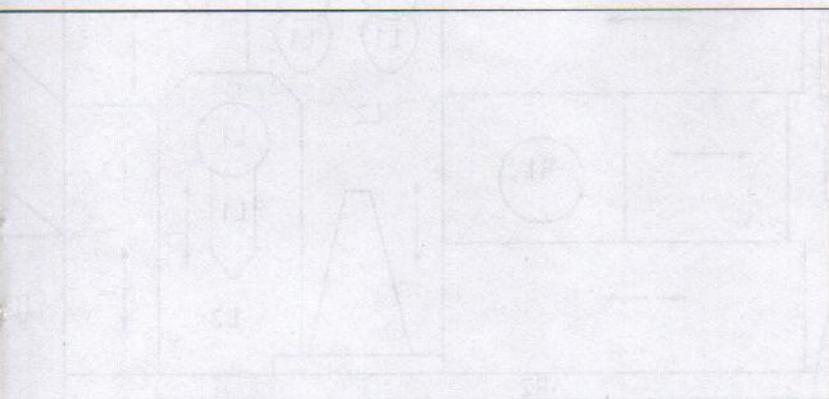
Barn door hinges - cut 2



Top view  
Side view



Pig pen end walls - cut 2  
(omit window in second wall)

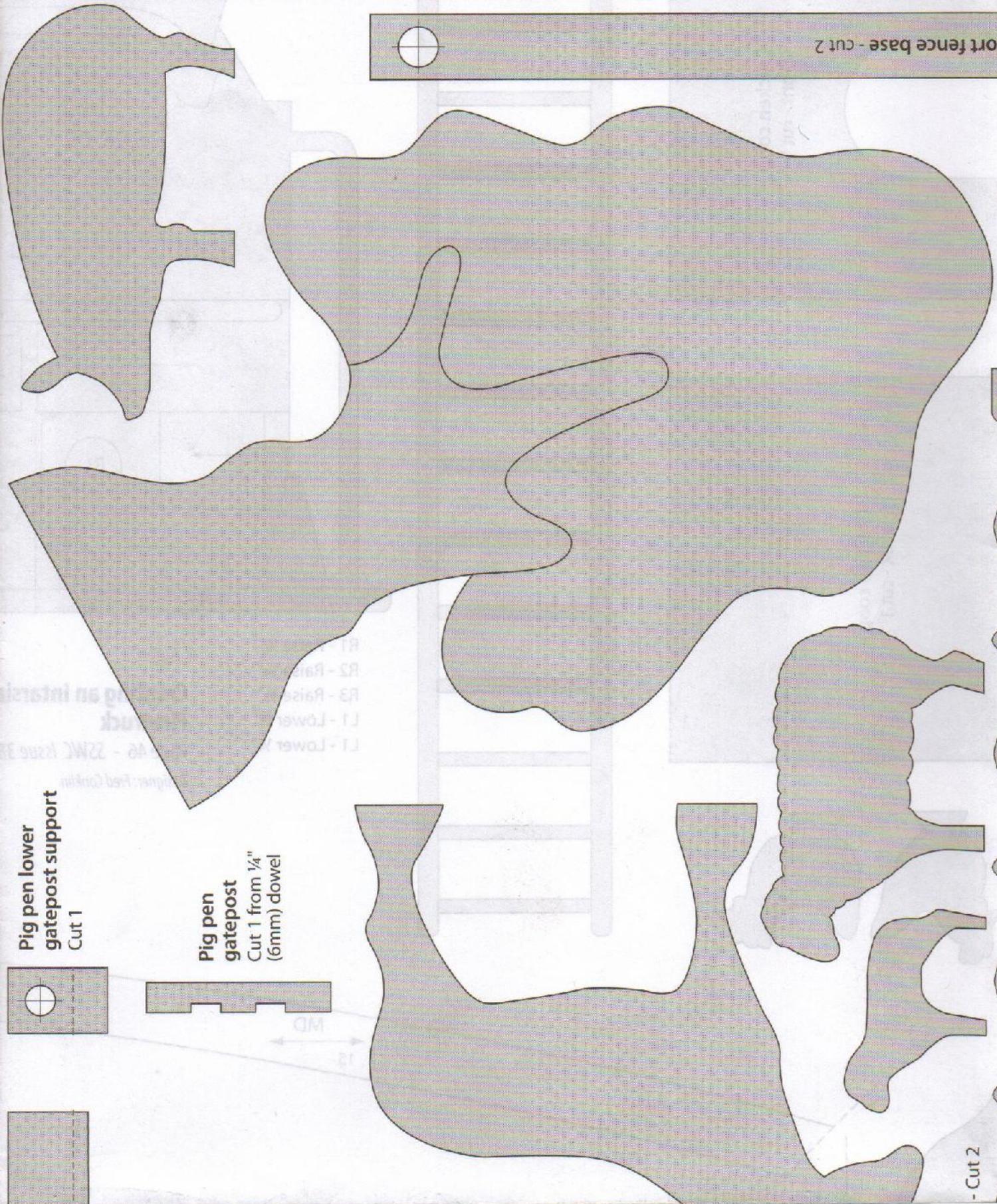


Pig pen back wall - cut 1

tom - Cut 1

long fence base - cut 1

short fence base - cut 2



Pig pen lower gatepost support  
Cut 1

Pig pen gatepost  
Cut 1 from 1/4" (6mm) dowel

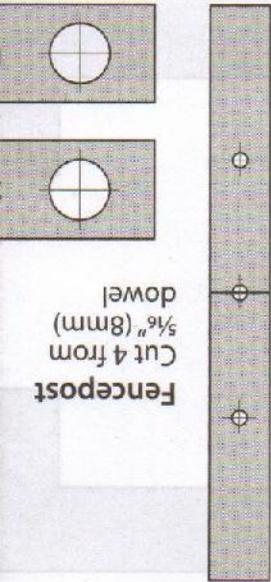
- Cut 2

All patterns to be copied at 100% unless otherwise indicated.

All patterns on this pullout section: © 2010 Scroll Saw Woodworking & Crafts

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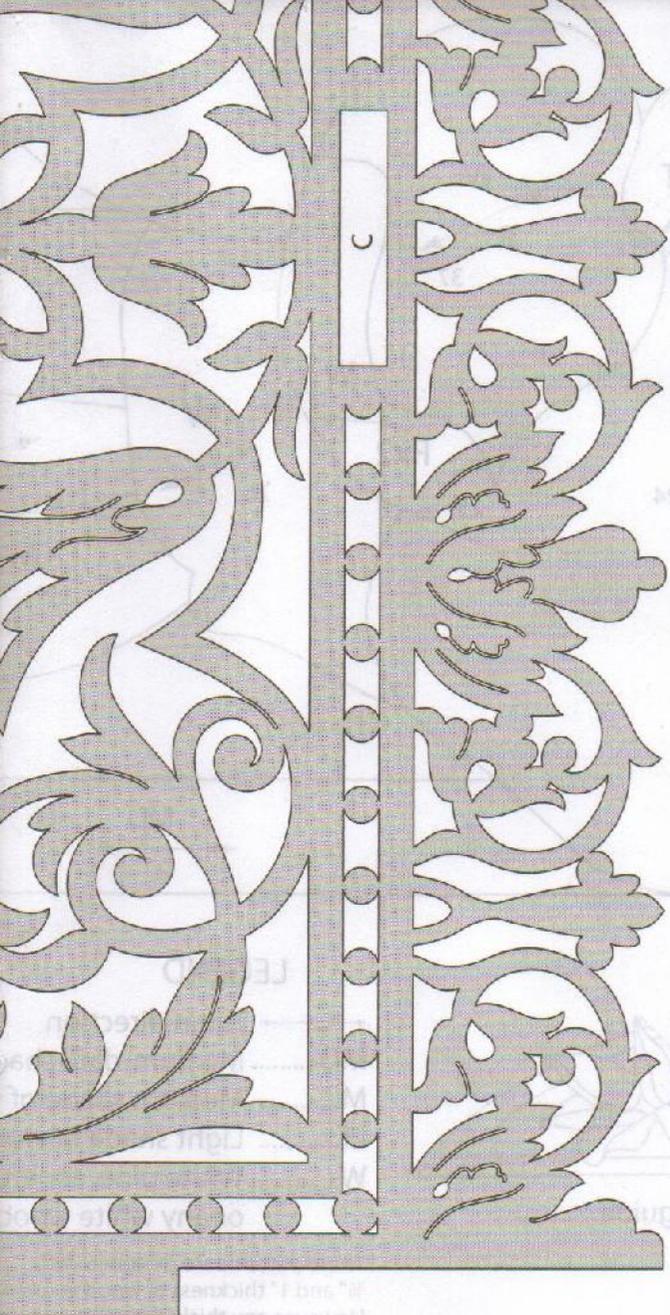
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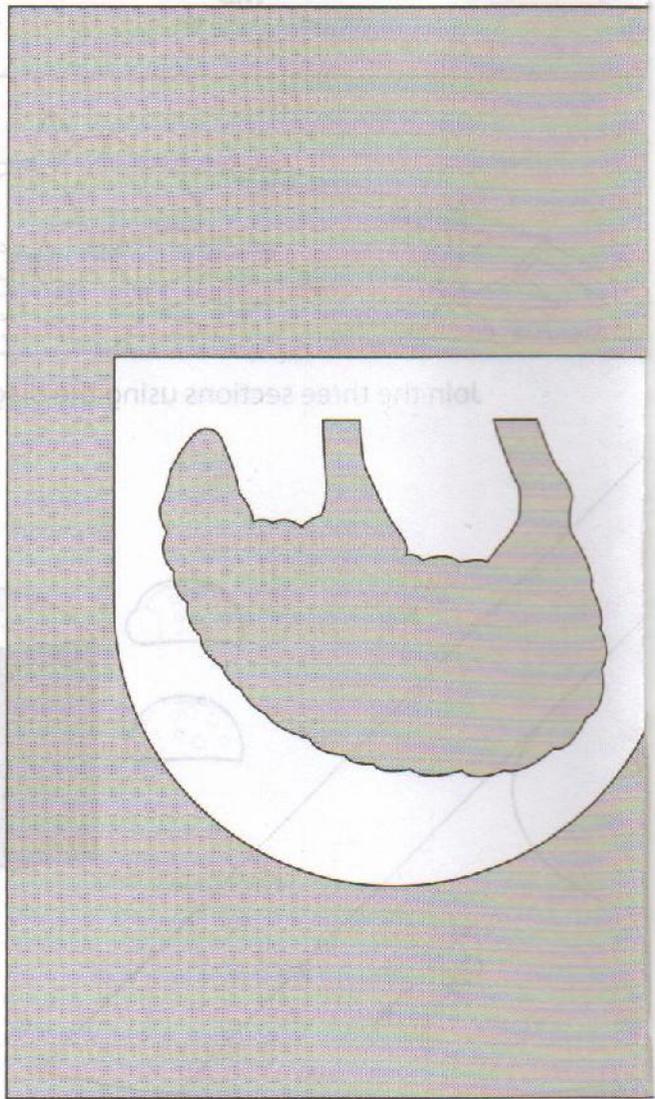
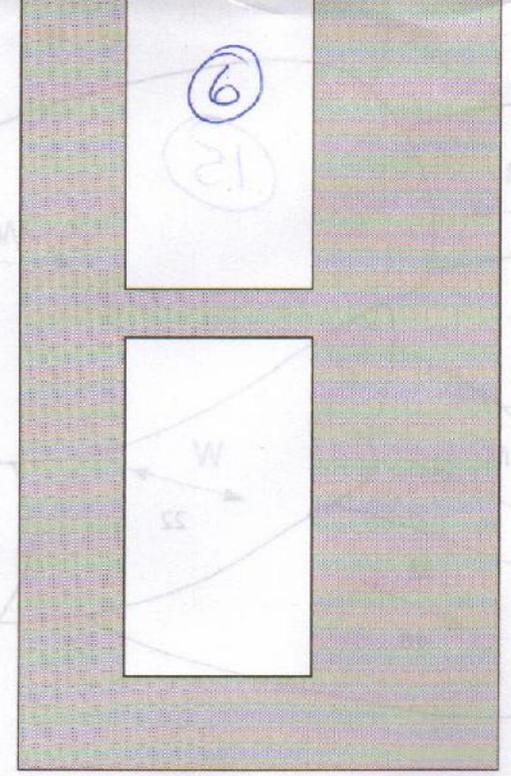


End - Cut

Bot

W

B



**Intricate Fretwork Basket**

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Designer: Pedro Lopez

I used some redheart wood for the  
 lathe. If you make the lathe, it  
 is easier to add detail. It is the  
 full. Once it is the  
 desired spot are burned  
 in it. It is a bit and slice off  
 the lower edge of the  
 lathe. To place on the  
 wood.

WD

22

However, any thickness  
 1/2" and 1" thicker

Join the three sections using  
 diagonal lines as a guide

Pig pen top gate support - cut 1

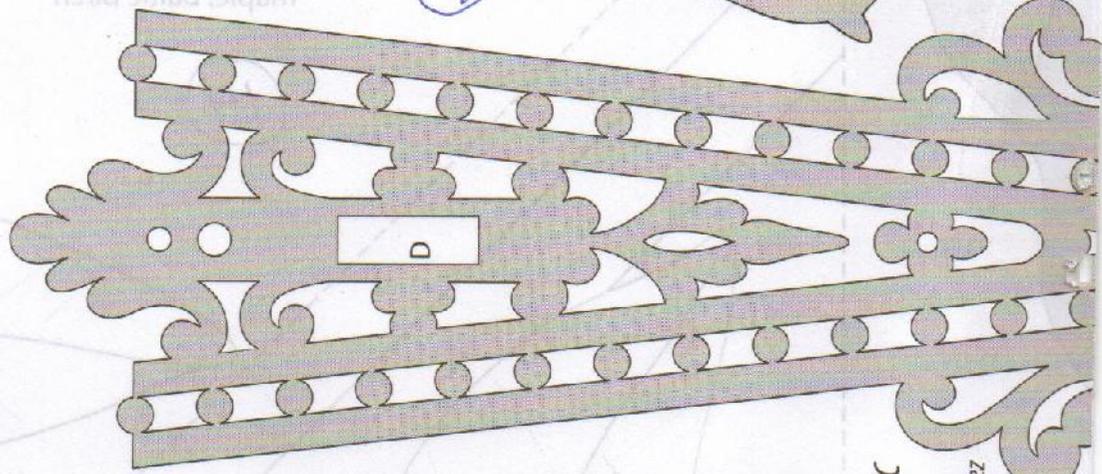
Pig pen gate rails - cut 2

Pig pen gate cross member Cut 1



Light plywood backing maple Baltic birch

7

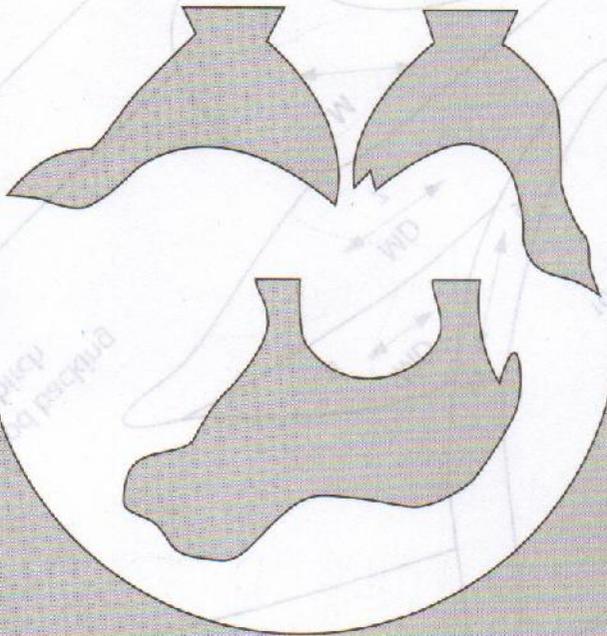


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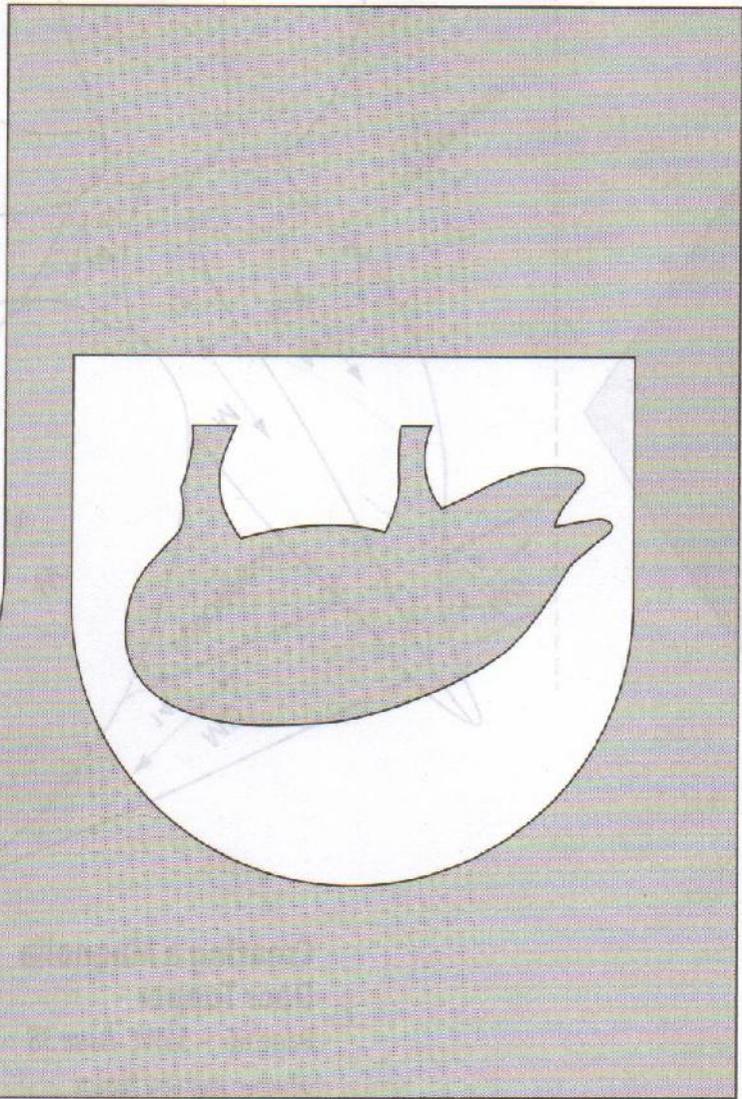
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Designer: Pedro Lopez

Building a Farmyard Play Set  
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Designer: Fred and Julie Byrne



Barn front and back - cut 2



Side