

Q: Is it possible to cut basket-weave pattern on a Rose Engine?

A: It is quite simple if you have the right rosette; you need an A-shape (sine wave), C-shape (concave waves) or D-shape (convex bumps) so the cutter will plunge in then come out again regularly. The rosette will need to have a count of about 18 - 24 or higher for a piece of around 2" or 3" diameter (a count of 12 would give too few cuts for anything more than around 1" diameter). Set slide-rest to cut on the cylinder; set the click-plate to a multiple of the rosette count (so you can phase the steps); set up your Vertical Cutting Frame with a square ended cutter, say, 0.1" width; rotate the mandrel and advance the cutter until the cuts go deep enough to just overlap to produce sharp crests between them; then fix the depth stop and move the VCF 0.1" to the right, phase the rosette (by a half, or a quarter or a third of a bump) and cut again to the same depth as the first row. Repeat until all rows are cut. Alternatively, you might choose a hollow-nosed (bead) cutter to make the basket-weave look more authentic.

Q: What about the Barleycorn pattern?

A: If you wish to do a Barleycorn pattern follow the same procedure but use a high-count rosette (say, 48 plus) with an obtuse double-angle point cutter (about 110° or 120°) in the Eccentric Cutting Frame and set the radius of the cutter by trial and error to suit the count of the rosette and the diameter of the work.