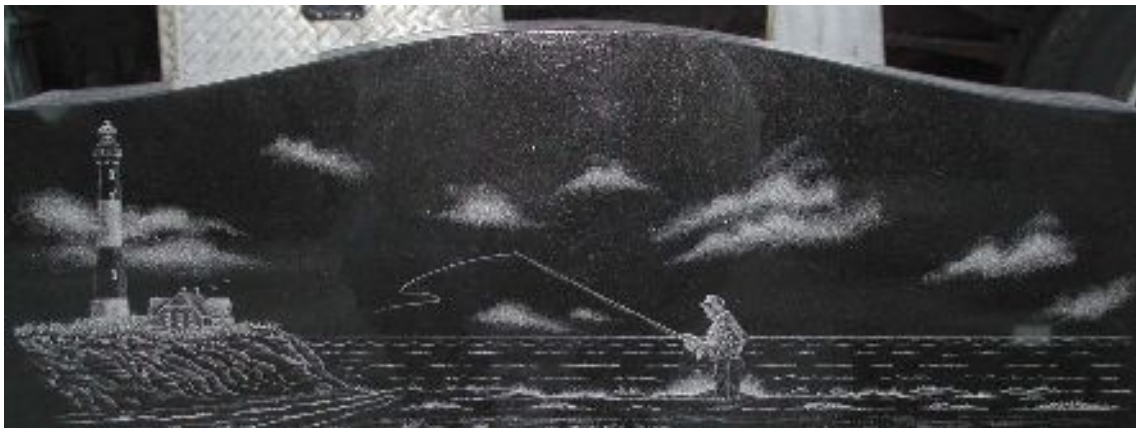
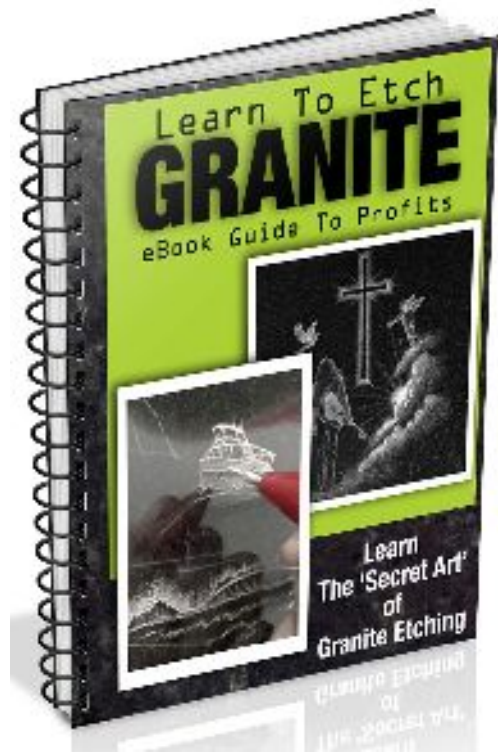


The Original
Granite Etching Course
“Learn To Etch Granite eBook”

You too can master the *secret* techniques to etching beautiful works of art onto granite and other surfaces.





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Introduction:

I have been etching on granite since 2004 and it has been some of the most satisfying work I have ever created. I consider it an honor to be asked to create art as a memorial to someones life and I take that responsibility very serious.

No two pieces I create are ever the same even though they may be a similar subject matter, if I'm creating them by hand they're unique one-of-a-kind originals and I try to price them accordingly.

Computers have been introduced to the art of etching on many surfaces from glass, titanium, personal laptops to granite but the artists hand skills will always be in high demand compared to a very impersonal computer laser.

One of the problems with a computer laser etching is the amount of time you need to "clean up" a photo that will be scanned and eventually etched.

If something is not quite clear in the original photo then, the laser doesn't "know", it just doesn't look correct and the artist has to fix it by hand.

I think most people still prefer an artist hand creating the actual art work on their loved ones monument and other granite pieces they may have in their homes.

This instructional ebook is being written to introduce the aspiring artist to this secretive field and provide one more opportunity to those artists' who are looking for a different creative outlet. I hope to ease the learning curve with this ebook.

If you are the type of person who learns better, quicker by watching then you will love my *Granite Etching Course Video Series* On DVD.

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Chapter 1- Tools, Supplies, Materials Etching Tools.

The common tools used for etching on granite or are very inexpensive. Dremel makes etching tools that are easily available in most tool catalogs and tool centers and many professional etchers use their tools.

[Click here](#) to see some excellent Dremel Brand tools for etching.

I prefer to use the ["Electro Stylus"](#) brand etcher. The Electro Stylus etcher is a comfortable pen-like tool with low vibration. It ships with 4 tips and a basic manual.

Diamond Point Tips: The Electro Stylus ships with one diamond tip - I suggest you BUY EXTRAS. They don't break very often but when they do you'll need a back-up point to finish the job.

[Check Out My Favorite Etching Tool Here](#)

Extra Fine Tip Pentel Marker: for covering up any slight imperfections.

Special White Transfer Paper: For Transferring your drawing to the monument. May be a little difficult to find but I include one sheet FREE with the purchase of my DVD instructional series. Just one of these white transfer sheets can last for years!

Special White Pencil: A specialized pencil for drawing and marking on odd or slick surfaces. These pencils can be a little difficult to find. I include one FREE with my DVDs

File Box: For holding reference photos, drawings, transfer paper, work order and billing statements, etc.

Digital Camera: For taking photos of your work (post them to your website) I also use the camera to take photos of reference material.

Miscellaneous: extension cord, tool box, rag, proportional wheel, metal triangle and

T-square, tracing paper pad, bond layout pad.

Chapter 2- How To Use The Etching Tool:

Practice: Using your Etching Tool

Let's use the etching tool. These techniques would apply to most etching tools on the market today but, the tool I use exclusively at the present time is the I have no connection to this company nor am I paid to endorse their tool.

I have used the **Dremel brand etching tool** but I prefer the pen-like feel of the [Electro Stylus](#), try them both and see which one you prefer.

Keep in mind that when I refer to etching granite monuments or other granite surfaces I am simply "scratching" or etching off the polished surface of the granite itself.

There is no need to go much deeper than scratching the surface to achieve a line or shading. When you first remove your Electro Stylus tool from the shipping box you will notice it shipped with 4 different tips.

[You Can Buy The Etching Tool Here](#)

The diamond point is the one we will be using for etching granite monuments. The diamond point is the hardest point for use on the hardest of surfaces like granite.

I would urge you to buy extra diamond points for your etcher. These points are rugged and will last a long time but, there will come a time when it will break or chip and you will not be able to etch with it anymore. You don't want to get stuck in the middle of an etching without a backup diamond point. So be prepared and order extras.

To replace the point with a diamond point use a small screw driver and carefully loosen the small screw holding the point on the tip of the etch tool.



Be careful not to loosen the screw all the way as it can be more difficult to put back in, loosen just enough to pull out the point you are replacing.

Before you plug in your etching tool read the manual that was shipped with the tool. It's very basic but it will introduce you to the parts of the tool.

Plug in the tool and turn on the line switch as shown in the photo below. The first setting on the line switch is "low".

NOTE: According to the "operating instructions" booklet that ships with the Electro Stylus it is set at the factory to its optimum setting but, since they have no idea on what surface you will be using the tool, you will obviously need to adjust it.

I adjust and readjust it every time I use it and while I'm using it.



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Start etching on your practice material (see practice material) to get the general feel of the tool at the first low setting, then switch to the “high” setting and notice the immediate difference in speed.

Now switch it back to the “low” setting and loosen the “lock nut” then turn the “adjusting screw” to change the vibration setting.

Practice at these different setting and you will see the big difference in the way the tool reacts.

Click The Photo To Watch The Video:



Practice putting down both heavy and softer tones. You should have the tool at a 45 degree angle when etching do not use it in a straight up 90 degree angle unless you want a deep hard line.

The photo below shows my hand in a 90 degree angle as I need a hard line while etching in the outline of a cross.



[You Can Buy The Etching Tool Here](#)

Chapter 3- Practice Material:

Finding material to practice on is easier than you think. You can approach any monument company, countertop granite company or tile company and ask for a discarded sample piece or pieces. Sample pieces must be polished, you can't etch on non-polished granite. There are two advantages to approaching companies like these:

- you are getting free granite samples that you can practice on and use as portfolio pieces and
- You get to introduce yourself to granite companies who are always looking for local talent to etch on monuments, countertop back splashes, shower tiles or even fireplace hearth's made of granite.

Ask them if you can stop back and show them your etching samples after you have finished with my lessons. You'll be pleasantly surprised how much work you could potentially receive from these companies. Start practicing with the granite etching tool as soon as possible to get the feel of the tool.

Chapter 4- Reference Material And Inspiration:

The nearest large or medium sized cemetery should be able to provide you with enough quality reference material, in the form of etched monuments, to give you a good range of subjects to etch.

Bring your camera and take plenty of photos. Take photos of the art style you admire, some artists are obviously more talented than others.

Also, do some sketching of simple scenes on paper, those scenes can later be transferred and used on monuments.

Check out my [Personal Portfolio on CD](#). This CD contains a collection of my own personal drawings, the ones I use over and over again to make money etching.

Also on the CD are a collection of Angels and Cherubs that I use consistently in my etchings and therefore help me to make more profits.

You get my Portfolio CD FREE as a Bonus when you purchase my [Granite Etching Course DVDs](#)



5- Art and Clip Art:

Art for custom etched monuments can be the same type of scenes used over and over again.

For example, if you live in the south you might be asked to etch deer and hunting scenes for the majority of the monuments or if you live in coastal areas you may be asked to etch a lot of beach scenes and lighthouse scenes.

For this reason you should not discard your original drawings and sketches, you may be asked to etch those scenes many times over.

I have a portfolio with 15 of my original drawings on a CD available to help you get started on the right foot.

These drawings have literally made me thousands of dollars!

They are 15 of my most popular scenes. The drawings on the CD are FREE when you purchase my 5 DVD [Granite Etching Course](#) Instructional series.

The drawings included are:

- lighthouse scene
- cross with rosary
- bagpiper
- rowboat scene
- love doves
- praying hands
- safely home scene 1
- safely home scene 2
- baby cherubs
- cross and hands
- guitar girl scene
- guitar guy scene
- deer with fawn
- guardian angel
- rose



Save time and make money using my proven sellers. These are my own original drawings, the drawings I use over and over again to make high profits etching granite.

Just print them and enlarge or reduce to your desired size. You get 15 of these original drawings FREE when you [order my DVD Video series](#).

You could easily and wisely introduce these scenes to the granite companies you will be working with and you will quickly find yourself with more and more work. Also, you can use them for your portfolio when you're first starting out.

As a granite etch artist you will be asked on occasion to draw custom art from a customers sketch. Customers sketches usually need to be adapted to the true dimensions of the granite you will be working on which, more often than not, they do not take into consideration so you will need to factor this time into your price.

I also etch from a lot of stock art from the granite company, art that has been done before and is on display for the customer to choose from.

The granite companies usually provide me with a 1:1 scale rough layout of the scene they want etched onto a monument. I then "clean it up" and etch a correct looking final art.

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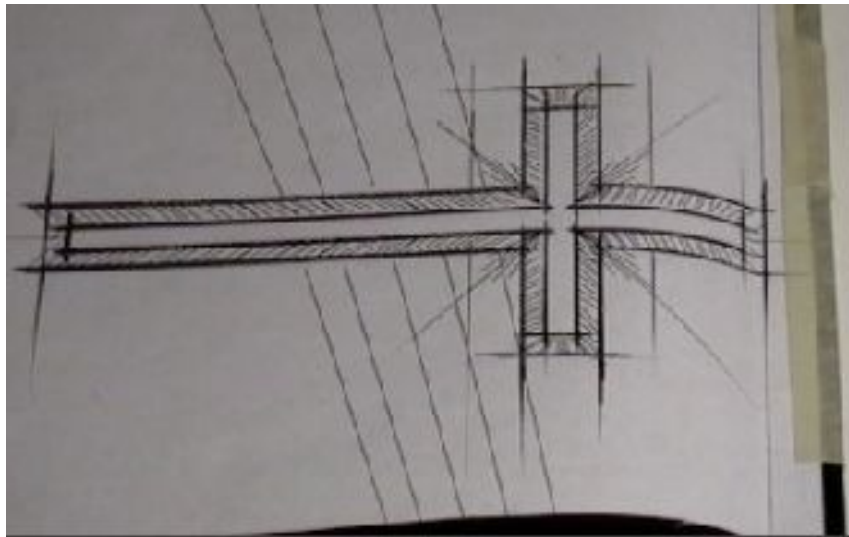
6- Make Your First Etching "Etch A Shimmering Cross"

You'll be using a piece of practice granite (polished) that you obtained from a granite company as explained earlier.

Step 1- using masking tape-tape the drawing of the "shimmering cross" onto the granite, it doesn't have to be taped into the middle, you can tape it to the side so as to get more use of the practice material.

Also you can reduce the size of the cross to conserve space. I wouldn't make the cross smaller than 4". I usually etch my crosses at 6" because of local cemetery restrictions.

Also the drawing is taped at the top so that the tape acts as a hinge so the drawing can be flipped up out of the way.



Step 2- Using your your metal T-square and metal triangle, slip a sheet of white transfer paper under the drawing and begin to trace the inside lines of the cross only for now.

Don't remove the the art, leave taped in place.

Note: White transfer paper can be difficult to find. I include a FREE sheet with my 5 DVD video package. Just 1 sheet can last for years if used and stored properly.

If your practice piece is not square then just use a metal triangle for now. Avoid plastic rulers and triangles.

Step 3- Turn on your etching tool and adjust the vibration to where your comfortable by laying down some practice strokes. When you're comfortable with the speed setting (I usually leave it on low) get into a comfortable position over your etching area.

Step 4- Using a T-square and triangle slowly etch, at a 90 degree angle, the horizontal lines starting at the top of the cross and work your way down. Don't try to etch the lines in just one stroke, give the lines a few strokes to achieve the thickness you want.

I use several light strokes back and forth while keeping a careful eye on where my vertical lines are.

Don't extend your horizontal lines past the vertical lines-go slowly and remember there's NO Erasing! Apply these same techniques to the vertical lines.

Step 5- Now Trace in the outside lines but DO NOT etch in the lines These line are guides only and will "hold" the "shimmering rays".



Step 6- Adjust your etching tool. The line switch should be on the "low" setting. Use the tool on an angle. Starting from the middle of the cross where the lines meet etch angled lines out from the middle filling in the outer guidelines.



Click The Photo To Watch A Video Demo:



Step 7-Now your etching angles are set, you can use the point of the etch tool for crisper lines. Stay within the guidelines! Repeat this process on all sides of the cross.



Touch Up Any Gaps



The Finished Etched Cross

© 2014

Step 8- Clean up any small errors using a "Sharpie" brand permanent marker.



Congratulations! You've completed your first etching! I usually complete these crosses in 30 minutes time and so will you after more practice. I am paid on average \$60-\$75 each! Not bad money.

Next: Etching A Beach Scene

Have You Been Looking For A *Traditional* Outdoor Christmas Nativity?

I'll Show You How To Make Your Own
Outdoor Nativity Sets With My Easy Plans
and Videos



Complete Full Color Video and Plan on DVD

You can make your own traditional outdoor nativity set this coming Christmas and I will show you how with my complete how to video plan, original drawings included.

Make your outdoor nativity full color, full size (make it any size you want) and with your own hands!

This is the kind of project you can get your family involved with and you'll be proud for many years to come.

[Check It Out Here](#)

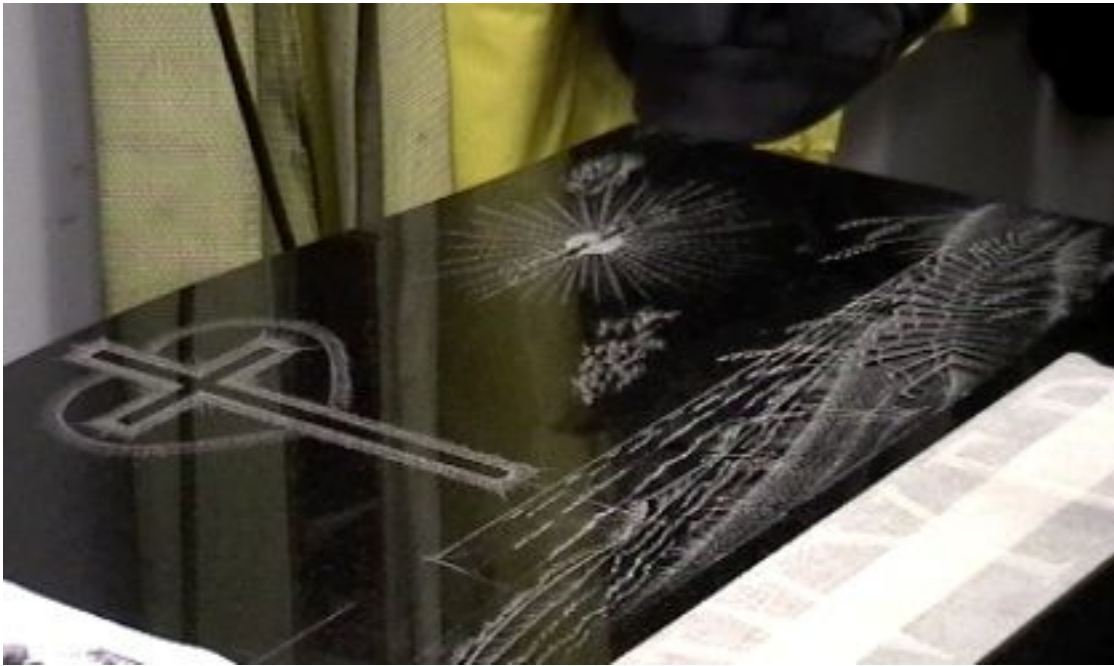
**Also Available:
Easier Two Color
Version On DVD**



You can literally make this one color version outdoor nativity in one weekend like I did and I'm not a woodworking specialist. [Check It Out Here](#)

This is a detailed one hour DVD that explains the basic tools and supplies needed from start to finish. Original drawings included with video how to.

The Beach Scene



The following steps are the steps I take to etch a typical "Beach Scene". These steps and techniques can be applied to any type of scene imaginable.

Step 1- The beach scene layout is provided by the monument company, the second sketch is my beach/fence scene, the one I adapt and use over and over again. I resize my sketch using a copy machine to match the monument companies layout and the actual size of the monument making sure the sketch doesn't interfere with the lettering already on the monument.



Step 2- I measure down from the top of the monument to the horizon line and remove the provided layout.

I place a mark on the granite using a "stabilo" pencil and draw in the horizon line using my metal t-square.

I also take note of the bottom of the drawing, where it will stop before the lettering starts. This information is from the drawing provided to me.

I mark the spot where the etching cannot pass and draw another horizontal line with the "stabilo" pencil.

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Step 3- Measure the width of the monument/headstone and make a mark.

Using a t-square and triangle draw a line down the middle of the monument.

Now you will know exactly where your center is and where you will place (in most cases) your cross.

Step 4- Tape in your beach dune/fence sketch on top like a "hinge" so that you can flip up the sketch while etching.

Slip the white transfer paper under your sketch and drawing the dunes and fence.

NOTE: The following photos are all side views



Step 5- In the following photo you can see the dune and fence, the horizon line and bottom line and the sketch folded up and out of the way.



Click The Photo To Watch A Video Demo:

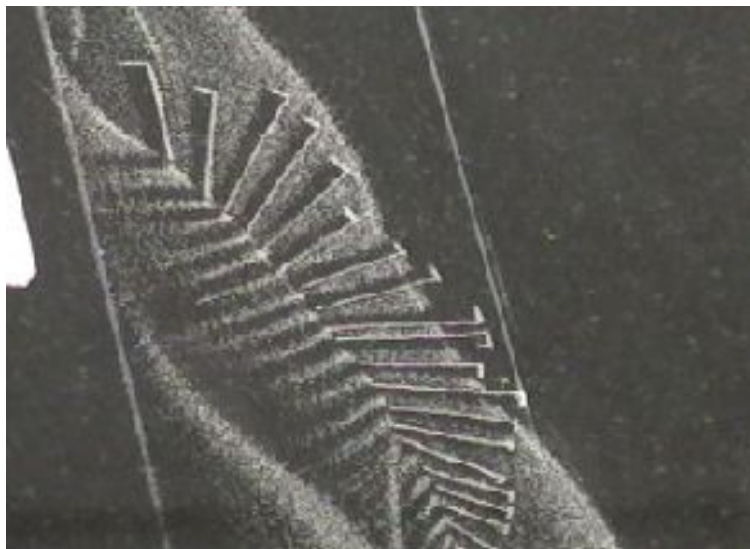
I begin first with the foreground object, in this case it's the fence. I set my etch tool to 'low' but faster vibration speed to etch in the sun lit parts of the fence first.

NOTE: where is the sun?

Place a mark in the sky or at the horizon if it's setting or rising and you will know where to highlight your fence. In this art it is above to the right side.

Step 6- After you have established the fence determine where, based on the placement of the sun, the sun will be hitting the sand dune behind the fence.

As you can see in the photo the shadow of the fence is left black. The hardest part of etching sometimes seems to be just leaving the black of the monument untouched and letting the shadow work with you and be your friend, so to speak.



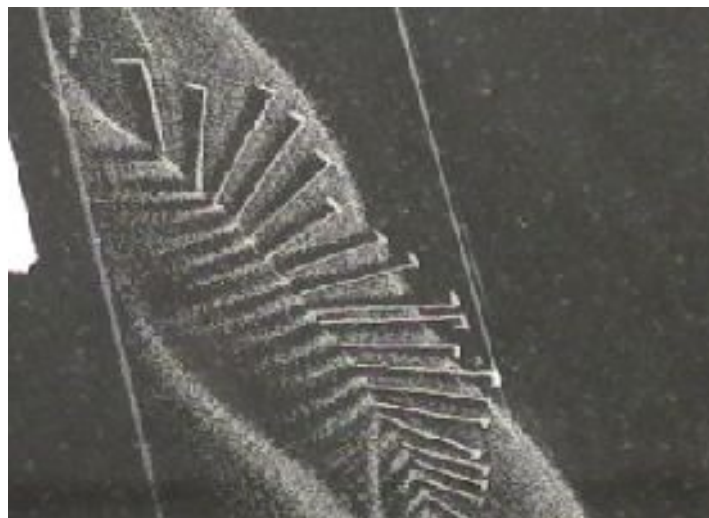
STEP 7- After you finish establishing where the shadows will lie, move on to the small dune in the foreground and lightly etch that in fading it towards the bottom of the dune. The brightest part of the dunes will be the tops as the sun hits them.

Step 8- The background dunes.

I begin to etch in the background dunes to more fully establish and define the beach and the beach fence.

The more of the background dune I etch in, the more the fence stands out because I have only etched the sun lit parts of the fence.

The background dune needs to be etch in between the posts of the fence.



Step 9- The dunes are etched in and the fence is standing in stark contrast. Let's put in some details in the beach fence.

The following photo shows the fence with details, the fence is held together with wire.

In order to make the fence look realistic we need to add this detail.

To add these details you simply have to etch in uneven lines connecting the pieces of fence at the top and bottom.



Next, the sand dunes need grass. In order to make the grass look realistic they need to be blowing in the wind.

To make realistic dune grass first lay down a curved line from the bottom up using the tip of your etch tool. See photos below.



At the top of the grass or curved lines you need to place the leaf-like structure seen on most dune grass by adding a series of curved dashes.



Continue along the beach line adding grass, both short and taller grasses blowing in the wind.

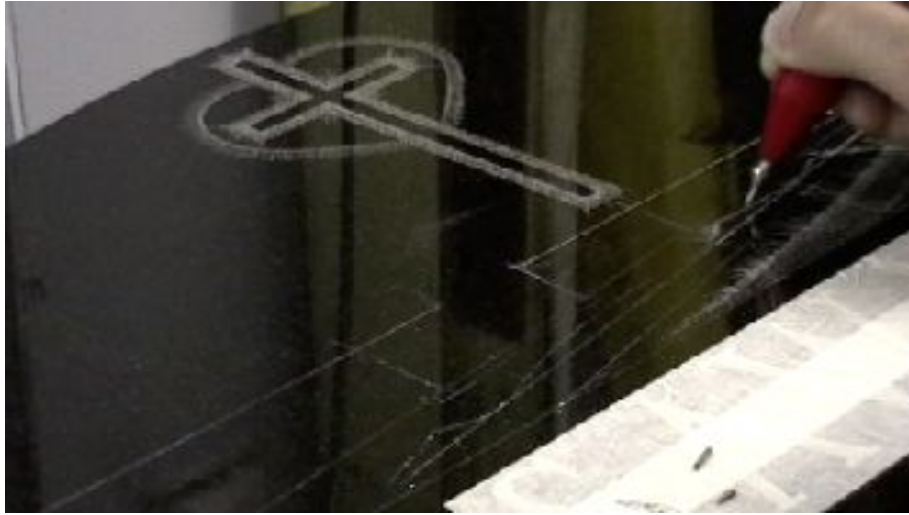
Fill the foreground and background dunes but don't fill in the grass in a mechanical way, space the grass naturally. Also, touch up the sand dunes and fence. It's starting to look like a real beach now!

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["Granite Etching Course Video Series"](#)



Etch in the water and waves. I follow the sketch as close as possible and sketch in my waves knowing that they have to straighten out as they approach the distant horizon.

Look at some photos of waves as reference. I like my waves to be as realistic as possible so, adding the spray of foam from the wave is important.



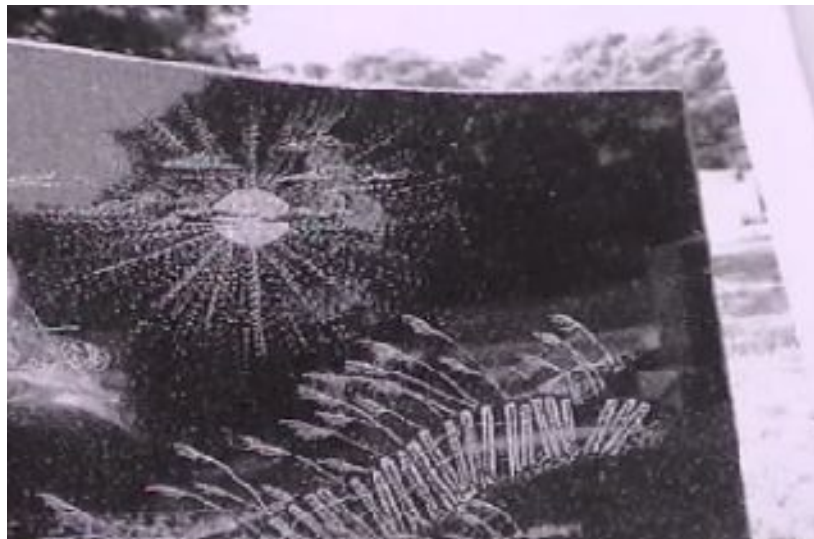
After I put in a curve and splash of the wave I freehand etch in a white line across the bottom of the wave, no need to use a straight edge. And since the top of the wave is curling

over I etch in curved lines up leaving the top part of the wave dark.

Then I put in some foreground waves a bit smaller so as not to take attention away from the more dramatic main wave behind it.

Next etch in the middle ground waves and the distant waves towards the horizon.

The next photo is a reference of the sun I used to etch into the sky. I begin by etching in the cloud covering the sun as shown in the reference.



Then I start to etch in the sun using a circular etching motion.



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Next I add in the rays coming from the sun. Again, I am copying from the reference photo because this is what the customer wants and expects.



I then add in the surrounding clouds and this is the final result!!... Another beautifully etched one-of-a-kind beach scene!



Conclusion:

You now have more than enough information to go on from here, after practicing these techniques, and approach, with confidence, a granite dealer with your samples of your etchings.

Actually, you have a lot more information than I had to start with, so you're way ahead of the game.

As I mentioned earlier computer generated laser etchings have made a big splash in the granite business, especially when it comes to etching portraits onto granite monuments.

It's very hard to duplicate customer sketches on a computer but I'm not scared off by the computer laser etchings.

I will simply adapt and embrace it by learning more about laser etching capabilities and their limits. I will incorporate it into my work and charge more of a premium for the hand etchings!

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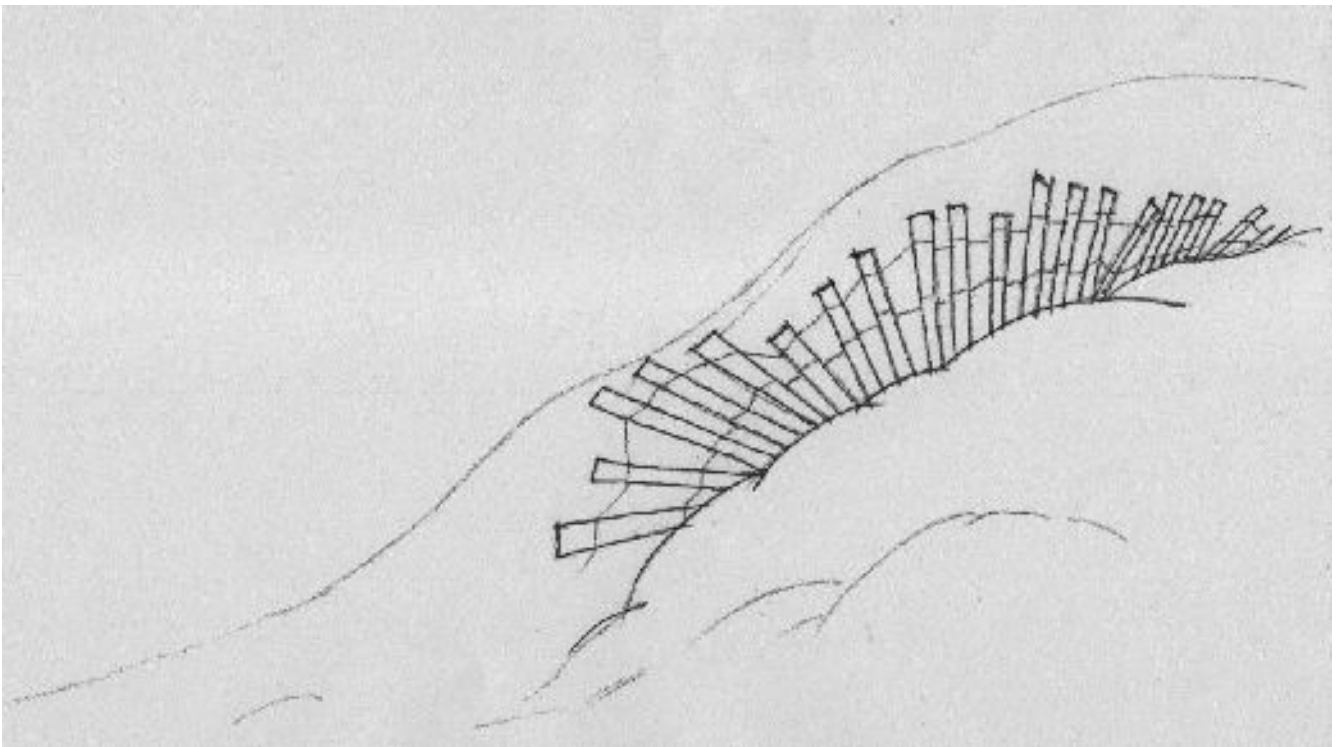
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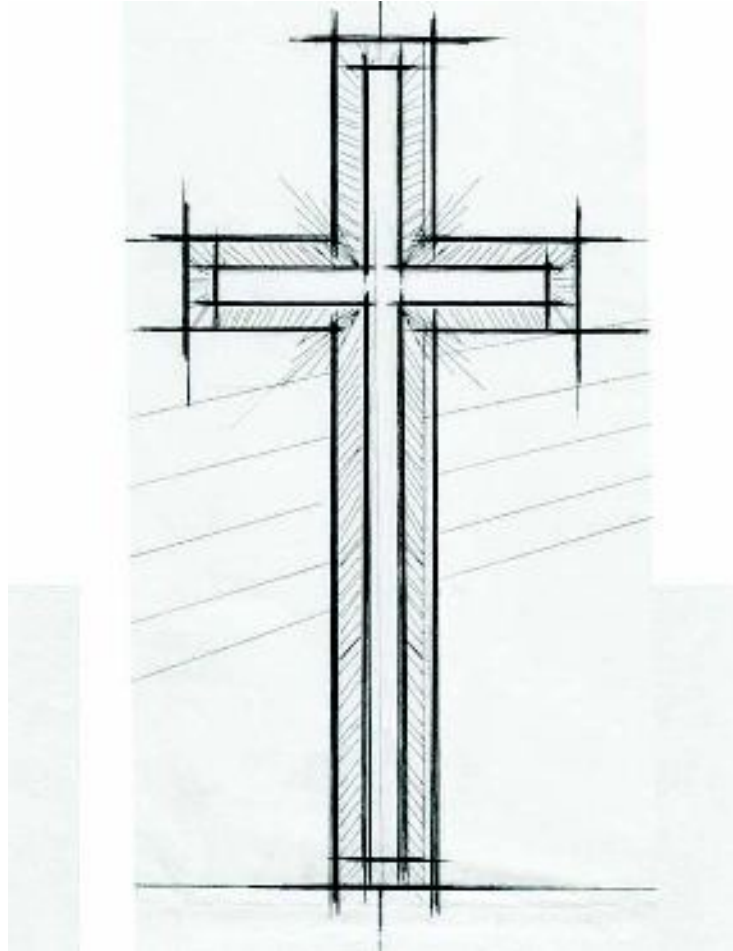
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Resource Pages:

Free Drawing #1 - Beach Scene



Free Drawing #2 – The Cross



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Don't Be...This Course Helped Me To Brush Up
On My Drawing Skills Fast...

GET PAID TO DRAW! Make Money As An Artist!
Learn How To Make Money Drawing Simple Pictures
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Thank You!