

Round Topped Window Hoods

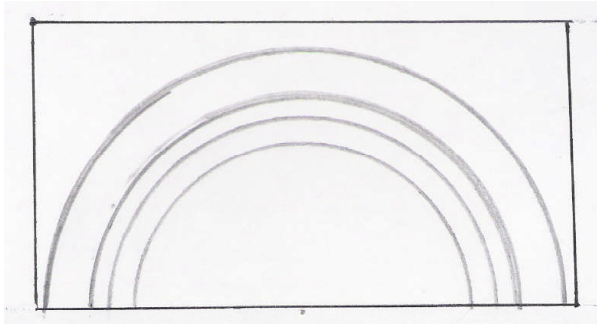
I have been doing architectural woodworking for thirty years to do historically sensitive rehabilitations of three old houses that we have owned. Over the years, I have discovered several methods that the old-timers used to make special features.

One of the windows in our 1875 Italianate had been removed to put in a door. Luckily the shutters were found in the garage. Everything was simple to reproduce except the circular portion of the large and ornate window hood. I studied an original and discovered the ingenious method the craftsmen of the time used to make it. They cut three concentric circles from a large chunk of wood. They then separated the circular pieces and cut them to different widths and rounded over the top one. They then glued the pieces back together to form the circular hood.



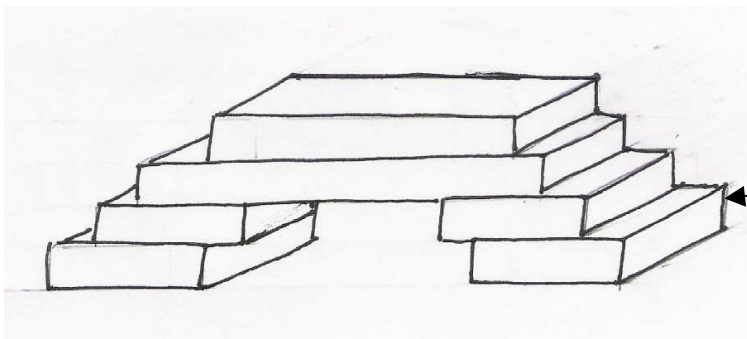
Here is how I duplicated their process.

Lay out concentric semicircles on a thin piece of plywood and cut them out.



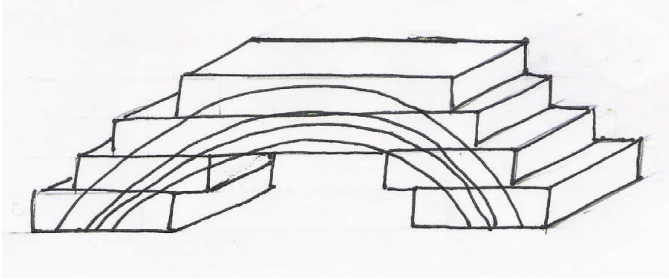
Round hood to be duplicated

Glue up the blank making sure the pattern fits.



Scraps can be used to save wood

Trace the three semicircles on the block of wood using the pattern.

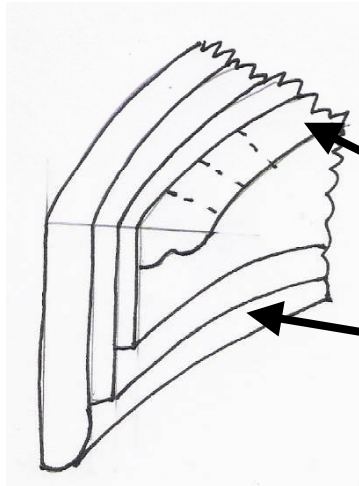
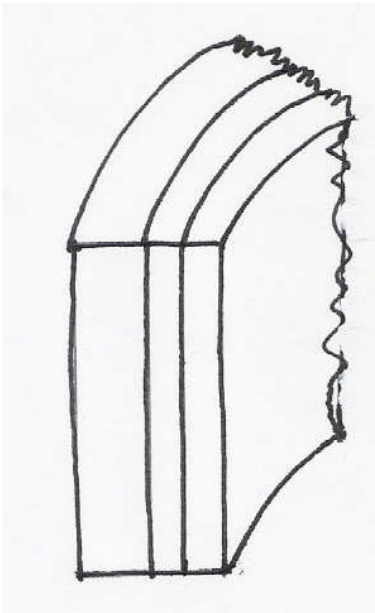


Cut out the three circular pieces and separate them. Cut the two inner circles at different widths by rocking them through the table saw. Round over the top one with a router with a bit with a bearing guide and router table if possible. For the innermost circle, I kerfed a molding to fit in.

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Cross section view of the semi-circles

Semi-circles cut to different widths



Molding kerfed to fit in or one more circle made and routed

Top circle rounded over with a router

Molding kerfed to fit into curved space

