

# 15 Woodcarving Patterns from One Cut-out



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# **15 Woodcarving Patterns**

Written by Russell Scott  
Photography by Russell Scott

# Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Lynne Medgaarden for her assistance in the editing process. Thank you to all of the talented wood carvers and wood sculptors who had a hand in helping me learn the art of wood carving. Learning woodcarving and developing carving techniques is an ongoing process and I continue to learn by taking classes from other woodcarvers and artists, from observing, studying and practicing the art.

- Russell Scott

Visit my web site at:

**ScottCarvings.com**

**Pinterest.com/rscott56**

**YouTube.com/ScottCarvings**

**Check out my rough-outs at: [www.scottcarvings.com/scott-carvings-rough-outs](http://www.scottcarvings.com/scott-carvings-rough-outs)**

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# Introduction

**I create family heirlooms that descendants will argue over for generations.**

**I am Russell Scott, a wood carving artist from Saint Paul, Minnesota.** I have been carving since 1999. My interest in wood working developed from observing my father, Bob, who spent many hours designing and building wooden model airplanes from scratch. My ancestors were involved in the logging industry in northern Wisconsin. I also have artistic interests in drawing, photography and fly tying.

I carve mainly in basswood and cottonwood bark, but have also carved butternut, Honduras mahogany, walnut, pine, and cedar. I focus mainly on carving human figures, including holiday figures, cowboys and females. My carvings have received awards at carving shows, county and state fairs, and national carving contests. I am a member of several professional carving organizations, local and national.

I teach woodcarving classes and have produced rough-outs and books available at my website: [www.scottcarvings.com](http://www.scottcarvings.com).

## **Philosophy about woodcarving**

My passion for woodcarving is all about the search for the mystery of what can be found in a piece of wood. What's really possible and what is worth the search? There is a genuine treasure that lies deep in the wood. I like to dive as deep as I can to reveal that precious treasure.

Each one-of-a-kind carving is a reflection of the eternal spirit that lies in the wood. I use chisels and knives to bring out the wood's own quiet personality. Woodcarving is a slow, tough process; each carved piece presents unique challenges. Each carving is done entirely by hand, carved free form from a model that exists only in the mind of the creator. After carving each character, I paint it with colors that enhance the image my tools have begun.

## **Scott Carvings**

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**[YouTube.com/ScottCarvings](https://www.youtube.com/ScottCarvings)**

## Other Wood Carving Instructional Books and Rough-outs

Vintage Santa Claus I & II & II - Carving Native American Faces  
15 Woodcarving Patterns - Carving Women Caricatures - Small  
Club Projects

Check out the [ScottCarvings.com](http://ScottCarvings.com) website for new books and rough-outs.

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Scott Carvings



# Wood Carving Safety

## For Hand Carving...

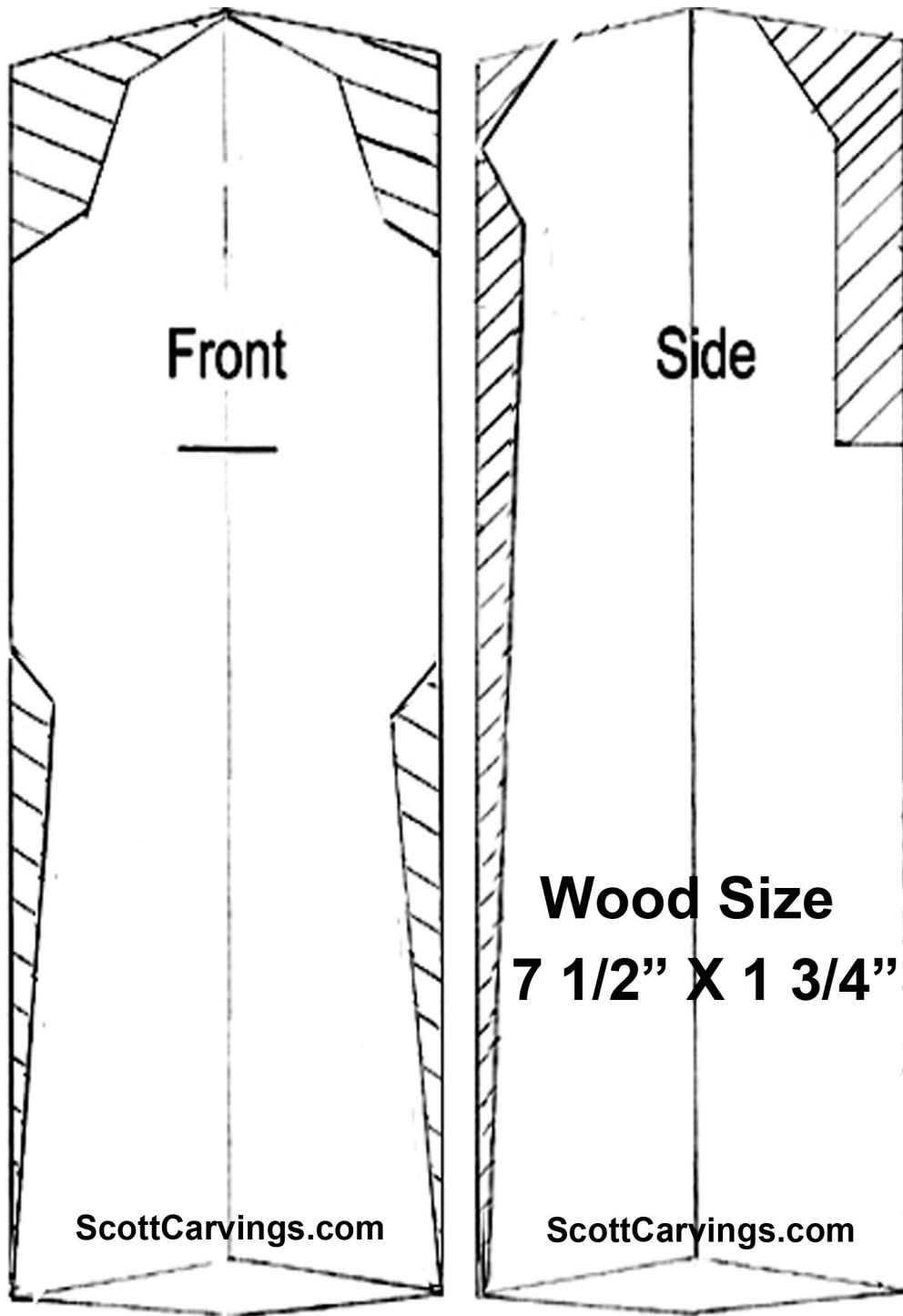
- **Safety Glove** – Kevlar threaded gloves are necessary when holding small wood carvings. Leather gloves are useful when using the knife, chisel or while handling power tools.
- **Leather Finger Tabs** – Useful when working with knives. A thumb tab is worn on the hand holding the knife.
- **First Aid Kit** – To be used for minor injuries. Include bandages, gauze, and tweezers.
- **Work Aprons** – Heavy duty cloth is acceptable for carving operations and to protect the arms and legs during power and chain saw.
- **Vinyl Gloves** – For handling paint, oils, turpentine or mineral spirits. Latex gloves sometimes produce skin reactions.

## For Power Carving...

- **Eyewear** – Face shields are required for all grinding and power carving type operations. Safety glasses with side shields provide protection for the eyes but leave skin unprotected. Prescription glasses are not sufficient. Safety goggles while handling liquids.
- **Respirator** – Used while sawing or power carving wood. Minimum requirement for particulate masks is the governmental standard, N95.
- **Ear Plugs or Muffs** – Extensive work with equipment producing noise levels above 85 dB can cause hearing loss.
- **Shoes** – Work shoes are advised when working with power equipment or sharp hand tools.
- **Room Ventilation** – Ventilation to 8-10 air changes per hour is desired. When locating these units consider work activities and location of HVAC ducts. Don't forget to periodically check, clean or replace filters.
- **Fire Extinguisher** – type A,B or A,B, C
- **Electrical Cords** – Always use cords with a grounded plug. Do not use cords that have been taped. Frayed cords should be replaced.
- **Safety Guards** – Make certain these are in place and securely attached.

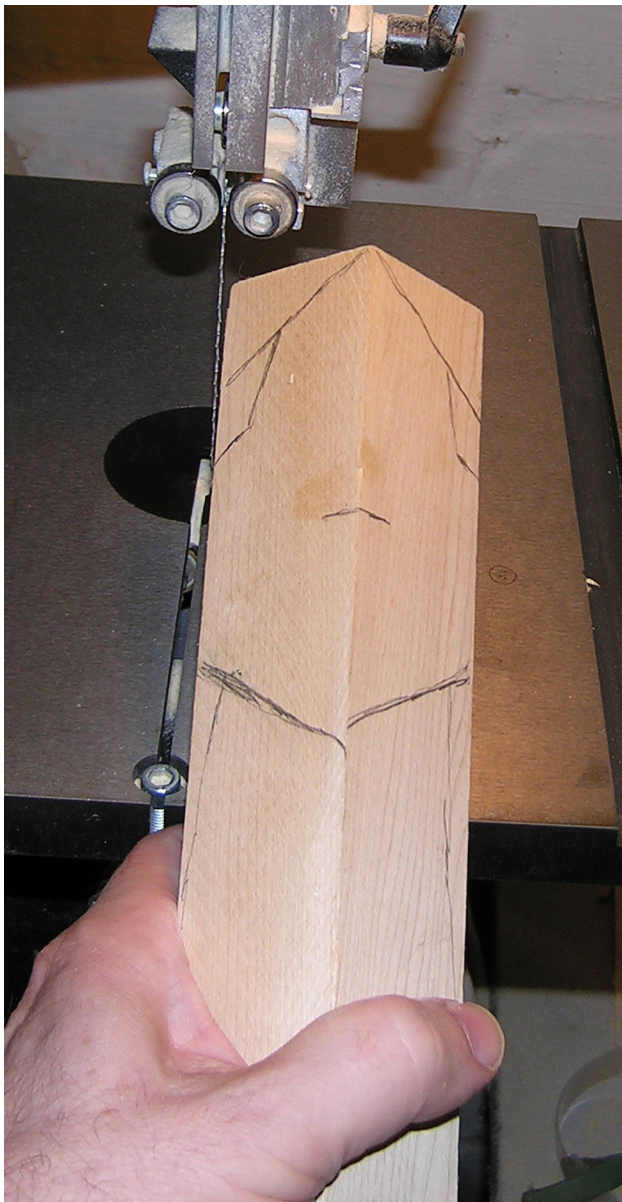


# The Pattern



# Making The Cut Out

Draw out the pattern on a diagonally sitting piece of wood.  
Cut on the band saw holding the wood diagonally.

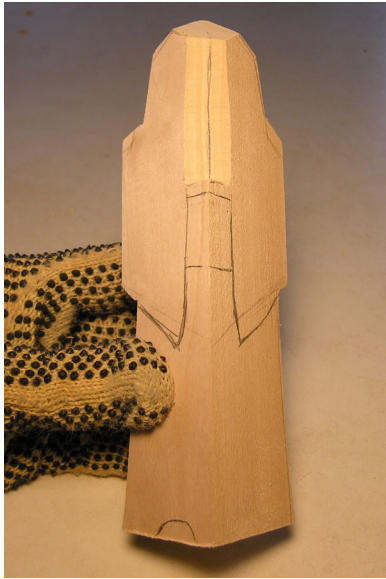


# Walking Santa with Candle on Stick



# Walking Santa with Candle on Stick

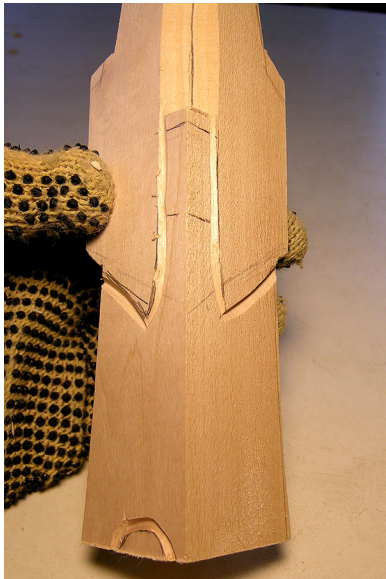




Make cutout according to the pattern. Draw in lines for hand and sleeve.



Draw a circle in the bottom to make the cape.



Use a V tool to make stop cuts to the sleeve.



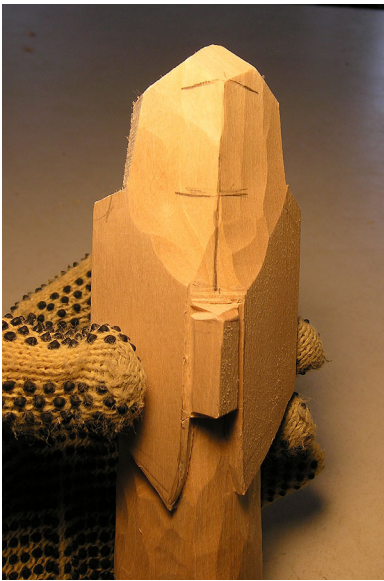
Carve out the feet. Carve out the cape.



Cut around the waist up to the sleeves



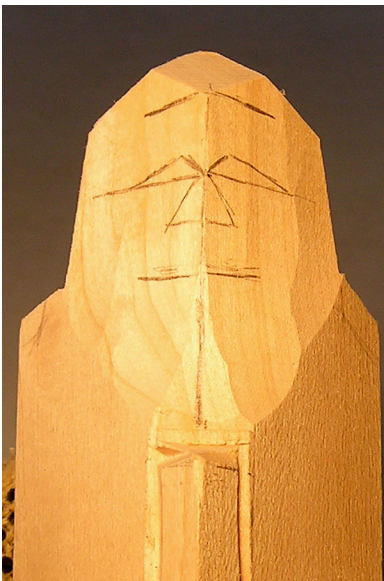
Round out the body.



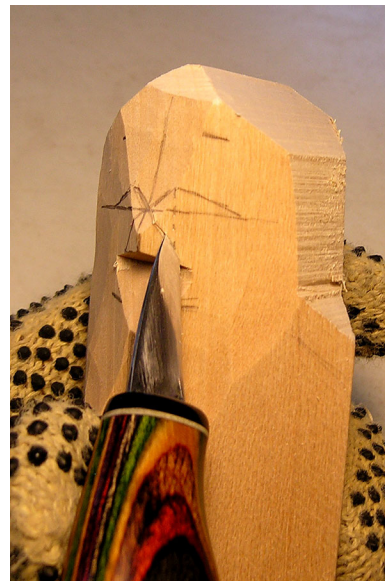
Draw a center line down the front of the head. Cut in a 90 angle. Draw in lines to mark the top and bottom of the head.



Draw the eye lines back in.



Draw the eye line in the center of the top/bottom lines. Draw the nose line half way between the eye line and the bottom line.



Cut along the nose line AWAY FROM the nose.



Make a stop cut on the nose line and cut away underneath. From the center of the nose cut back at about 35degrees toward the top of the head.



Cut the upper eye line. Tip points towards the eye ball.



Make a straight cut in towards the nose making a chip that should pop out. If not, work at it until it does.



Right socket is done.



Make a straight cut perpendicular to the nose up towards the eye lines.



Carve out the left eye socket.



Make a cut towards the eye line making a chip that should pop out. If not, work at it until it does.



Chip out a 90 degree chip at the bridge of the nose.



Round the side of the head...



Draw in the mustache. Use a V tool to make a stop cut.



... and the back of the head.



Cut up to the mustache.



Draw in the sides of the face



Draw in beard and hood. Use a V tool to create a stop cut.





Carve around the shoulder to bring out the beard.



Draw in the coat fur. Use a V tool to make a stop cut.



Carve waves in the beard.



Carve in the inner coat.



Carve a wave on the sleeve below the arm.



Carve out the shoe.



Draw around the back as shown. Use a V tool to make a stop cut.



Drill a 3/8" hole diagonally through the hands. Draw in the thumb and hand line as shown.



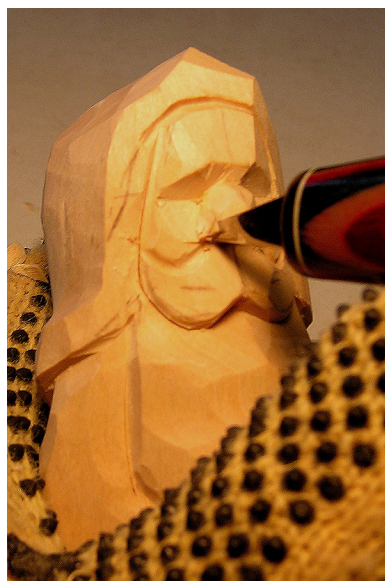
Carve the back up to the belt line as shown. Carve a wave above the belt line to show overhang.



V cut those lines out.



Round out the bottom half to bring out the fur.



Begin to shape the nose by cutting around the nostrils.



Cut along the cheek and mustache finalize the chip cut



Block out the side of the face as shown.



Do the same on the other side of the nose.



Make a large V cut as shown.



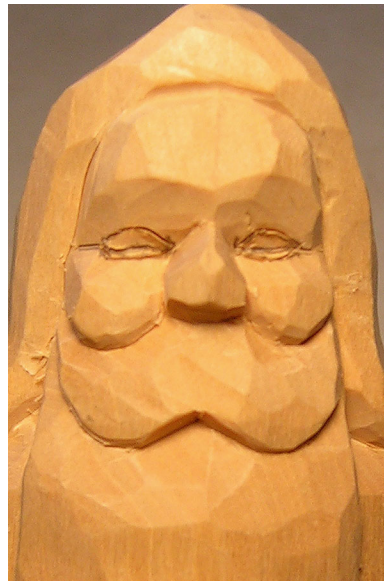
The face needs to come out more. First draw around the hood about 3/8" away from the face as shown.



Round the eye brows and cheeks.



Cut the hood away from the shoulder.



Cut straight down around the pencil marks.



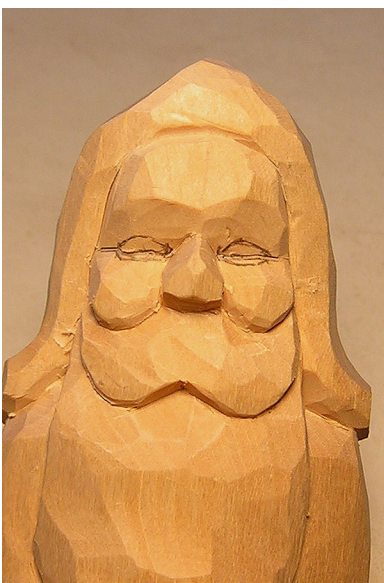
Draw around the back of the hood to create fur as shown. Use a V-tool to make a stop cut.



Cut deeper on the corner of the eyes.



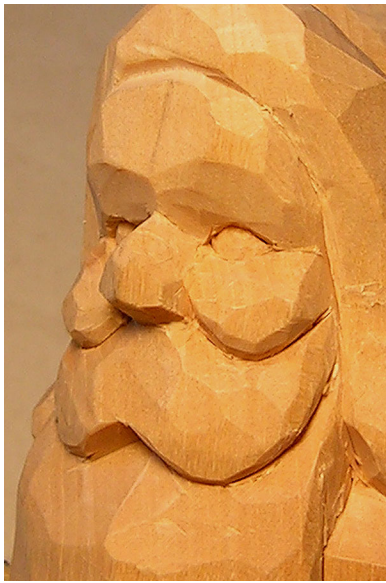
Start creating the eye ball making a chip cut on the sides of the eye.



Draw in the eyes as shown.



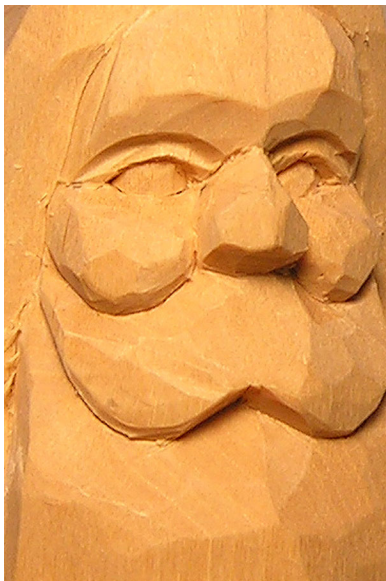
Round out the eye balls.



Another view.



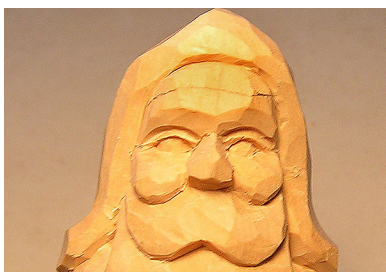
Carve the upper part of the forehead to create the eye brow bone.



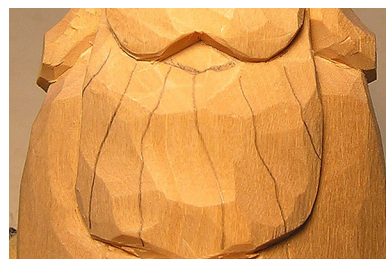
Create the eye lid with a V-tool just above the eye.



With a V-tool, create eye brows.



Draw in the hair line on the forehead.



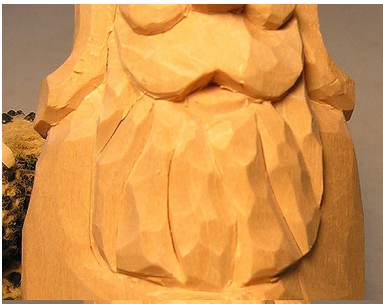
Pencil in lines on the beard.



Make a stop-cut along the hair line then shape the hair line and forehead.



Use the knife to gouge in clumps if beard. Do not use a V-tool for this task if you want the beard to look more realistic.



Use the knife to create curves on the beard clumps by scooping the chips out.



Use the knife to remove V like chips from the bottom of the beard clumps.



Round out the sleeve to show the arm.



Under cut the end of the beard clumps to bring the ends of the beard out.



Carve the inner coat deeper to bring out the outer coat.



Use a V-tool to make finer beard and mustach hair.



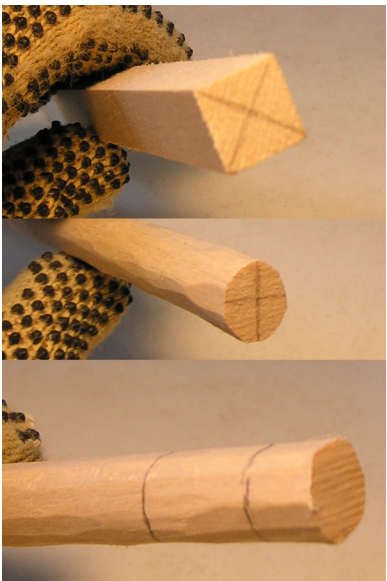
Scoop out the inner coat above the foot. This will make the foot and bent knee come out more.



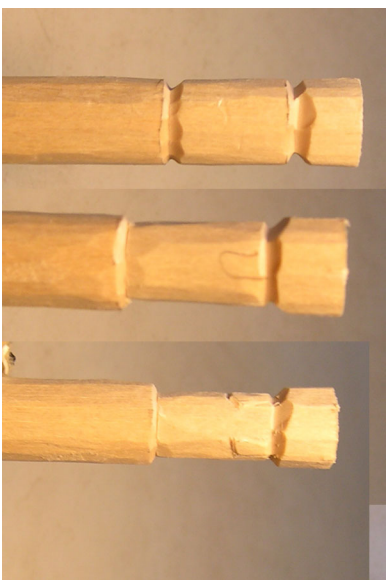
Cut a 1/2" square piece of wood for the candle walking stick. Cut to desired length.



Carve in the candle, flame and stick as shown.



Another variation for the Old World Santa



Use a V-tool, then knife to begin creating the candle and flame as shown.

# Mrs Claus and Her Gingerbread Cookies





# Mrs Claus and Her Gingerbread Cookies

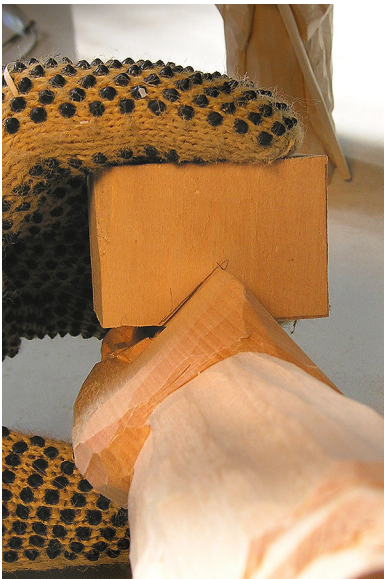




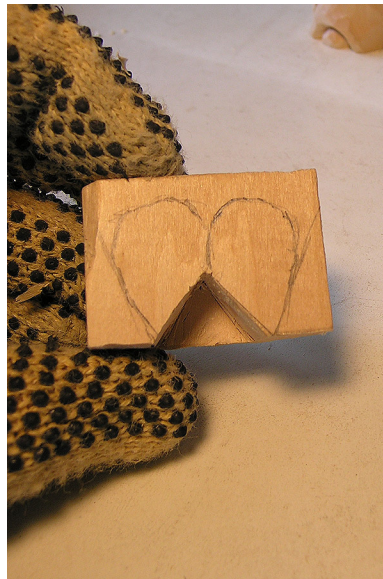
Carve the Mrs. Claus much like the step-by-step from the Angel. Cut out a 1 3/4" X 1 5/8" from a 1" piece of wood.



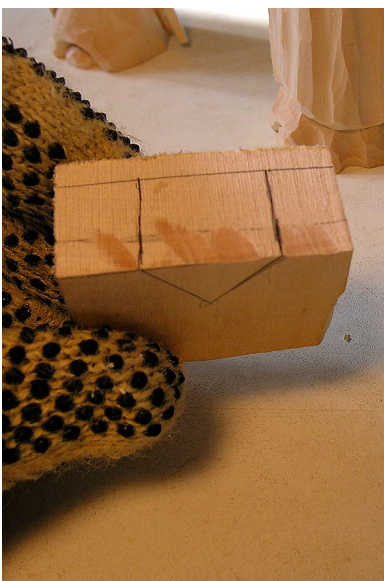
Cut out around the pencil mark as shown.



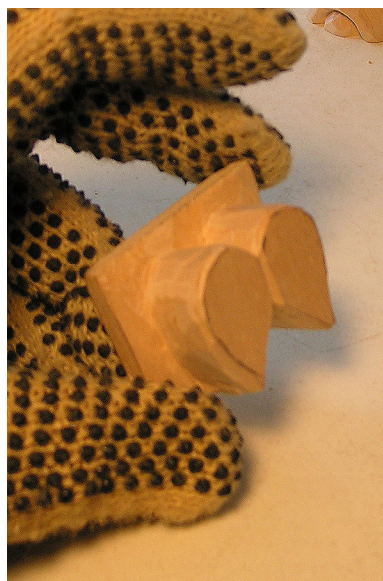
Position the small piece of wood as shown and draw the arm line.



Draw in the hands.



Draw the lines as shown to represent the hands and tray.



Cut into the wood leaving the hands and tray as shown.



Draw lines to separate the wrist and hands.



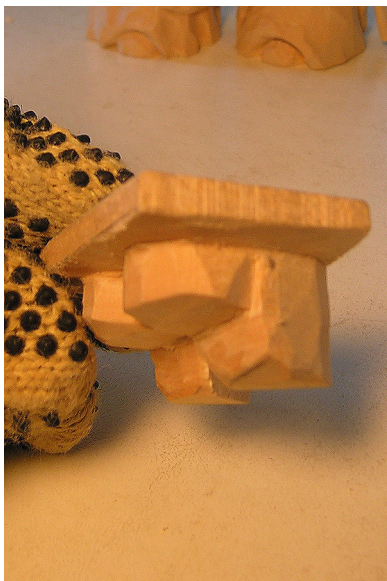
Draw in the thumbs on her ovenmitts.



Cut the wrist and hands as shown.



Use a V-tool to separate the thumb with the rest of the hand. Use a knife to round the thumbs and hands.



Cut the tray, hands and wrist as shown.



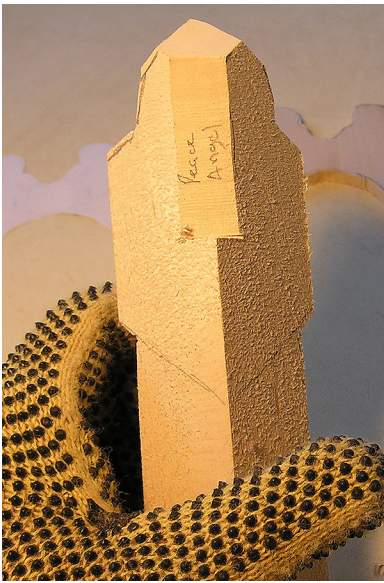
Make adjustments to complete the project.

# The Angel

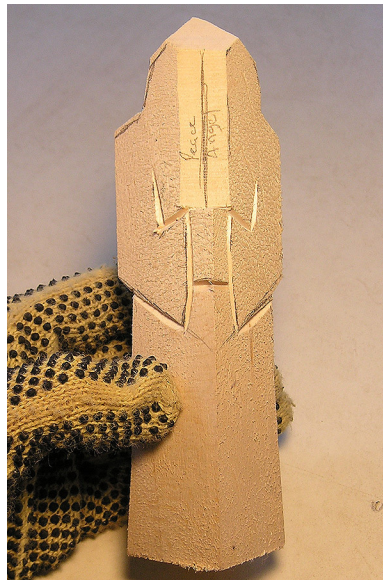


# The Angel





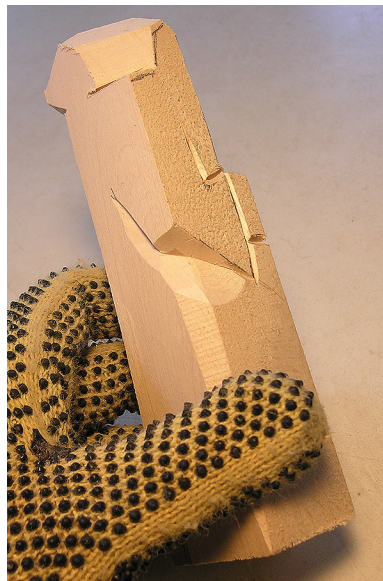
Make the cut out.



Use a V-tool to make stop cuts on everything that is drawn.



Draw in the arms, sleeves and hands as shown.



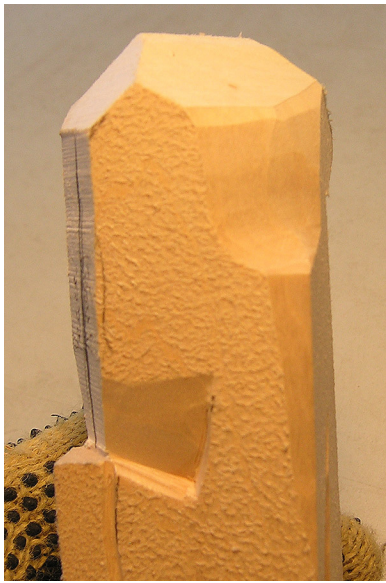
Cut down on the waist area bringing the elbows out.



Draw in the arms in back.



Cut down on the front area above and below the arms to bring the arms and hands out.



Round out the shoulders.



Round the body out.



Carve down the head bringing the front to a 90 degree point.



Round the back bringing the back of the arms out.



Circle the bottom leaving the back to have a back dress drag.



Pencil the ribbon and bottom skirt as shown.



Use a V-tool to make stop cuts on the ribbon and skirt.



Another angle.



Cut outside of the ribbon and under the upper skirt.



Thin the waist between the arm and ribbon.



Round the upper skirt and scoop the inside ribbon as shown.

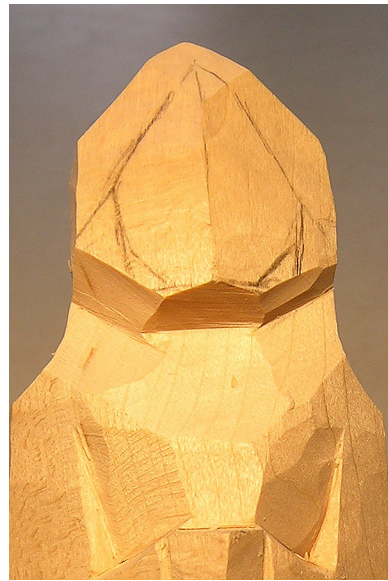


Carve down the back to bring the ribbon out.

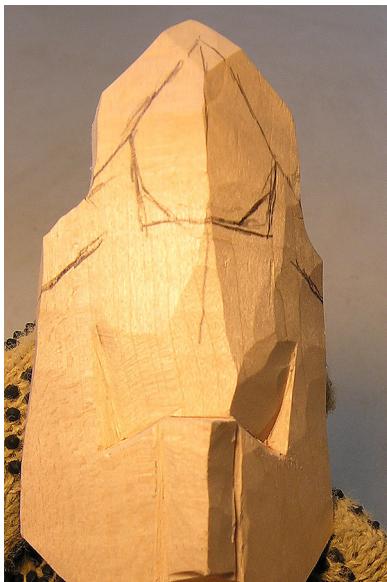




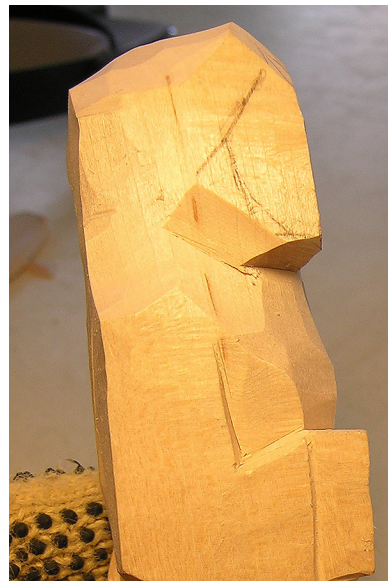
Under cut the ribbon to bring the ribbon out away from the body.



Cut to start forming the chin.



Pencil in the face and hair line and the shoulders.



Another angle.



Cut from chest to under the chin.



Draw a line across the upper chest as shown. This line should be between the shoulders.



Draw in the neck line.



Make a stop cut under the nose and cut out the mouth to bring the nose out. From the tip of the nose cut back about 30 degrees as shown.



Cut down the bottom of the neck to show the neck rising forward towards the chin. Block out the neck line.



Follow the same steps of making chip cuts as shown in the Santa step-by-step.



Draw in the eyes and nose locations.



Scoop the nose from tip to forehead and angle back the tip of the nose as shown.



Make angle cuts around the chin and round out the neck.



Thin the nose.



Another angle.



Draw the hair line as shown. This line can go back almost to the center the head.



Cut the extra hooded piece from the back of the head.



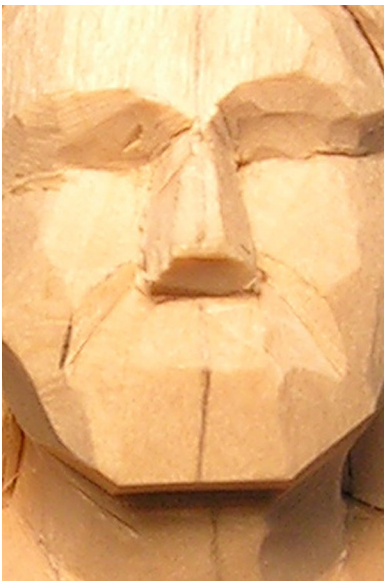
Block out the hair from the face.



Draw in the cheek lines.



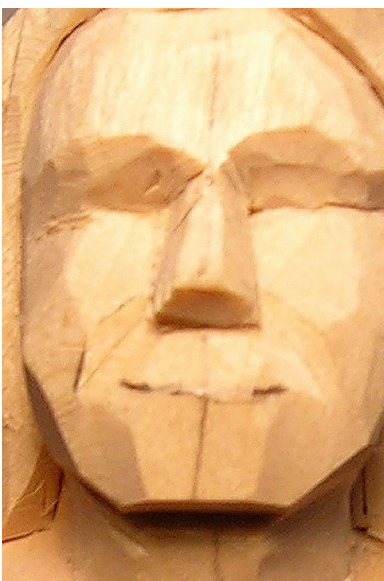
Make a thin V cut with the knife. Make sure the cut goes straight across.



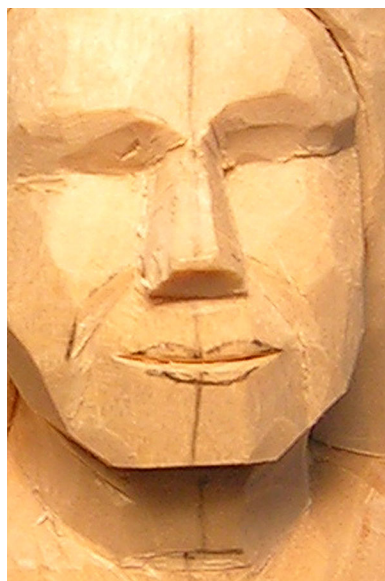
Cut down on the cheek lines as a stop cut, then round the upper part of the mouth.



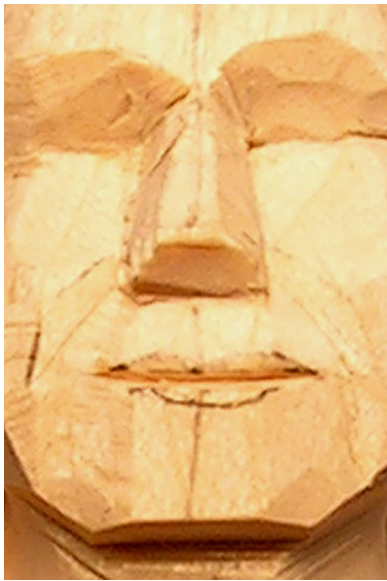
Another angle.



Draw the mouth line about 1/3 the distance between the nose and the chin.



Draw in the upper and lower lips.



Make a 45 degree cut from the upper lip line and the mouth cut.



Profile look of the lower lip.



Check the profile. Make sure the chin is back further than the upper lip.



Round the jaw out, below the cheek.



Make a 45 degree cut from the lower lip line and the mouth cut.

Cut a wide V cut between the bottom lip and chin. This will bring the bottom lip out.



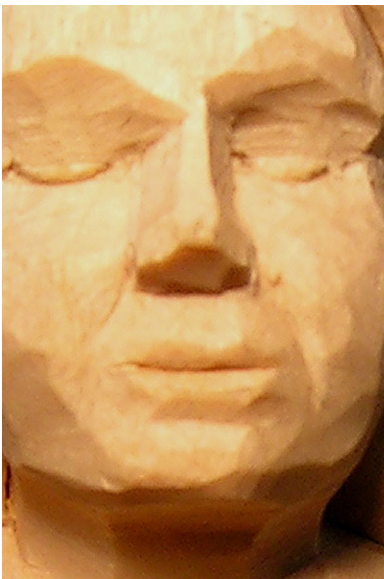
Another view of the jaw.



Round out the face.



Another angle.



Draw in and V-tool closed eyes.



Pencil in and cut out the thumb.



Carve the hair to desired shape.



Pencil in and cut out the fingers. Use a V-tool to separate the fingers and shape and round them out.



Pencil in and V-tool the cuffs and neck line as shown.



Carve the wings into a bow.



Flatten the back to accept the wings.



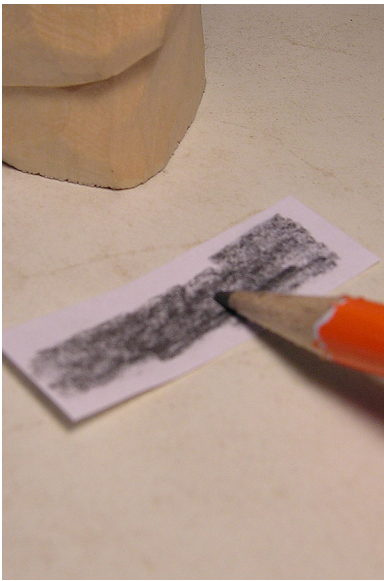
Pencil in the feathers and V-tool as shown.



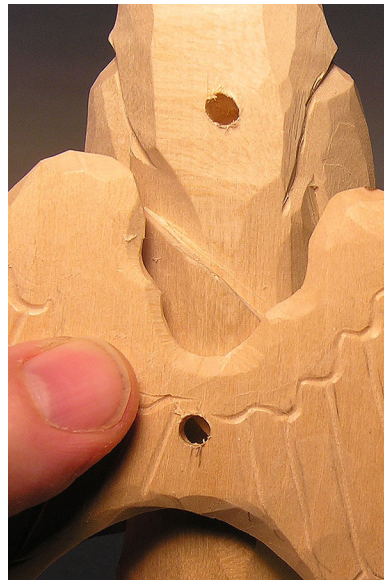
Cut out the wing.



Print and cut out the message that will display on the ribbon.



Rub graphite pencil on the back of the message.



Drill a 3/8" hole on center of the wing. Place the wing on the back in the desired position. With a pencil mark the spot on the back through the wing hole. Drill a 3/8" hole on the back where the pencil spot was made.



Position the sheet with the message onto the ribbon with graphite against the ribbon. Use a ball point pen and trace over leaving a carbon copy of the message on the ribbon.



Use a 3/8" dowel to fasten the wing.



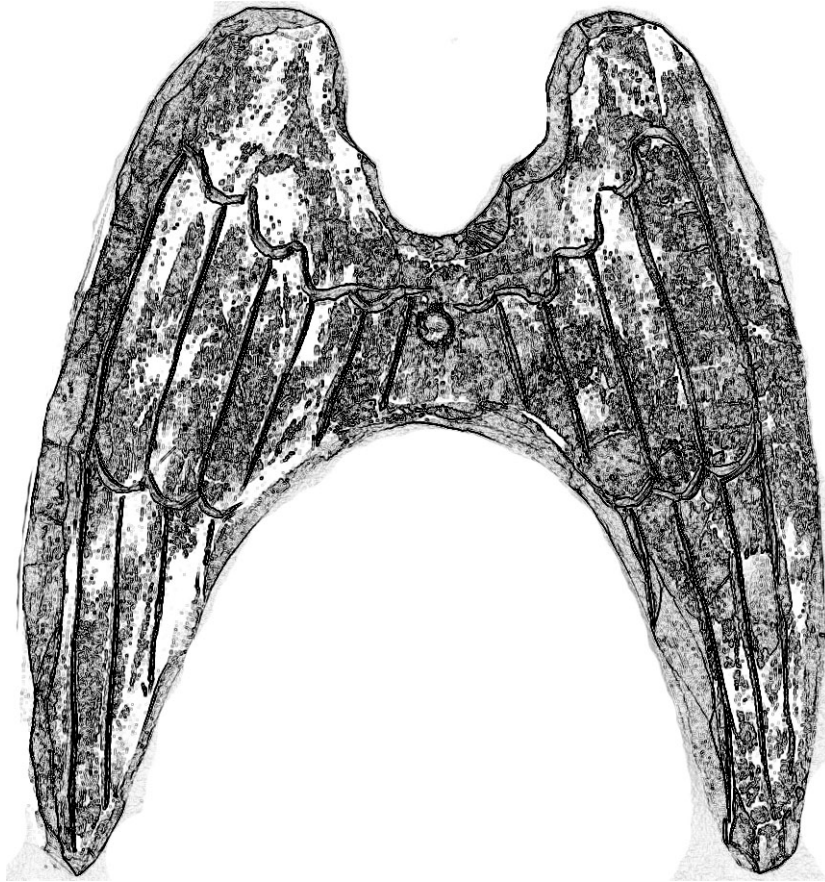
Use a wood burner or paint to make the message permanent.



Finished, ready for painting



# Angel Accessories



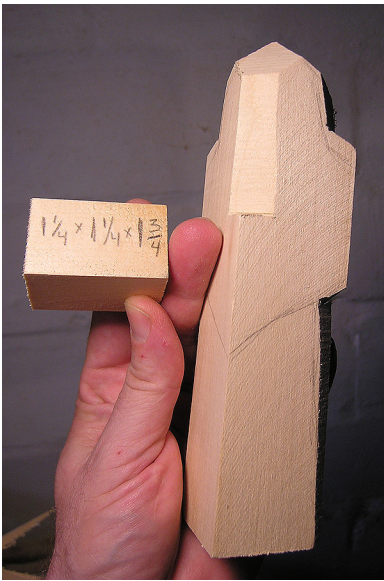
Peace Love  
Be ye at Peace  
Be at Peace  
Peace on Earth  
Joy to the World  
Merry Christmas

# Abraham Lincoln

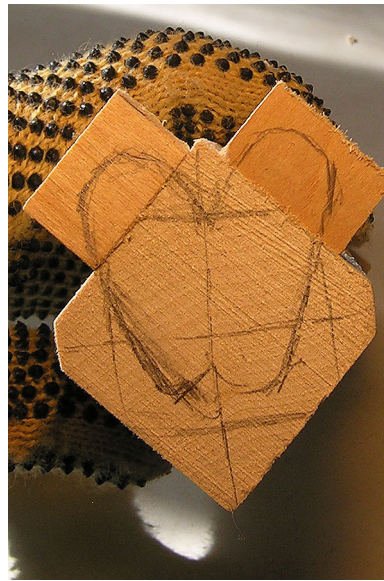


# Abraham Lincoln

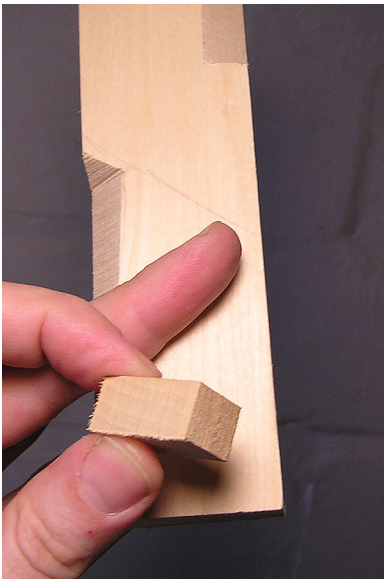




Cut a 1 3/4" X 1 1/4" square piece of wood for the hat.



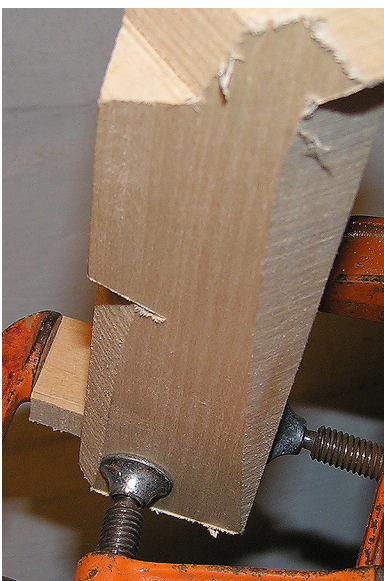
After the glue has dried, draw the feet at the bottom of the cut out as shown.



Cut 2 pieces of wood for the feet at 1/2" X 1/2" X 1".



Draw in the hat, hand, arm and coat lines as shown.



Glue and clamp the feet pieces at the bottom of the cut out. Let the glue dry over night.



Draw in the arm/hand line in the back of the cut out as shown.



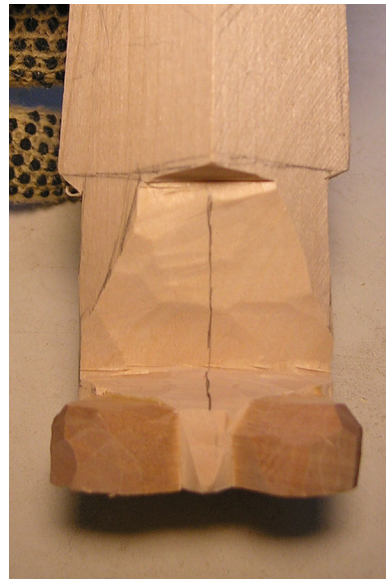
Pencil in the leg lines.



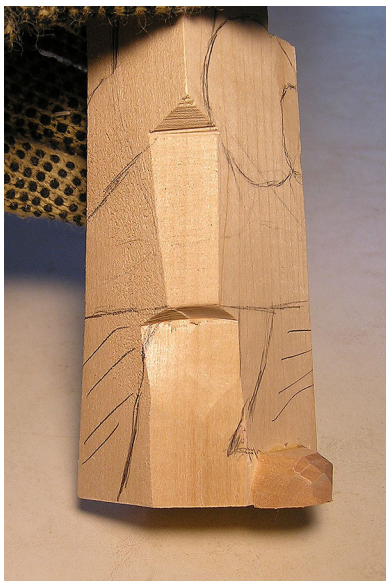
Cut out the legs and the rest of the feet from the profile direction.



Round out the foot pieces.



Carve out the legs from the front direction. Draw a center line for the two legs.



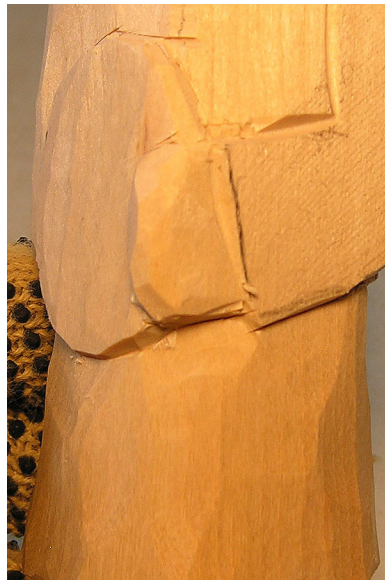
Draw in the leg lines as shown.



Use a V-tool to separate the legs.



Separate pants from the shoes.



Finish rounding out the brim of the hat and make a stop cut for the hand.



Round out the bottom of the coat.



Draw a line for the shoulder, hand and head as shown.



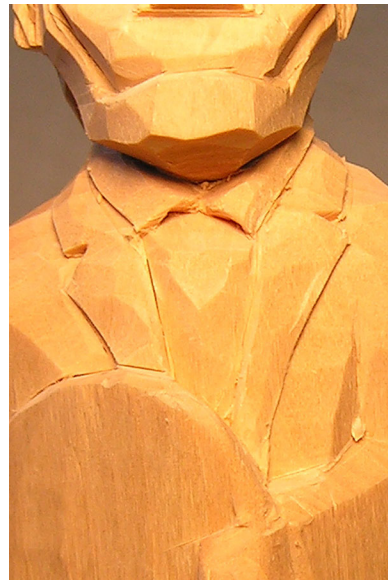
From the center line, carve the head at a 90 degree peak.



Round the head and shoulders leaving wood for the ears.



Front view.



Pencil in and V-tool the coat collar as shown.



Create the nose and eye socket as shown in the Santa Claus step-by-step. Draw in the beard and sideburns and hair as shown.



Pencil in and V-tool the bow tie as shown.



Use a V-tool to cut out the beard and sideburns and hair. Draw and V-tool the collar as shown.



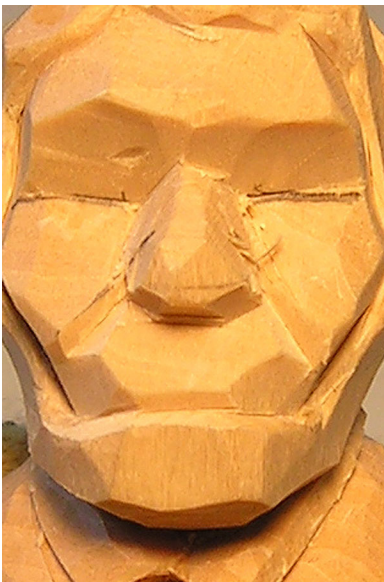
Round the nose as shown. Draw in the eye line and the cheek line.



Cut in the temples to bring out the cheek bone.



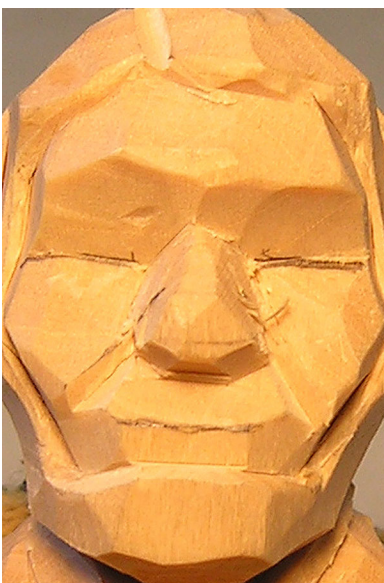
Make a thin V-cut with the knife. Make sure the cut goes straight across.



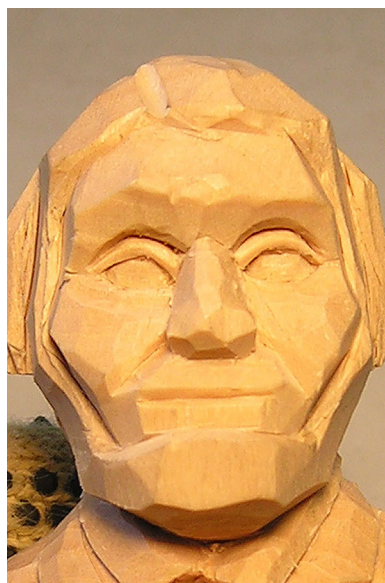
Cut down on the cheek lines as a stop cut, then round the upper part of the mouth.



Carve the jaw back.



Draw the mouth line about 1/3 the distance between the nose and the chin.



Draw and carve in the eyes and eye lids as shown in the Santa Claus step-by-step.

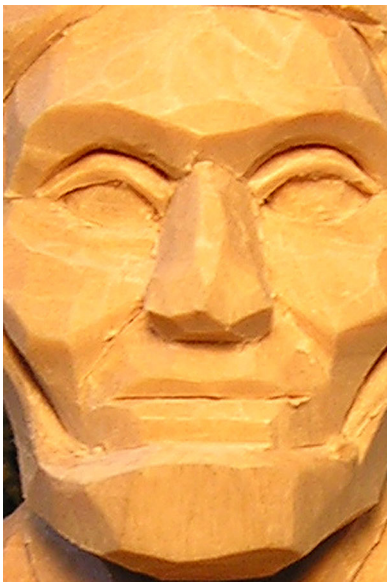




Carve the upper part of the forehead to create the eyebrow bone.



Carve the ear out.



Front view.



Round the ear out as shown.



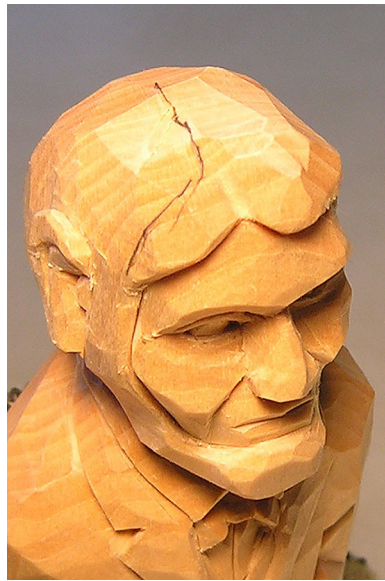
Draw in the ear. The top of the ear should be even with the eyebrow and the bottom should be even with the bottom of the nose. Make a large chip cut to separate the beard, hair and neck.



Make the inner ear marks as shown.



V-tool the inner ear.



Draw in the hair line as shown.



Carve the ear to be cone shaped.



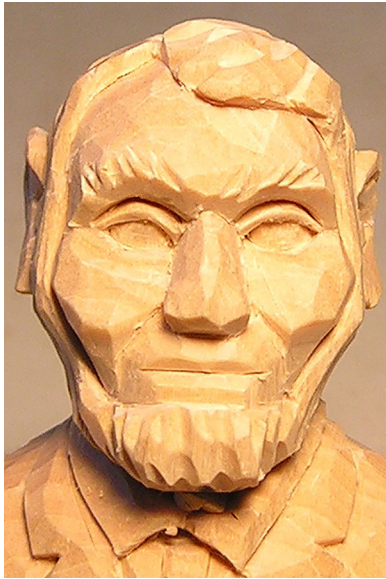
Carve out that part of the hair to create a receding hairline.



Pencil in and use a V-tool to finish the ear as shown.



Use a V-tool to put in the hair and beard.



Use a V-tool to carve in the eye brows.



Use a V-tool to separate the fingers. Use a knife to shape the fingers.



Pencil in and carve out the hand in back as shown.



Drill a 3/8" hole in the center of the hat brim and the rounded out hat top. Use a 3/8" dowel and glue to attach the hat.



Pencil in the fingers on the hand holding the hat.



Finished. The hat can be made to desired length. This one is made to create caricature.

# Native American



# Native American



# Viking



The shield is not separate, but carved in with the pattern. The spear is a 6" piece of 3/8" dowel carved to a point to represent the blade. Below the blade is a band that is V-tooled to look like wrapped twine to hold the blade to the stick. The wing pattern is found on the Accessories page.



# Viking



# Mr. Pumpkin Head



The pattern for the sythe is found on the Accessories page.





# Mr. Pumpkin Head



# Santa Lucia



The candles are  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pieces of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " dowels carved to look like candles.  $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes are drilled into the head and hand to hold the candles.



# Santa Lucia



# Nativity - Mary



# Nativity - Mary



# Nativity - Joseph



# Nativity - Joseph



# Nativity - Shepard





# Nativity - Shepard



# Winter Lady



# Winter Lady



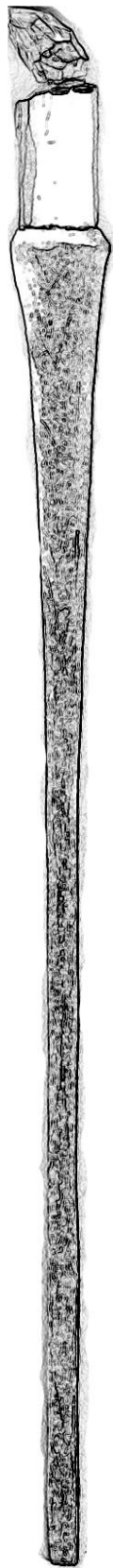
# Easter Girl



# Easter Girl

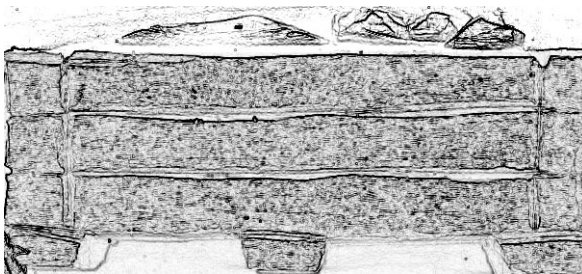
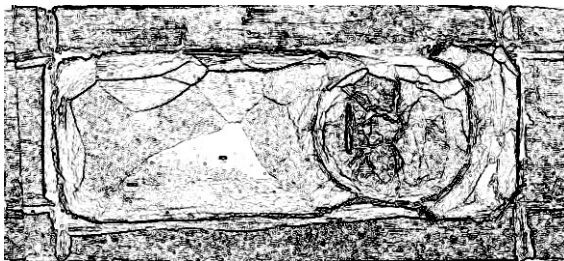


# Accessory Patterns

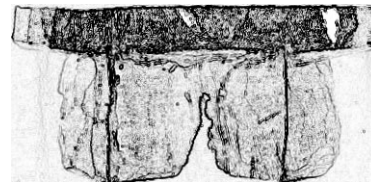


Old World Santa  
Candle Walking Stick

Nativity - Baby Jesus



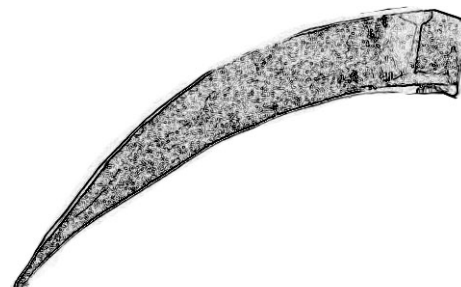
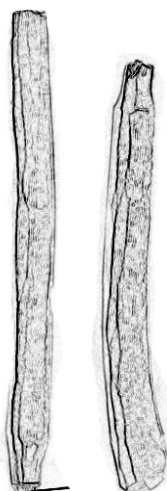
Mrs. Claus Hand,  
Tray and Cookies



Viking Helmet Wing



Mr. Pumpkin Head Sythe



# Gallery







# Painting Your Carvings

## **Clean Your Carving**

Before painting the carving clean the carving with dish soap and warm water. This removes the oils and other debris that came from your hands. After the carving is cleaned, use a paper towel and dry it off as much as possible to help with the drying process. This cleaning process will not cause the carving to crack while drying if the carving was made from wood that was already dried for carving.

## **Spray Your Carving**

I spray my carvings after they are cleaned and dried with Deft (or any acrylic/lacquer spray). This helps seal the carving so that the paint will spread and dry more evenly. Only a half hour is needed to let the sprayed carving dry and be ready for painting.

## **Paint Your Carving**

Though there are many ways and different types of paint that can be used to paint your carving, I prefer acrylic paints because they mix well with water with no need for thinning agents. Also, acrylic paints are inexpensive. I use a mix of 50/50 paint to water. Other carvers use less paint to more water creating a watercolor type effect. This decision is up to the painter. I start with flesh color for the face. I use lighter colors for the clothing with darker hues of the same color for the shading and lighter colors for highlighting using a dry brush technique.

## **Finishing Process**

After the acrylic painted carving has dried overnight. I protect the carving with a single coat of Deft spray. I usually use semi-gloss. After an hour the carving is dry. If you desire, this could be a good end to the painting process. For me, I like to antique the carving. I paint on a liquid wax mix of 75% neutral and 25% dark. Make sure the wax is sloshed all over the carving. Dry off with a clean rag. Let the waxed carving dry over night then buff with a soft bristle brush. If you wish to make your carving look more antiqued (dirtier looking), after the Deft spray, you could slosh on a dark brown wood stain/varnish and immediately wipe off. Use a dry brush to get some of the varnish out from the cracks, or leave as is for a really dirty look. I suggest you experiment with a smaller, less important carving to test out these antiquing techniques.

# 15 Woodcarving Patterns from One Cut-out

Russell Scott guides you through step-by-step illustrated instructions for carving four wood carvings using the same cut-out. He provides color pictures for 13 additional pieces and their variations. His instructions are simple and direct. This is a great book for beginner and intermediate carvers. Variations of these patterns will provide a challenge for more experienced artists. Russ helps carvers see the possibilities for creating their own individual pieces. Carving should be a fun and relaxing pastime. Your carvings will be wonderful addition to your carving collection.



[ScottCarvings.com](http://ScottCarvings.com)