



Small Projects for Wood Carvers

By

Russell Scott

Small projects perfect for carving clubs, quick gifts, teaching wood carving classes or demonstrations. Includes step-by-step instructions and twenty designs for nearly every season of the year.



Small Projects for Wood Carving

Written by Russell Scott
Photography by Russell Scott

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the following key individuals who have contributed to making this book possible. The greatest consideration and thanks is to my wife Lynne for her invaluable assistance in the writing and editing process while constructing this book. Also, I would like to thank all of the talented wood carvers and wood sculptors who had a hand in helping me learn the art of wood carving that I certainly would not have achieved by myself. 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

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Introduction

I create family heirlooms that descendants will be arguing over for generations.

I am Russell Scott, a wood carving artist from Saint Paul, Minnesota. I have a passion for wood carving and a desire to bring out the beauty that lies in each piece of wood. I have been carving since 1999. I inherited my interest in wood working from my father, Bob, who spent many hours designing and building wooden model airplanes from scratch and from my ancestors who were involved in the logging industry in northern Wisconsin.

I carve mainly in basswood, butternut, Honduras mahogany, walnut, pine, and cedar. I carve cottonwood bark into wood spirits, Santas, Native Americans and Nore houses.

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.

Wood carving is an old art form passed down through generations. One reason for teaching woodcarving is to create more wood carvers. In this book I designed small projects students can finish in one session or a couple of hours. I find it is important to start a new student with a project they can finish and take home. A finished project brings the new wood carver joy and satisfaction in their accomplishment. If the project is too big it may not get finished by the end of the class. That unfinished project gets put aside and the student loses interest and doesn't carve again.

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. I can't make multiple prints or cast additional pieces to recreate the uniqueness of an original woodcarving.

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.

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Other Wood Carving Instructional Books and Rough outs

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

Check out the ScottCarvings.com website for new rough outs and books.

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Scott Carvings



Wood Carving Safety

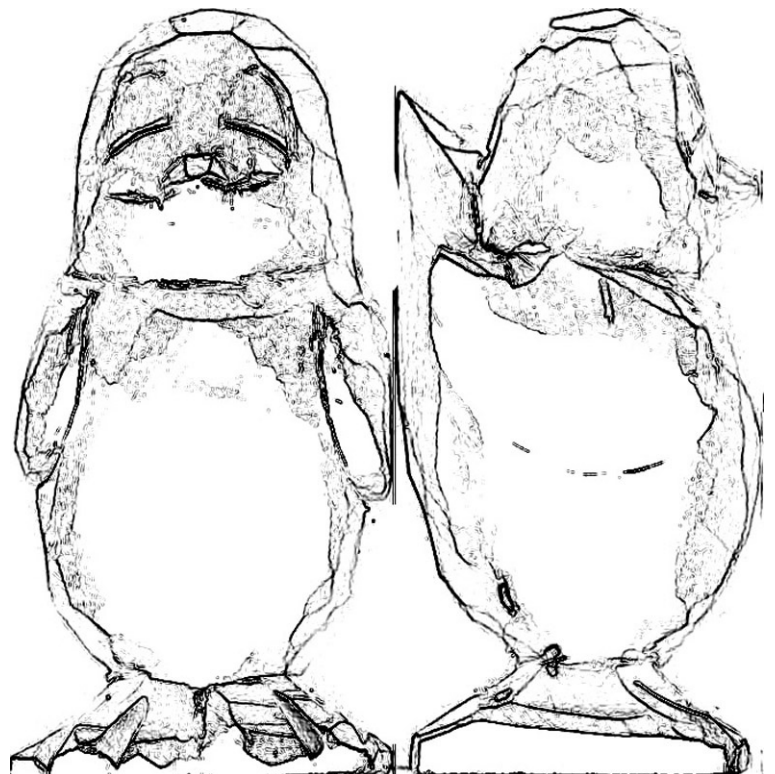
For Hand Carving...

- **Safety Glove** – Kevlar threaded gloves are necessary when holding small wood carvings to help prevent cuts to the hands or fingers. 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...

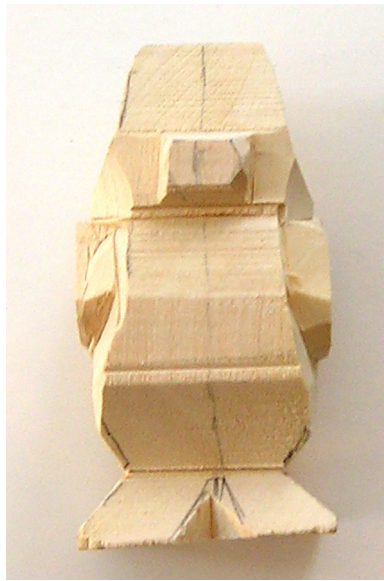
- **Eyewear** – Face shields are required for all grinding and power carving type operations. Safety glasses with side shields provide protection for the eyes but leave skin unprotected. Prescription glasses are not sufficient. Use safety goggles while handling liquids.
- **Respirator** – Used while 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 equipment safety guards are in place and securely attached.

Small Project #1 - Spring Birdie

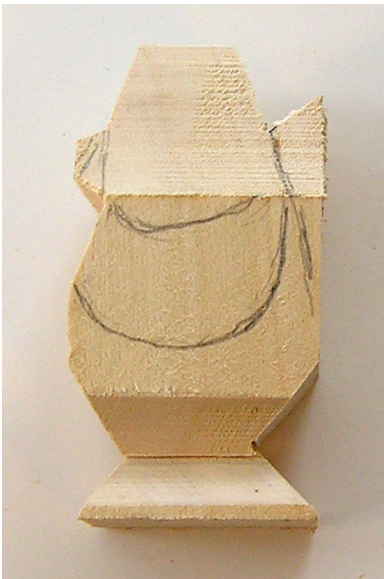




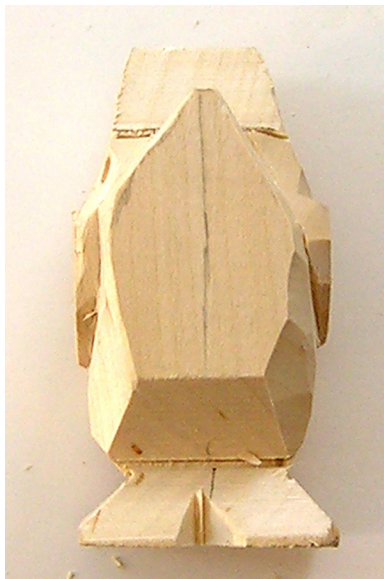
1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



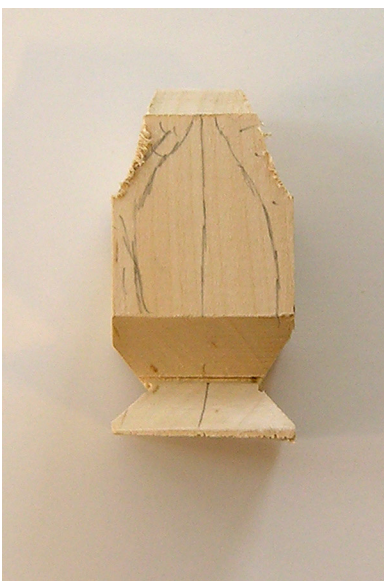
4. Block out beak and wings.



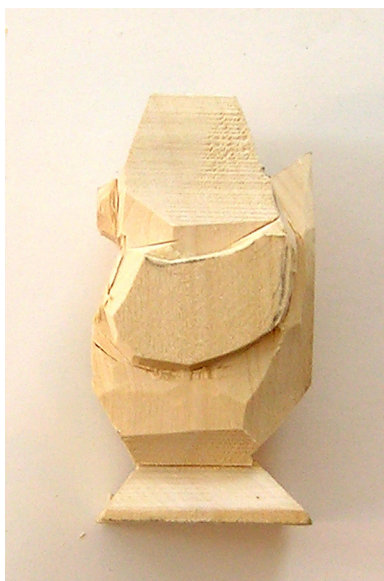
2. Draw in wing lines as shown.



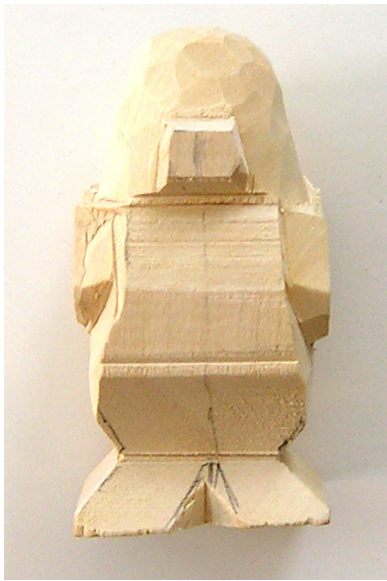
5. Block out the tail.



3. Draw in tail lines as shown.



6. Another view.



7. Round out the head.



10. Round out the tail.



8. Round out the body.



11. Shape the beak.



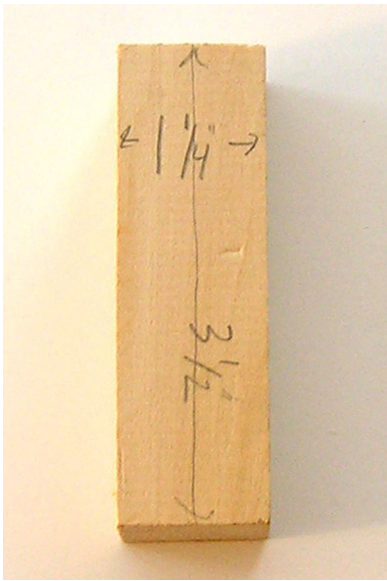
9. Round out the wings.



12. Shape the feet and V-tool in the toes. Draw in and V-tool the eyes and mouth.

Small Project #2 - 5 Minute Cat

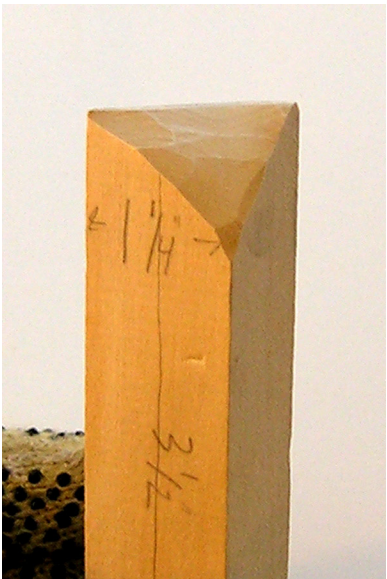




1. Cut out a piece of wood to size.



4. Use a knife to cut away the side of the head to bring out the ears.



2. Cut off the angle on both sides of the top of the wood as shown.



5. Carve down the side to bring out the neck and shoulders.



3. V-cut around the neck for the head.



6. Carve down the front to bring out the neck and chest.



7. Make gouge cuts to begin to shape the hind legs.



10. Cut the sharp edge from the back of the head. Cut out the back of the neck.



8. Separate the hind legs from the front legs



11. Use a knife to cut out the back part of the hind legs.



9. First use a V-tool to gouge out the legs and paws. Then use a knife to cut deeper separations of the front legs.



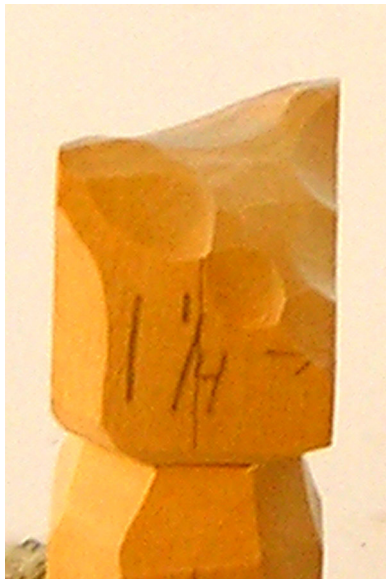
12. Draw in and cut to bring out the tail.



13. Use a round chisel to gouge out the area for the eyes and ears.



16. Back view.



14. Another view.



17. Draw in the toes.



15. Draw in the eyes, nose and mouth.

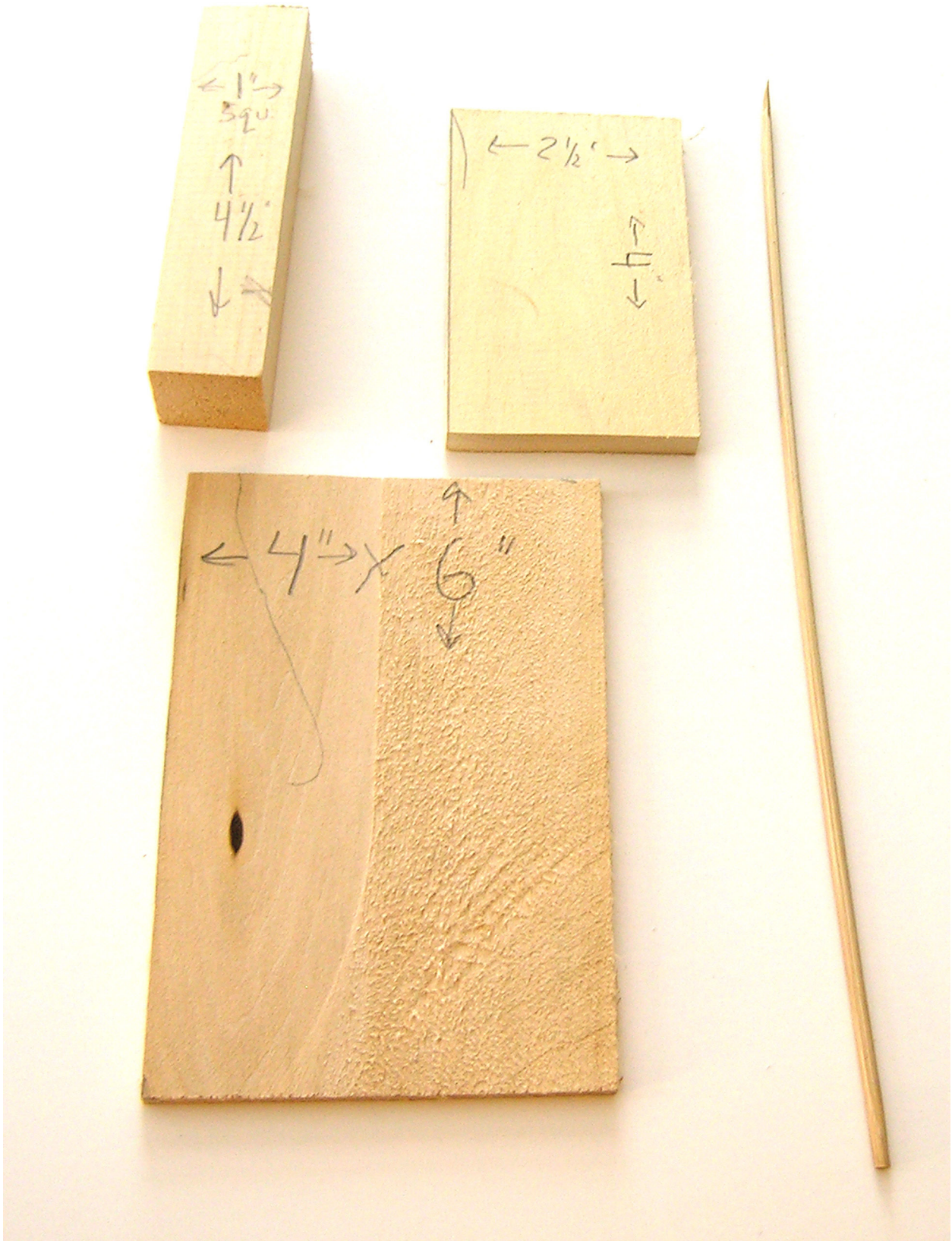


18. Side view.

Small Project #3 - 4th of July Rocket



Cut wood to size as shown below.

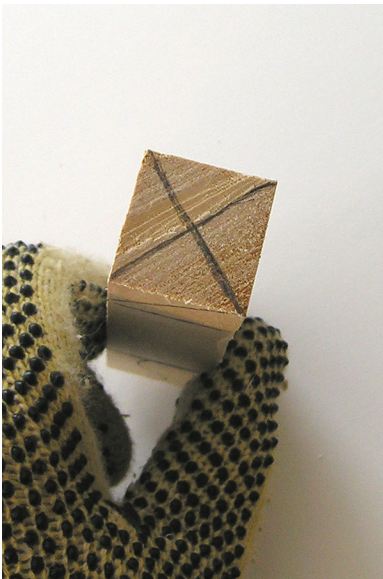




1. Select a piece of wood for the bottle rocket.



4. Thin out the body of the rocket so that the cone will be wider than the body.



2. Mark an 'X' on the top of the wood to make sure the point of the cone will be center.



5. Make the top into a cone.



3. Round out the wood. Make a mark and V-cut for the cone.



6. Pencil in and V-cut the bottom of the body to begin to shape the flame.



7. Draw the flame on one side.



10. Shape the flame.



8. After that side of the flame is blocked out, draw the other side of the flame.



11. Round the flame.



9. Block out the other side of the flame.



12. Make evenly spaced dividing marks under the rocket.



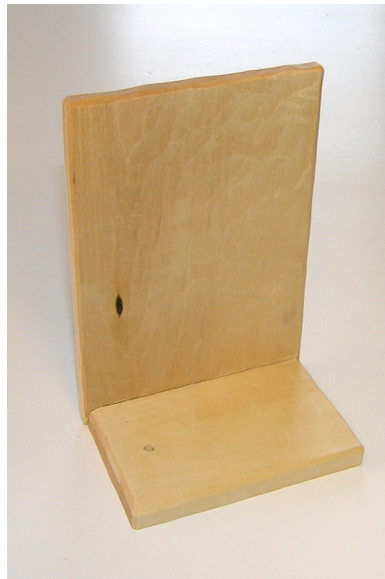
13. Draw dividing lines for the red and white paint.



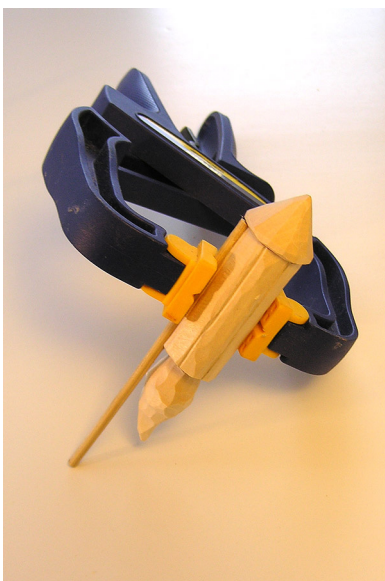
16. Drill holes and cut dowels to peg the side and bottom piece together.



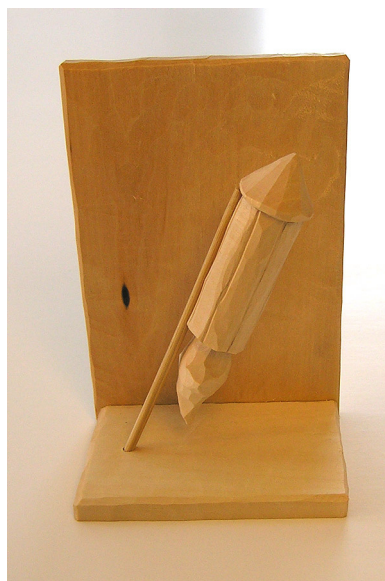
14. Use a small #9 chisel to gouge out a line to connect the stick.



17. Glue the side and bottom pieces together.

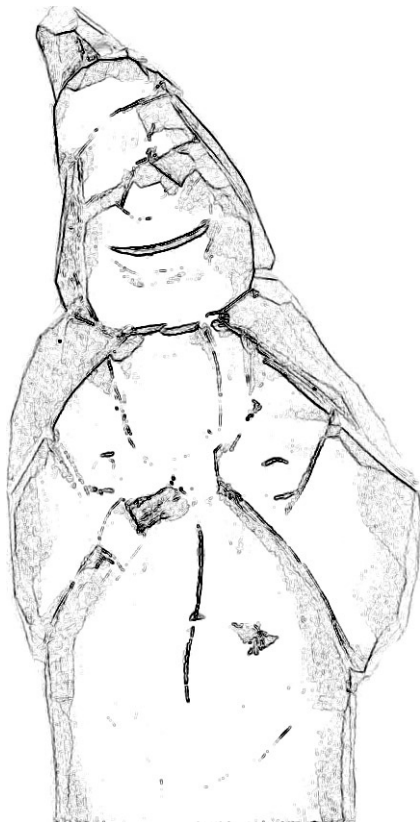


15. Glue the stick onto the rocket.



18. Drill a hole the diameter of the stick at an angle.

Small Project #4 - Little Fisherman





1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



4. Use a knife to cut around the fish head to separate it from the arms. Leave enough wood for the hook barb.



2. Use a knife and gouge out around the shoulder and head.



5. Round the fish head. Use a V-tool to cut in the gripping hands.



3. Cut the face in a 90 degree wedge.



6. Use a V-tool to carve in sleeve cuffs and buttons. Cut in the fish mouth.



7. Cut under the nose down to the mouth. Draw in the eye line and mouth line.



10. Use a V-tool to separate the hair from the face. Shape the hat to form a brim.



8. With a knife, make a chip cut at the base of the nose towards the eye socket.



11. Back side view.

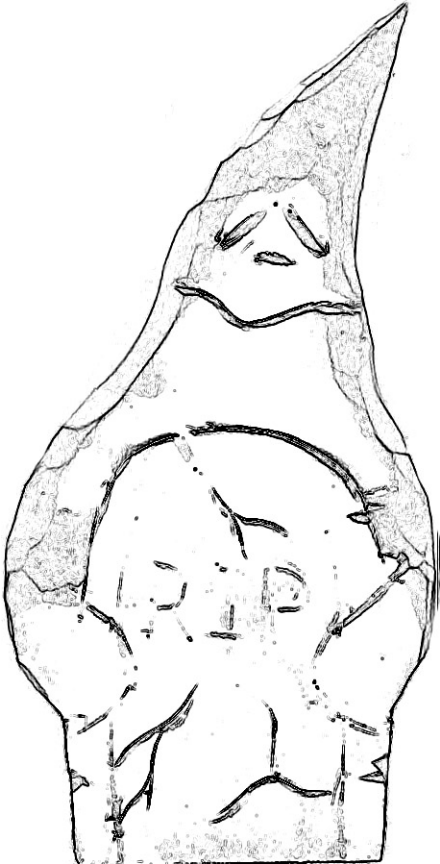


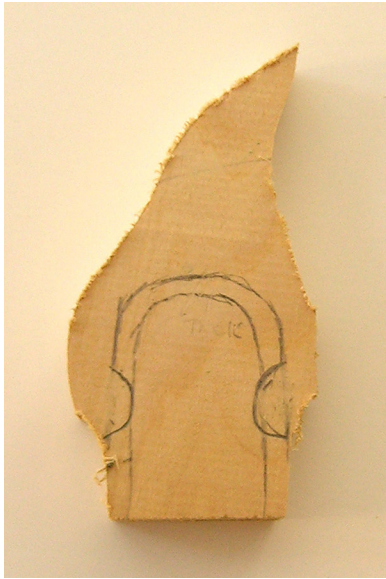
9. Cut from the eye brow to the eye line. Same with the cheek to the eye line. Use a V-tool for the mouth and under the bottom lip.



12. Side view.

Small Project #5 - Tombstone Ghost





1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



4. Cut into the tombstone so the outer edges come out.



2. Use a V-tool to gouge out the tomb and hands.



5. Round the back of the ghost and under the arms



3. Round out the ghost.



6. Draw a line at the ghost base as shown.



7. Use a V-tool to cut around the base of the ghost.



10. Use a V-tool to gouge out the tombstone and crack marks.



8. Separate the ghost base from the tombstone.



11. Draw in the desired face of the ghost.

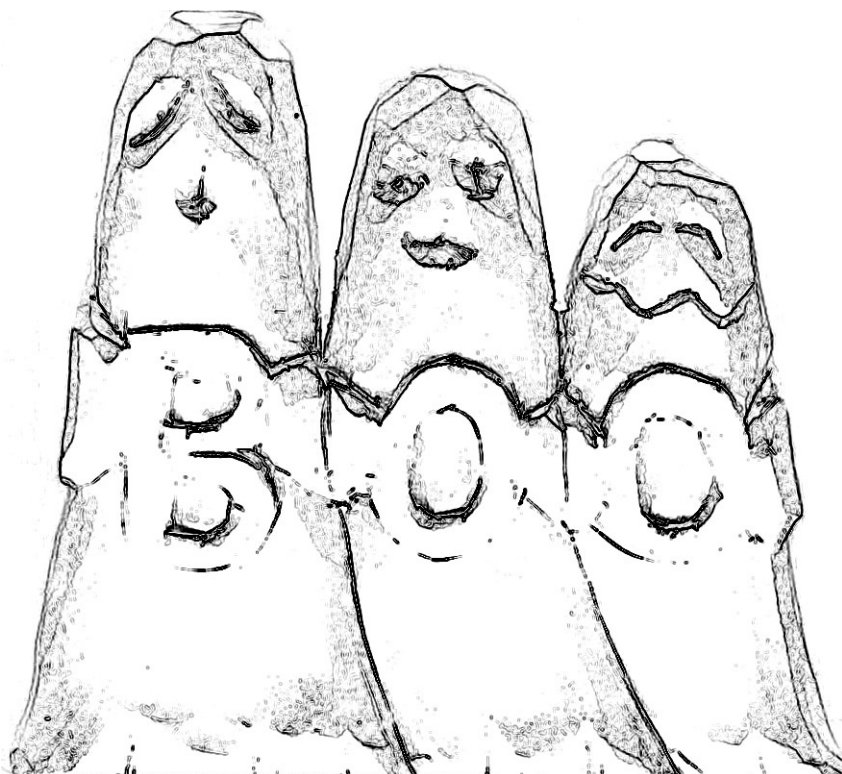


9. Draw in the desired words onto the tombstone and add crack marks.



12. Use a V-tool to gouge out the face of the ghost.

Small Project #6 - Boo Ghosts

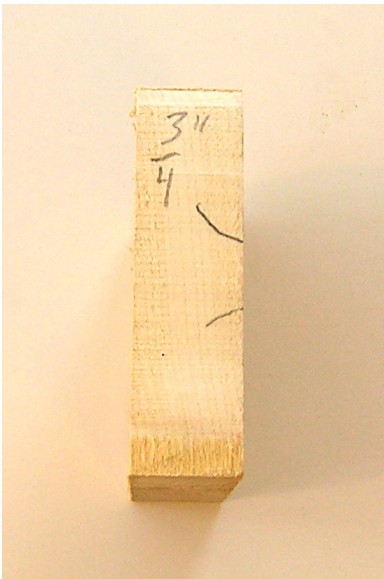




1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



4. Use a V-tool to gouge out the hands and 'Boo'.



2. Draw in the arm lines.



5. Use a V-tool to gouge out the Jack-o'-lantern



3. On the back side, draw in the Jack-o'-lantern lines as shown.



6. Round out the ghosts while bringing out the hands and 'Boo.'



7. Use a medium #9 chisel to gouge out the ruffles on the bottom of the ghosts.



10. Use a medium #9 chisel to gouge around the eyes and mouth.



8. Round out the ghosts while bringing out the Jack-o'-lantern.



11. Draw in the desired faces of the ghosts.



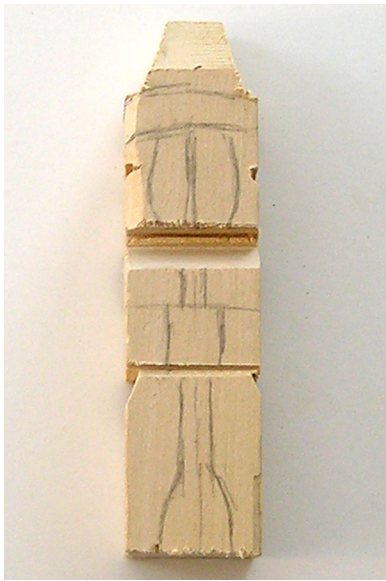
9. Shape the Jack-o'-lantern.



12, Use a V-tool to gouge out the faces of the ghosts.

Small Project #7 - Witch and Broom

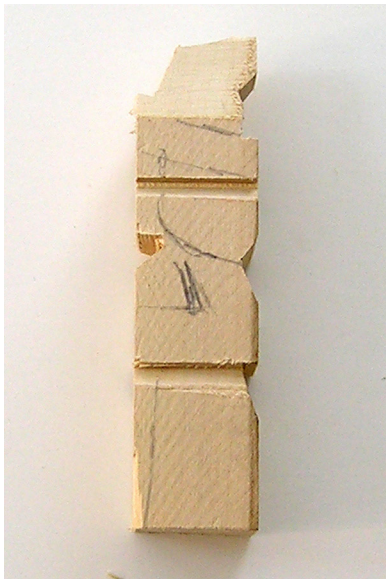




1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



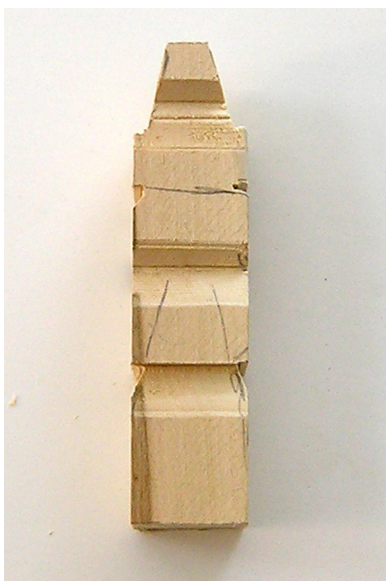
4. Other side pattern.



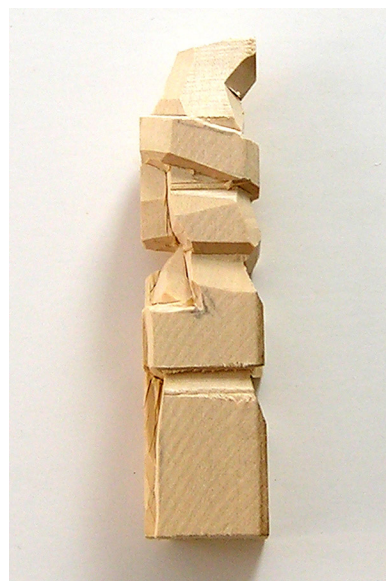
2. Side pattern.



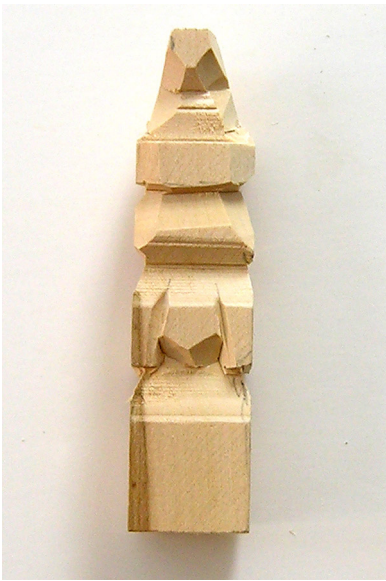
5. Block cut as shown.



3. Back pattern



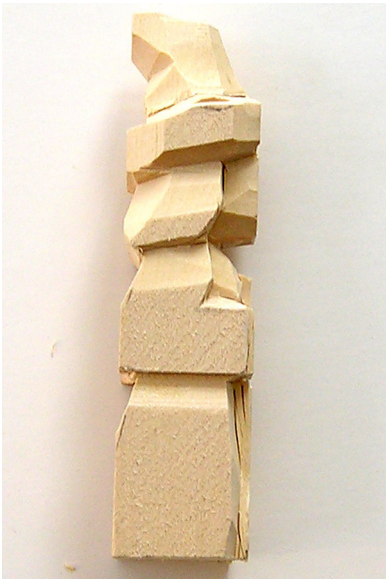
6. Block cut as shown.



7. Use a knife to block out the hat, hair and arms.



10. Use a small #9 chisel to put ruffles in the skirt.



8. Side view.



11. Round the hair.

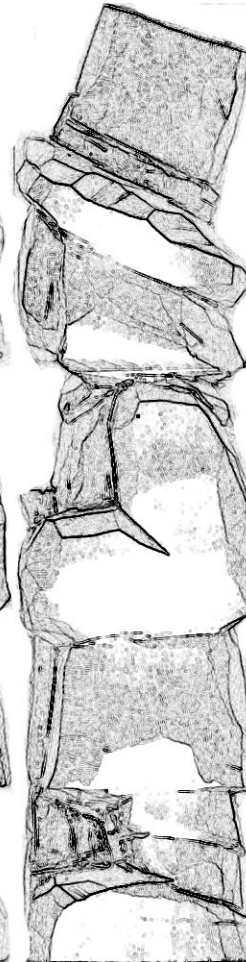
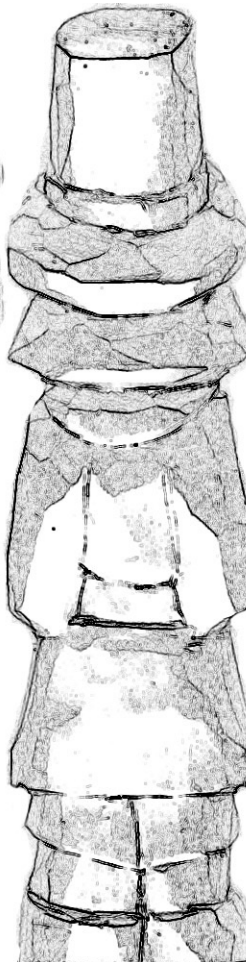
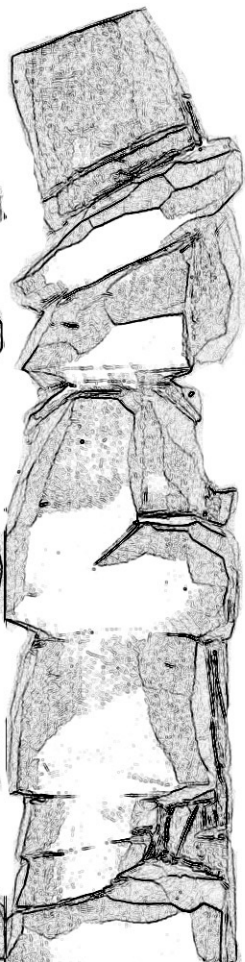
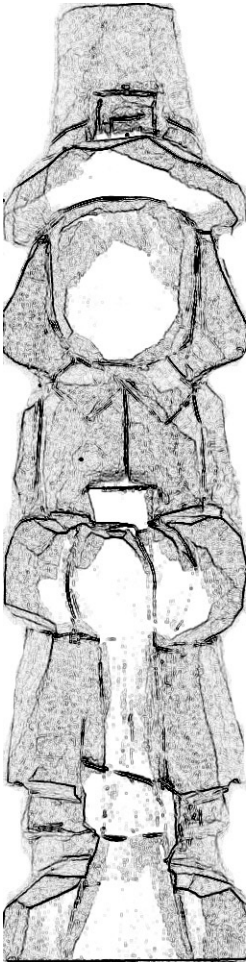


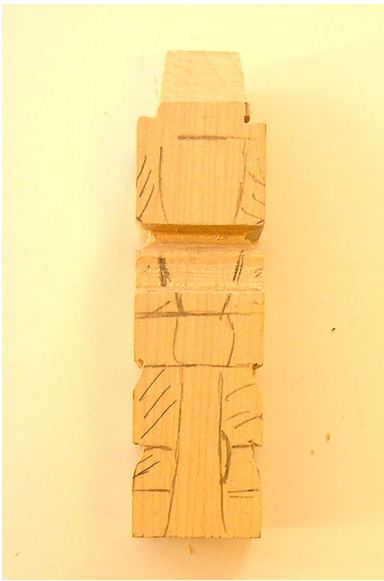
9. Round the witch. Use a V-tool to separate the broom end.



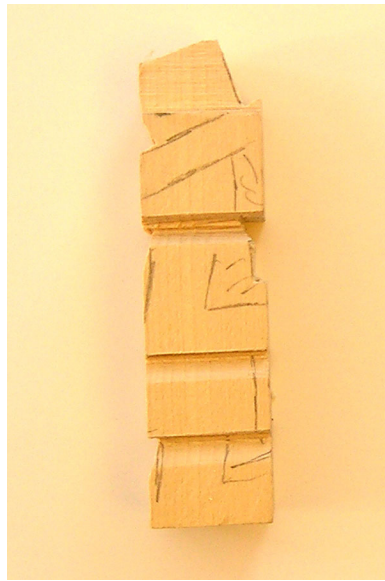
12. Round the arms and hands.

Small Project #8 - Pilgrim

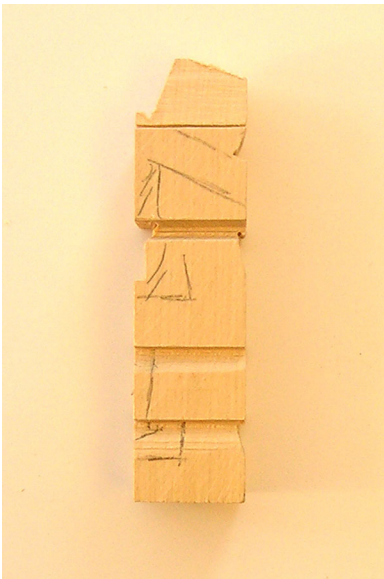




1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



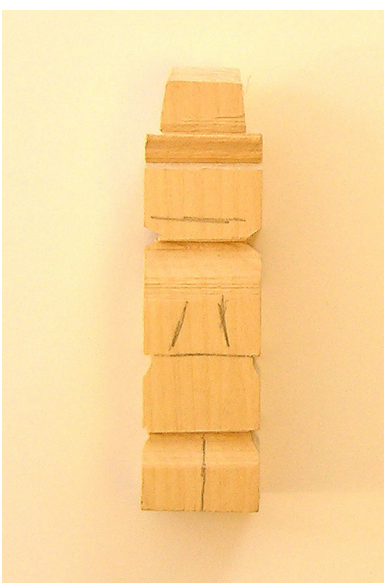
4. Other side pattern.



2. Side pattern.



5. Use a V-tool to gouge out the pattern.



3. Back pattern



6. Use a V-tool to gouge out the pattern.



7. Block cut as shown.



10. Round the hat and face.



8. Use a knife to begin to round out the top and brim of the hat.



11. Round the arms and gouge in the hands. Round the skirt.



9. Use a knife to begin to round out the head and hair from the hat.



12. Draw in features of the rifle.



13. Use a V-tool and knife to carve in the features of the rifle.



16. Draw in and use a V-tool and knife to carve out the belt and buckle in the hat.



14. Draw in and use a V-tool and knife to carve out the back collar and belt.



17. Draw in and use a V-tool and knife to carve out the pants legs and socks. Round the shoes.

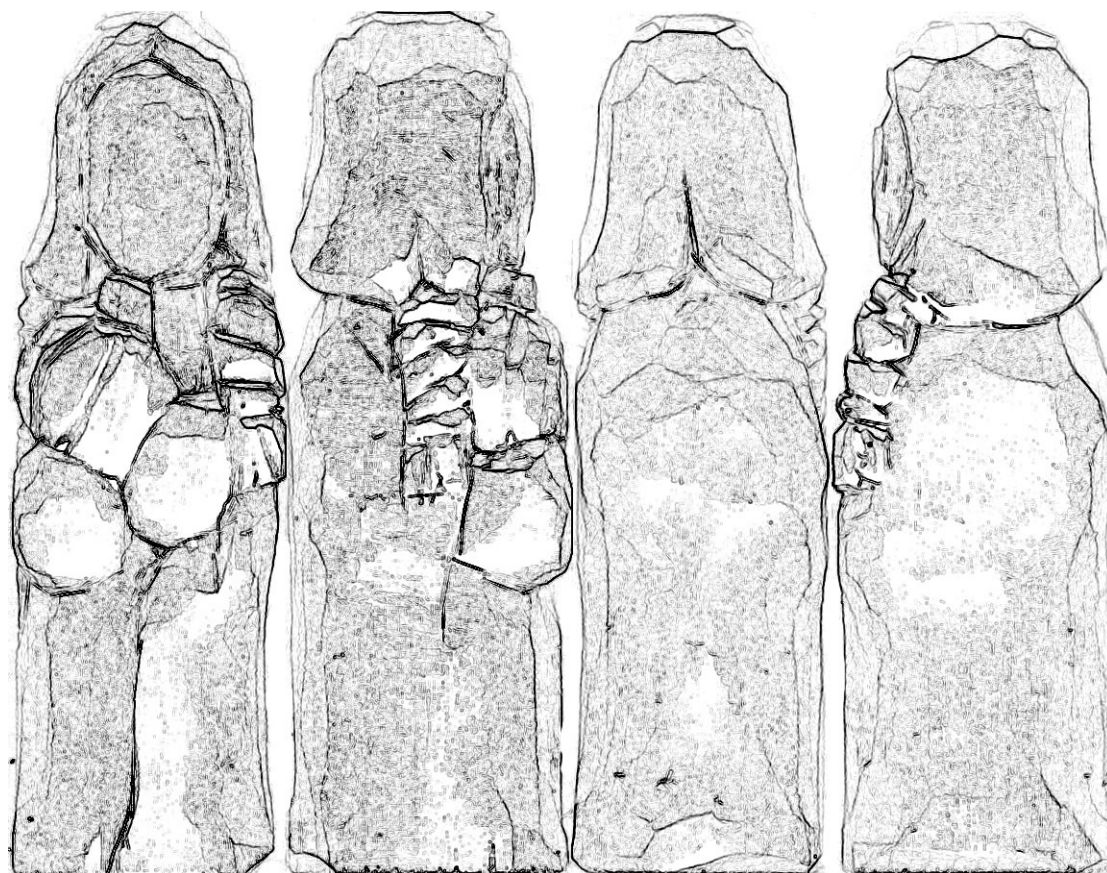
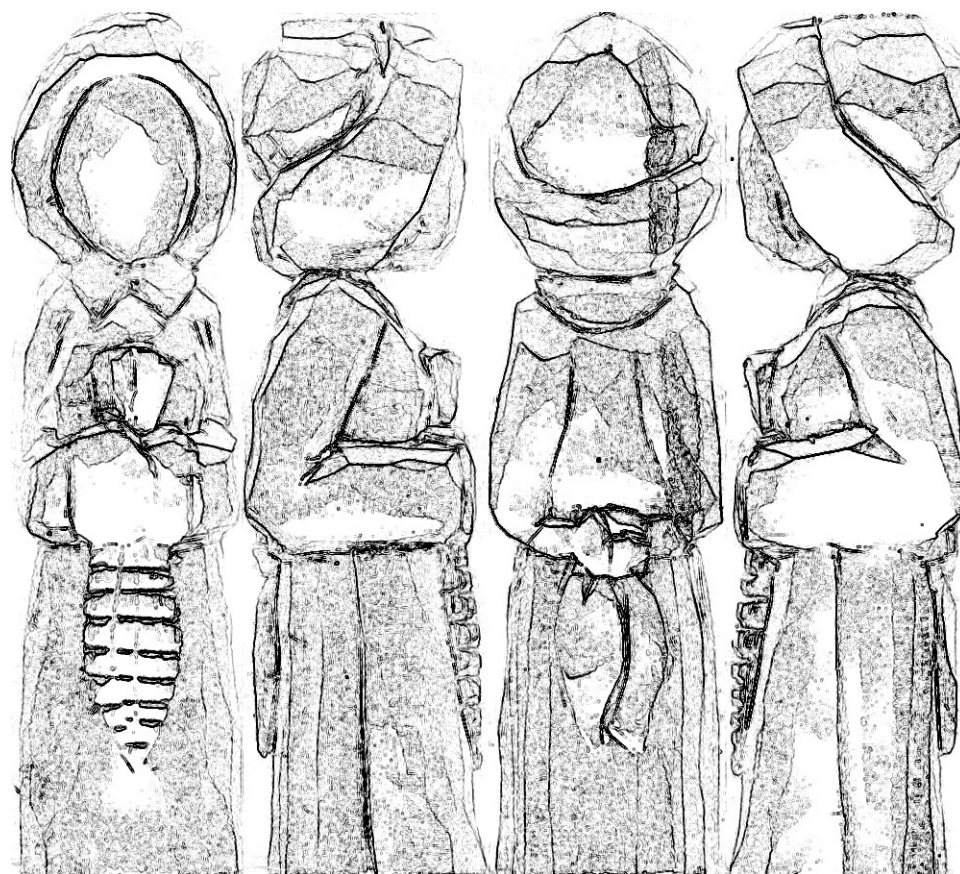


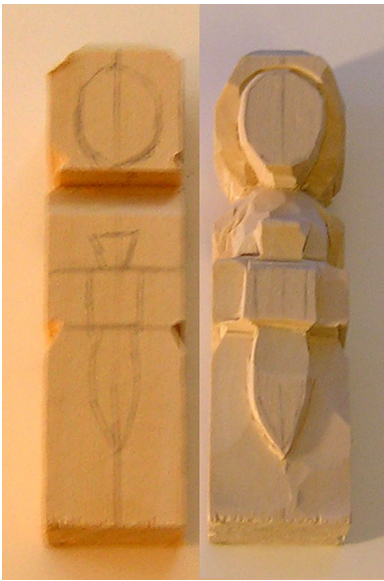
15. Draw in and use a V-tool and knife to carve out the front collar and the coat separation.



18. Finished.

Small Project #9- Mrs. Pilgrim & Indian

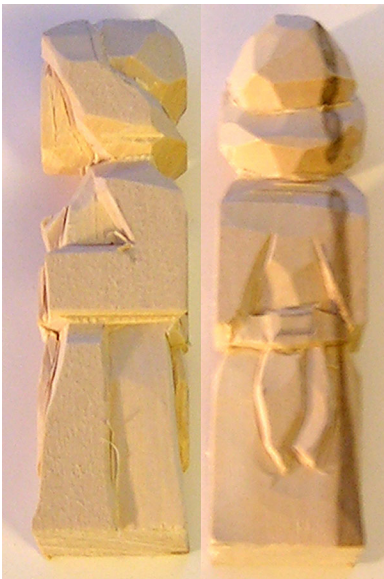




1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown. Block cut as shown.



4. Draw in and use a V-tool and knife to carve out the corn cob and apron tie in the back.



6. Block cut as shown.



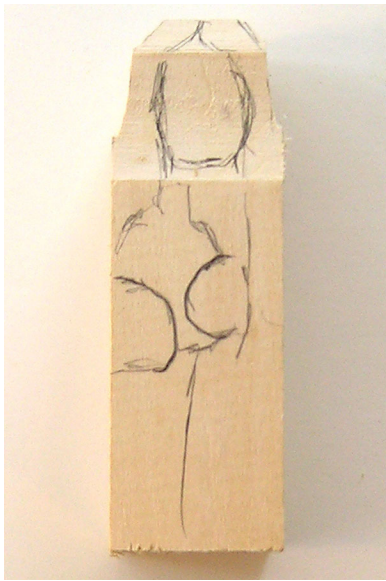
5. Round the skirt.



3. Round the hat and face



10. Use a small #9 chisel to put ruffles in the skirt.



1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



4. Round the face, hair and pumpkin.



2. Block cut as shown.



5. Round the back of the head and the shoulders.



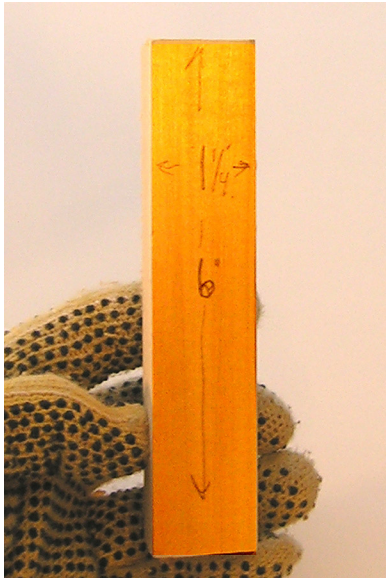
3. Block out the sides.



6. Use a V-tool to put in the leather strap around the hair. Use a knife to put in the separation of the hair in the back. Use a V-tool to put lines in the pumpkin.

Small Project #10 - Snowman Ornament





1. Select a piece of wood. Almost any size would do. This one is 6 inches long.



4. Draw in the features for his hat and scarf.



2. Draw a line on the corner 1/3 down from the top. Draw another parallel line 1/2" down for the nose.



5. Use a V-tool to gouge out the pattern.



3. Make the square peg into a round peg leaving the wood on the corner for his nose.



6. Round the top of the hat thinner than the brim diameter.



7. Round the top of the head thinner than the brim diameter.



10. Shape the scarf from the body.



8. Round the bottom of the head below the scarf.



11. Bring the lower part of the body to a sharp point.



9. Round the top of the body below the scarf line.



12. Use a V-tool to separate the ends of the scarf



13. Begin to thin the nose



16. Draw in and use a V-tool to gouge out the hat ribbon.



14. Cut the nose like a pyramid.



17. Side view

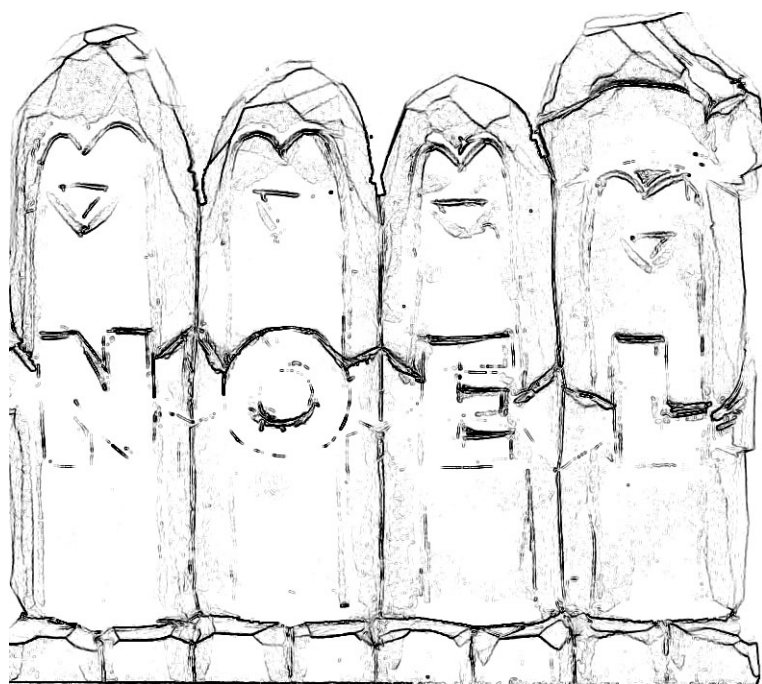


15. Finish the nose to a point. Draw in and use a V-tool to gouge out the mouth.



18. Other side view

Small Project #11 - Noel Penguins





1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown. Block cut as shown.



4. Round the heads and hat.



2. Round out the arms.



5. Use a V-tool and knife to carve out the ball of the hat.



3. Use a V-tool and knife to separate the four penguins



6. Round out the bodies of the penguins.



7. Round the backs.



10. Round the feet.



8. Carve into the bodies to bring out the letters.



11. Round the feet in the back.



9. Draw in and use a V-tool to separate the black and white features and the beaks



12. Finished.

Small Project #12 - Santa/Tree

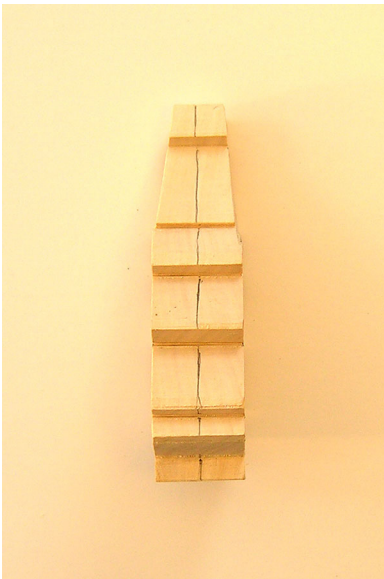




1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



4. Use a V-tool to gouge out the pattern.



2. Draw in the center line on the side.



5. Use a knife to take the corner of the hat.



3. Draw in the pattern for the tree.



6. Use a knife to take the corners of the rest of the carving.



7. Round the bottom of his coat.



10. Use a knife to bring the hair back.



8. Use a knife to gouge out the corner of the arm to separate the forearm.



11. Use a knife to cut the corners of the side of the head.



9. Carve in cuffs and round out the mitts.



12. Draw in the eye sockets and nose as shown.



13. With a knife cut the bottom of the nose down from the mustache. Make a chip cut at the bridge of the nose.



16. Round the hat and ball.



14. Cut from the eye brow and from the cheek to the eye line as shown.



17. Round the boots.



15. Round the nose and cheek.



18. Use a knife to cut away the corners on the tree.



19 Use a V-tool and knife to separate the branches. The upper branches extend from the ones below.



22. Finished front.



20. Round the top and ball of the tree.



23. Finished side.



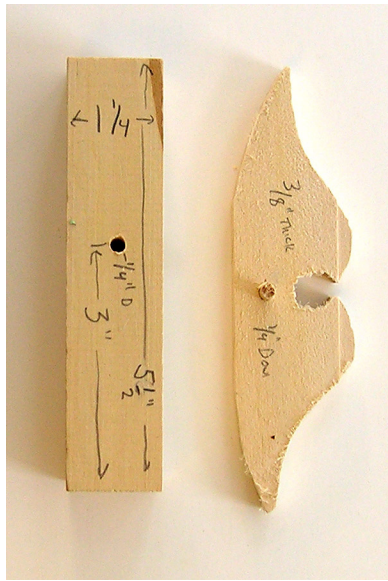
21. Round the branches on the tree.



24. Finished back.

Small Project #13 - Angel

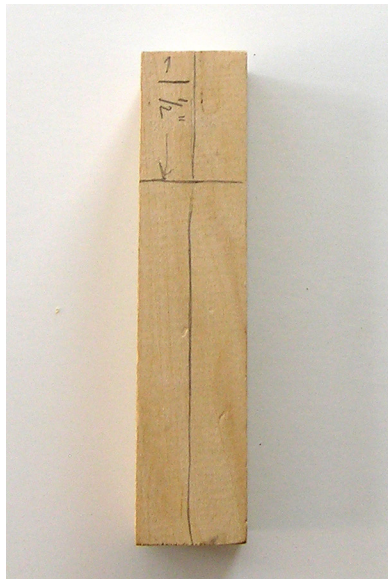




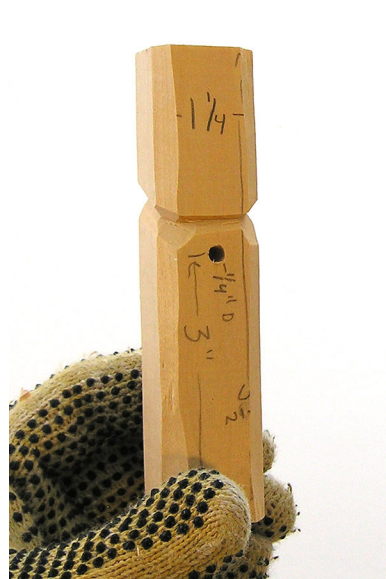
1. Cut the wood to desired angel size. This stick is 5 1/2" long. Put in the holes on the back and on the wings. Cut a small piece of dowel to connect the two.



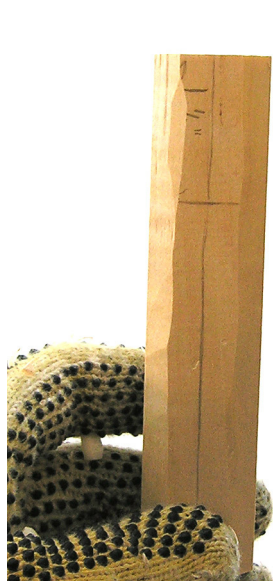
4. Use a knife to gouge out the head from the body slanting down to the back for the hair.



2. Draw in a line for the head at 1 1/2" from the top.



5. Back view.



3. Use a knife to take only the corners of the stick



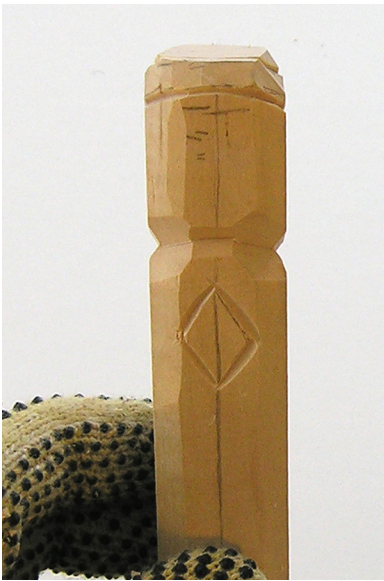
6. Begin to round the head but not completely round. We need wood for the halo.



7. Draw in and use a V-tool to carve the halo



10. Use a knife to carve out the skirt.



8. Draw in and use a V-tool to carve the hands.



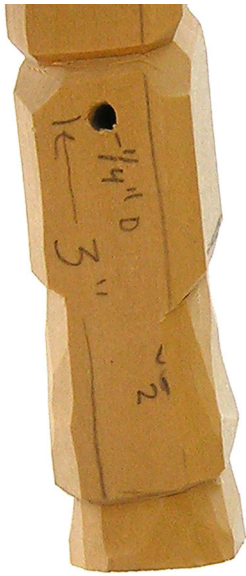
11. Draw in and use a V-tool to carve the arms.



9. Draw in and use a V-tool to carve the bottom skirt.



12. Use a knife to carve out the bottom part of the shirt.



13. Back view

16. Use a knife to round the shoulders.



14. Use a knife to round out the arms as shown.

17. Another view.



15. Another view.

18. Use a knife to cut back the chest and bring the hands up.



19. Draw in the face shape and hair.



22. Round the hair.



20. Use a knife to block out the face.



23. Use a knife to carve out grooves in the hair as shown.



21. Round the face.



24. Trim back the halo.



25. Round the top of the head.



28. Use a knife to cut back the neck as shown.



26. Front view.



29. Use a V-tool to carve in embellishments in the dress.



27. Cut around under the head to begin to form the neck as shown.



30. Use a medium #9 chisel to carve ruffles in the skirt.





31. Use a V-tool and gouge in the collar.



34. Attach the wing with the use of wood glue.



32. Finished front.



35. Ready for painting.



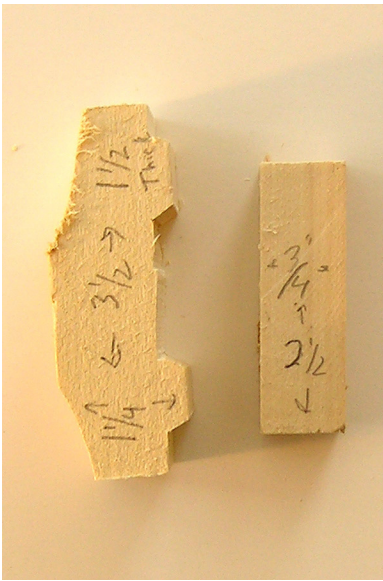
33. Finished back.



36. A faery variation of the angel.

Small Project #14 - Car and Tree/Canoe

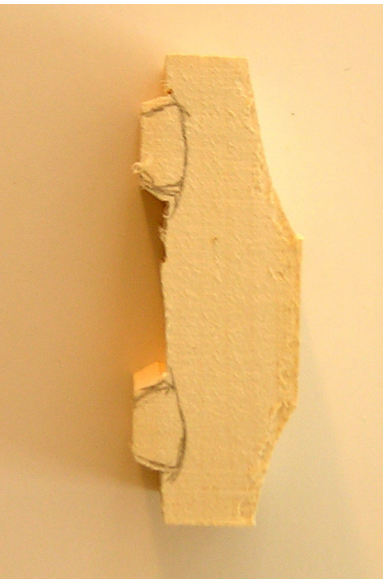




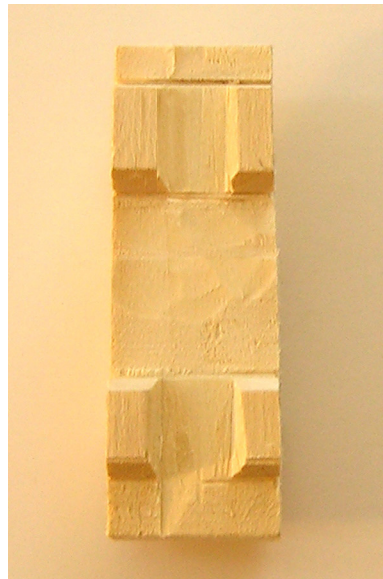
1. Cut out the figure. Draw in lines as shown.



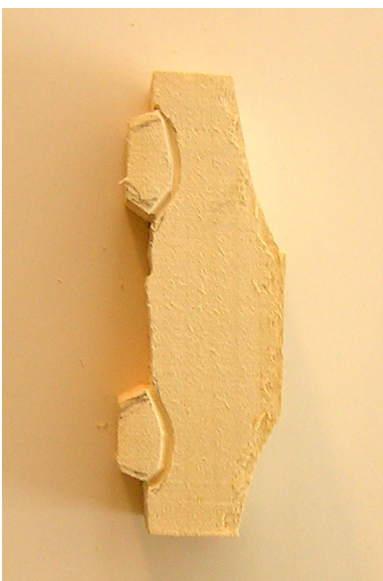
4. Use a V-tool to gouge the wheels on the bottom.



2 Draw in the wheels below the fenders.



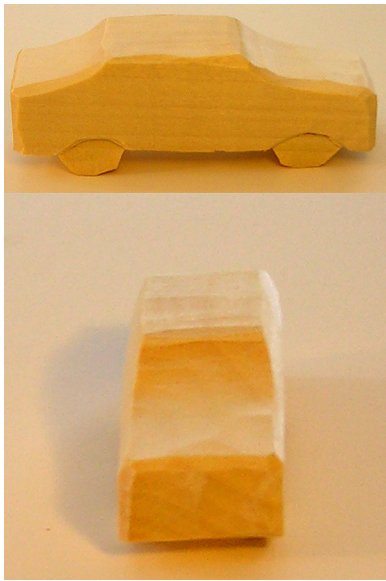
5. Use a knife to take out the wood from the wheels.



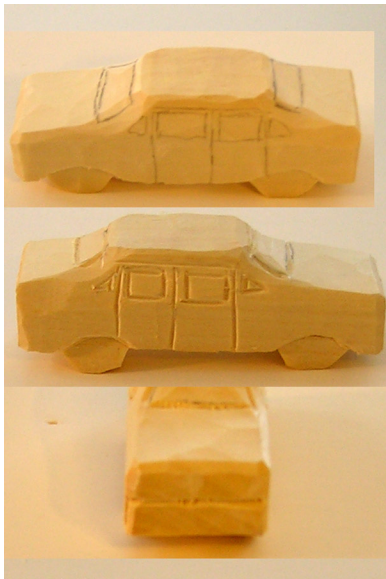
3. Use a V-tool and gouge the pencil line.



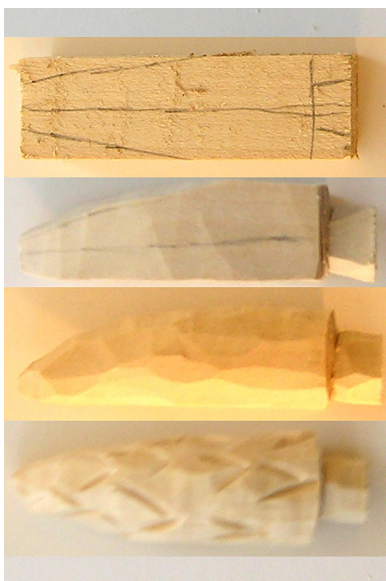
6. Carve down the wheels from the fenders.



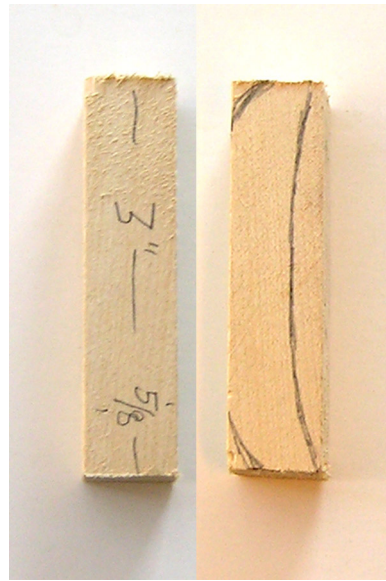
7. Round out the car.



8. Pencil in and use a V-tool to gouge the windows, doors and fenders to finish the car.



9. Draw in the shape of the tree on a small piece of wood. Block out and round the tree. Use a V-tool to make branches.



10. For the canoe option, use a piece of wood and draw in a canoe.



11. Cut out the canoe.



12. Round out the canoe.

Alternate Projects



Angel



5 Min.Cat



Noel Penguins



Angel



5 Min.Cat



Angel



Small Projects for Wood Carvers

Written and Photographed by Russell Scott

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

In 1999 Russell Scott took a community education woodcarving class and immediately fell in love with the art. In that first 8-week class he carved six different items using six different types of wood with a single carving knife. It was intense training as he worked his way from carving a simple weasel to a complex cowboy. As a result he received broad exposure to woodcarving. From there he took classes from many other master instructors and sought to learn as much as he could from each. He continues to take classes today and has become a woodcarving instructor who loves to teach.



Russell specializes in carving human figures, especially Santa Claus. He creates new original pieces each year. He has written seven how-to-books with step-by-step directions on how to carve Santas, females, Native Americans, and a host of other human figures. He also has produced woodcarving instructional videos at www.YouTube/ScottCarvings.



He recently added rough outs to his website for other woodcarvers to use to re-create his designs. Russell sells his work through his website, www.scottcarvings.com and through various online galleries, carving shows, and events.

