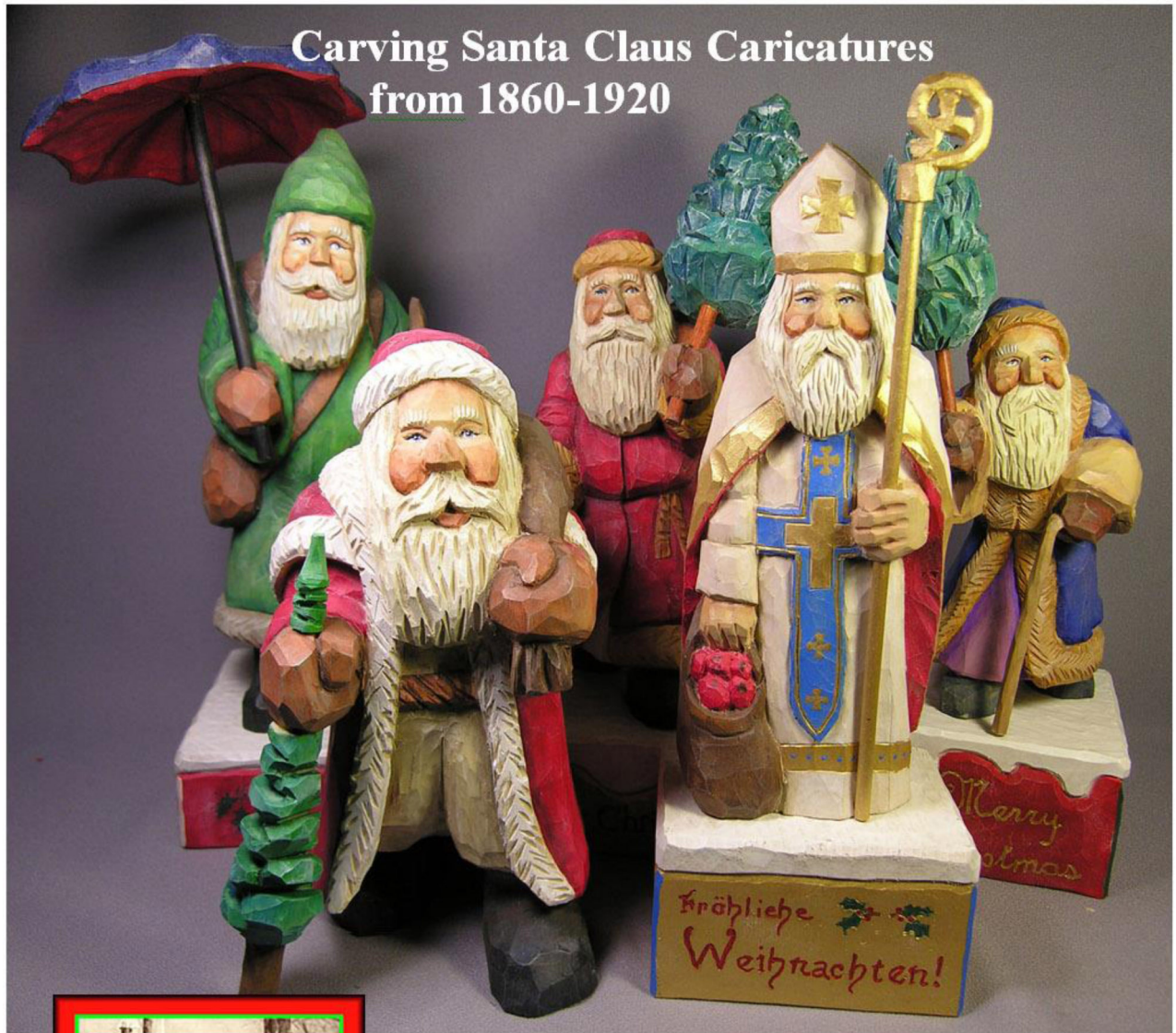


Vintage Santa Claus

Carving Santa Claus Caricatures
from 1860-1920



by Russell Scott

Step-by-step instructions for carving in wood. Including 10 patterns.

Vintage Santa Claus

Carving Santa Claus Caricatures from 1860-1920

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. I thank Diane Nelson for advice regarding the publishing process to bring this book to print. 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 fighting 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 for over ten years at this writing. 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 also have artistic interests in drawing, photography and fly tying.

I carve mainly in basswood, but also butternut, Honduras mahogany, walnut, pine, and cedar. I have carved cottonwood bark into wood spirits, Santas, Native Americans and Nome houses.

I focus mainly on carving human figures, including holiday figures, cowboys and female figures. 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 often teach woodcarving classes. From that has sprung other wood carving teaching medias such as books and my YouTube videos.

I have showcased some of my work and invite you to visit my website at www.russcott.com/carvings/

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.

Scott Carvings

Russell Scott

1238 Edmund Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55104

rscott56@netzero.com

ScottCarvings.com

[Pinterest.com/rscott56](https://www.pinterest.com/rscott56)

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

Vintage Santa Claus Woodcarvings

I have created a set of vintage Santa Claus woodcarvings with patterns along with an image gallery. These representations of Santa Claus span through the era of the second half of the 1800s to the early 20th century. Illustrator Thomas Nast helped form the image of Santa Claus with his depiction of a round Santa for Christmas issues of Harper's magazine from the 1860s to the 1880s.

There are many variations of Santa, some with reindeers, sleighs, Christmas stockings and rooftop visits down the chimney. The rosy cheeked, pot-bellied, jolly Santa Claus that we are so familiar with in America was popularized by a Coca Cola advertisement in 1931.

During the earlier era, Santa Claus appeared as an old white-bearded man, but he could be fat, thin jolly or sometimes scary looking. He wore either an overcoat or a bishop's robe that ranged in many different colors. Some images have found Santa not only in red or white or green coat, but also in blue, brown and even purple. Santa would arrive to deliver presents through windows, doors, or down chimneys, having traveled from different countries with horses, goats, donkeys, reindeer or just walking with a staff through forests. By the early 20th century technology became available to Santa and he used cars, biplanes and hot air balloons to make his arrival. His gift giving travels did not only happen on Christmas day, but also on Saint Nicholas Eve on the 6th of December.

He was not always known as Santa Claus but had different names depending on the country and culture he came from, including Saint Nicholas, Tomte, Sinterklaas, Pere Noel, Kriss Kringle, Father Christmas, Grandfather Frost, Joulupukki, Old St. Nick and many more. He is still known in Europe and throughout the world by different names.

Pictures of Santa Claus can be found in old books or old penny postcards of the late 19th century. These images show the vintage Santa Claus as he was all over Europe before he became our modern day American version. Vintage postcards were the inspiration for these designs.

Other Wood Carving Books, Videos and Rough-outs

**Vintage Santa Claus 2 & 3 - Carving Native American Faces
15 Woodcarving Patterns - Carving Women Caricatures - Small
Club Projects**

Videos

Each YouTube video was created over my shoulder giving you the impression that I am sitting next to you, teaching you how to wood carve. These wood carving videos are fast-paced to fit an entire session. You can stop at any time to work on your carving.

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

Scott Carvings

Russell Scott

rscott56@netzero.com

ScottCarvings.com

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

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.

Vintage Santa #1

Circa 1900

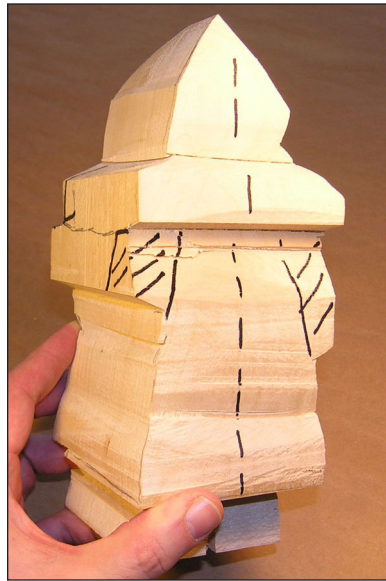


Vintage Santa #1 Pattern

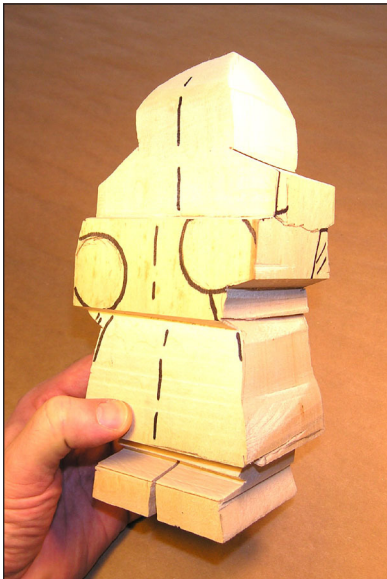




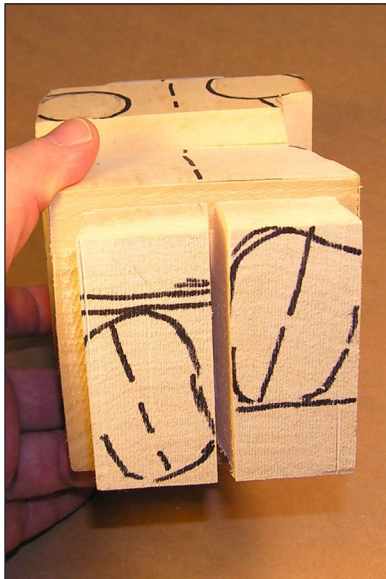
Make cutout according to the pattern.



Another view from back.



Draw center line using a black marking pen. Draw arms in front ready to block out the arms.



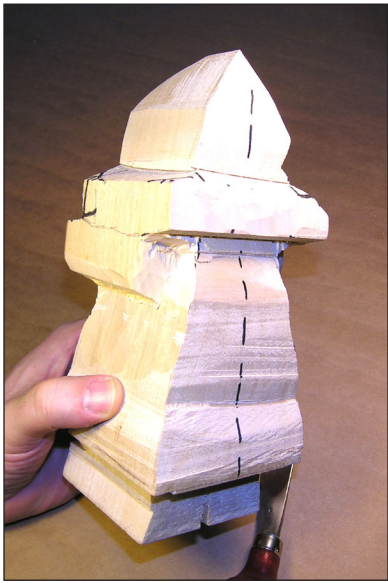
Draw out the feet. This Santa is walking.



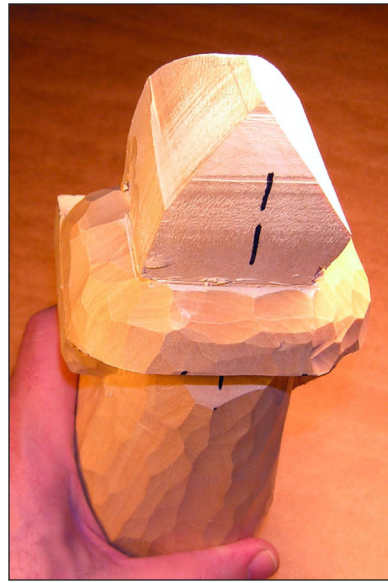
Draw center line. Draw arms in back ready to block out the arms.



Block out the arms with knife or chisel.



Block out the arms in back with knife or chisel.



Carve out the cape.



Draw around the cape.



Draw in the figure. This is so that the bottom fur will stick out.



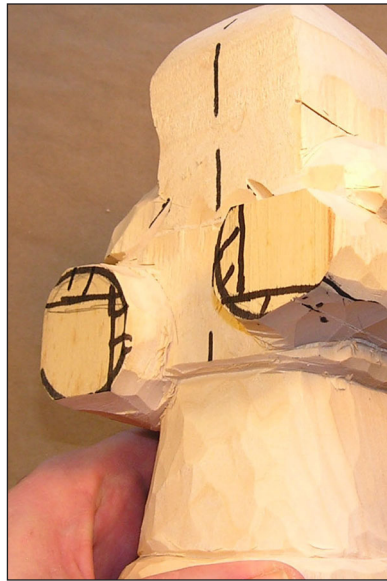
Carve out the feet. Draw in for the foot in back.



Draw in the figure from the side.



Round out the body.



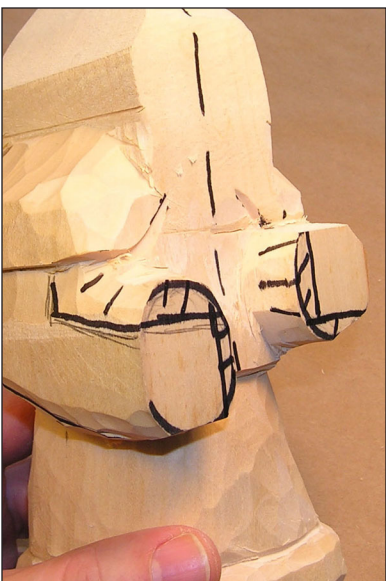
First draw out the arm size.



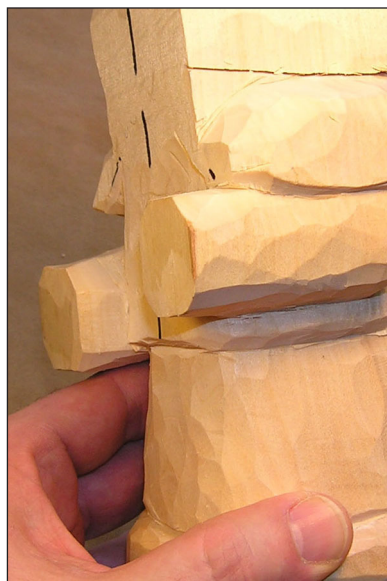
Round out the bottom fur.



Carve the arm.



Adjust the arm sizes.



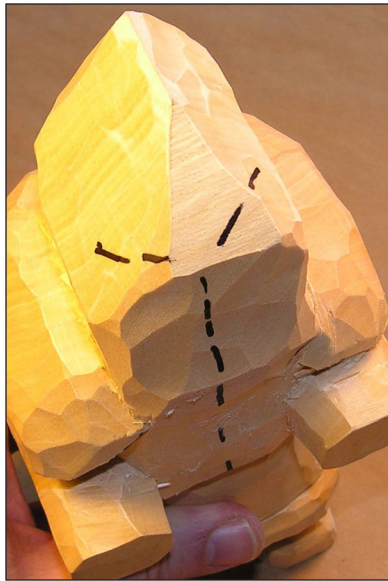
Round the arm.



Bring the front of the head back at an angle.



Draw the nose line half way between the eye line and the bottom line. Make a stop cut on the nose line and cut away underneath.



Draw a center line down the front of the head. Draw on top of the head two lines that are approximately 90 degrees from each other. Cut out to angle lines so that the face center line comes out to a point.



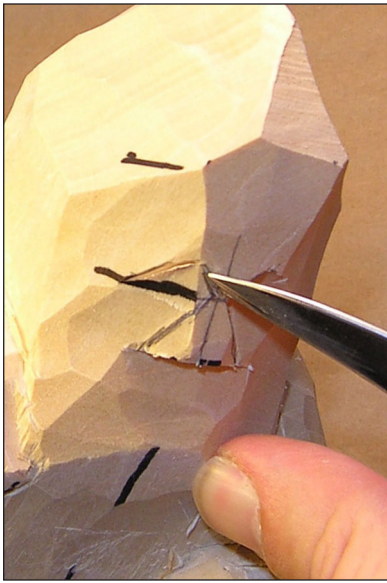
Use straight lines to draw in the nose and around the eyes.



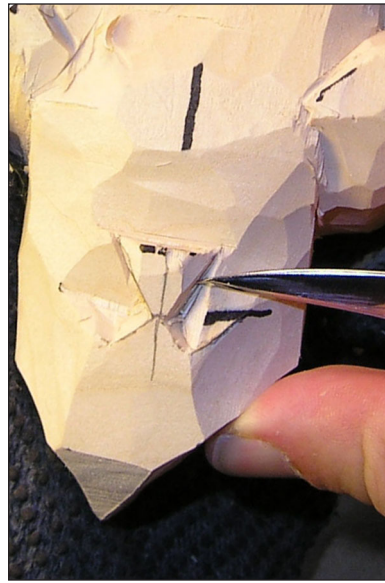
Find the top and bottom of the head then draw the eye line in the center of the top/bottom lines.



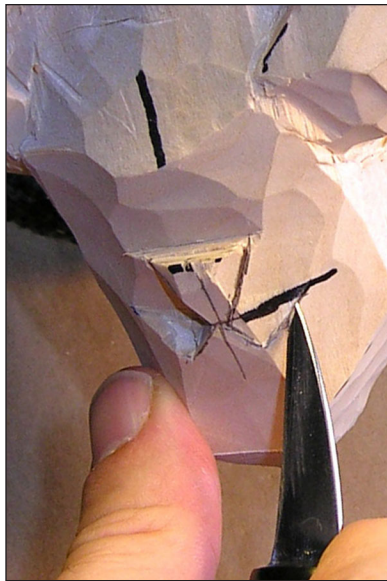
Cut along the nose line AWAY FROM the nose. Cut the upper eye line. Tip points towards the eye ball.



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



Make a cut perpendicular to the nose up towards the eye lines making a chip that should pop out. If not, work at it until it does.



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



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



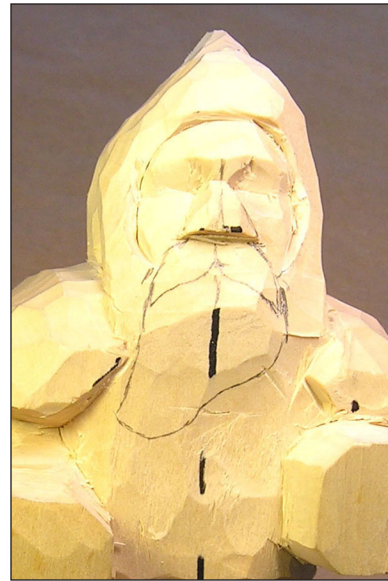
Make a straight cut in towards the nose making a chip that should pop out. If not, work at it until it does.



Draw around the face to form his hood. Use a V tool to gouge out what was just drawn



Make a mark around the upper back part of the hood. Carve that part out and round out the back of the hood.



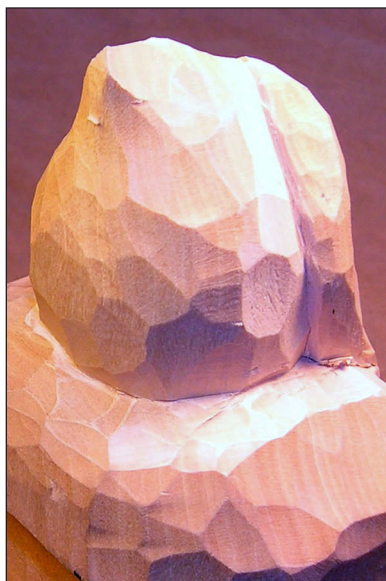
Draw out the beard and mustache. This beard is lopsided to give a wind tossed look. This gives your piece a sense of motion which is a more interesting carving.



Draw on the hood ready for hood fur.



Use a gouge to cut out the beard and mustache and round around the body under the beard.



Gouge out the fur and round out the top front of the hood.



Draw out the fur for the cape.



Gouge out and round the cape.



Draw the left arm fur.



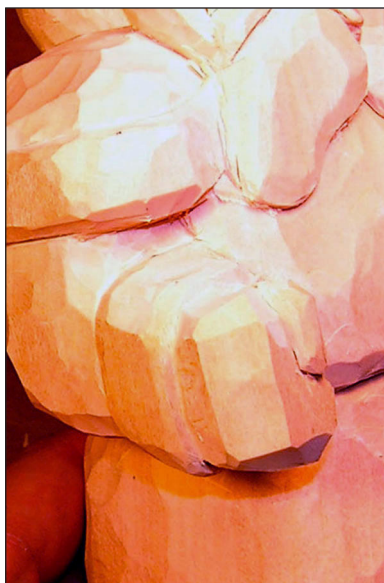
Drill a 1/4" hole for the tree diagonally back. Start with a much smaller bit; re-drill with a larger bit until a 1/4" hole is made. This is to prevent the hand from cracking. When drilling, angle the hole so the tree will sway back and his head is not in the way of the tree and the walking stick.



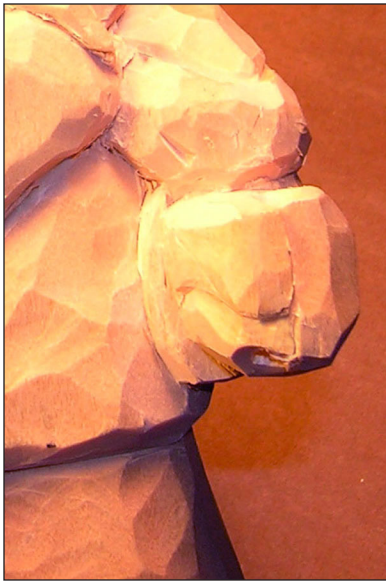
Carve out the mitten hand around the hole. Carve in a thumb as shown.



Draw the right arm fur.



Another angle of the mitten.



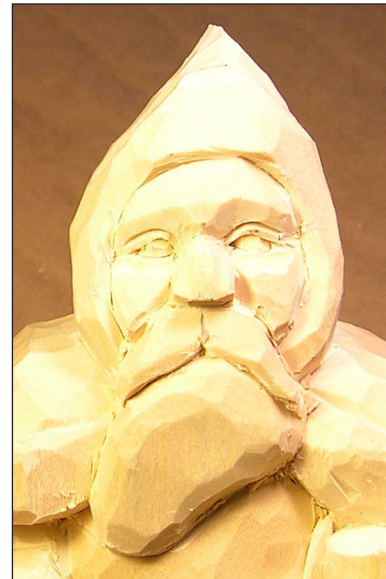
Do the same with the hand holding the tree. This mitten would angled back with the diagonal hole.



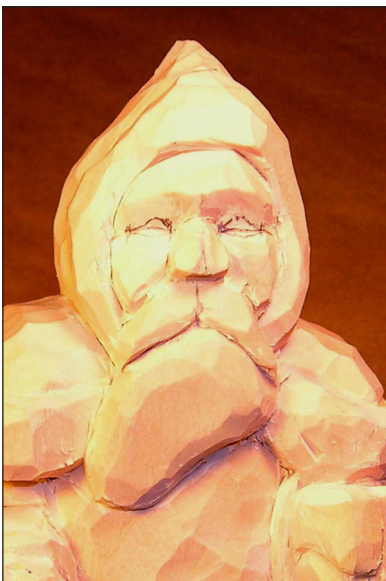
Take a knife blade and cut straight down around the eye line. Chip out the corner of the eyes.



Round out the nose and cheeks. Draw a straight line for the eyes.



Round the eyes out as shown. Use a small V tool to cut out upper eyelids as shown.



Draw in the eye lines as shown.



Bring the forehead back leaving a thicker ridge around the brow line.



Use a V-tool to gouge in beard lines. This is a wind tossed beard. Use a small V tool to gouge in eye brows.



Draw in coat crease lines in the back as shown.



Use a round gouge to cut out fur definition.



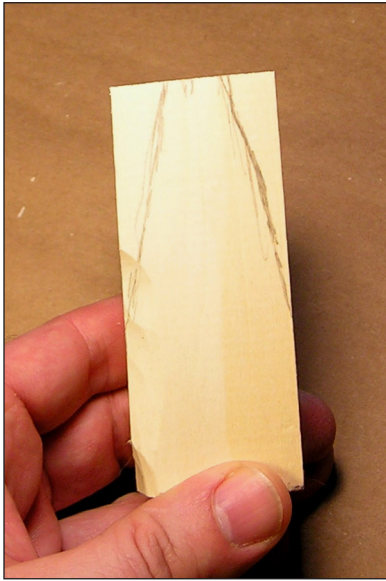
Gouge out coat crease lines.



Draw in coat crease lines as shown.



Gouge out coat crease lines.



For the tree, select a piece of wood suitable in size and shape for your Santa. Draw angles in the wood.



Cut out with a band saw as show. Making cuts at a sharper angle will create a good scotch pine tree. Rotate the tree each time.



Cut and round out the wood in a cone shape leaving the top flat.



Round out each branch as shown.



Drill a 1/4" hole at the bottom. Making the hole off center will help fit the tree properly on your Santa.



Use a V-tool to gouge marks on each branch. Place a 1/4" dowel (long enough for the Santa to hold the tree) into the tree.

Vintage Santa #1

Finished



Place the tree and traveling stick into the Santa.



Clean out any rough edges so that the Santa, tree and traveling stick is ready for painting.

Painting Your Vintage Santa

Clean Your Carving

Before painting a vintage Santa, 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 the light areas, painting the beard with first a color called Mud. When the Mud is dried I dry brush with the color, Sandstone, then antique white. For the fur I use Mud, antique white, then white. Next I use Santa Flesh for the face. I use Santa Red for the coat with Cranberry Red for the shading. Though these are standard colors for a present day Santa, these patterns were derived from vintage Christmas cards from the 1800s and early 1900s where the artist came up with his/her own idea of what Santa would look like. You should experiment with different colors because Santa is clothed in all colors.

Finishing Process

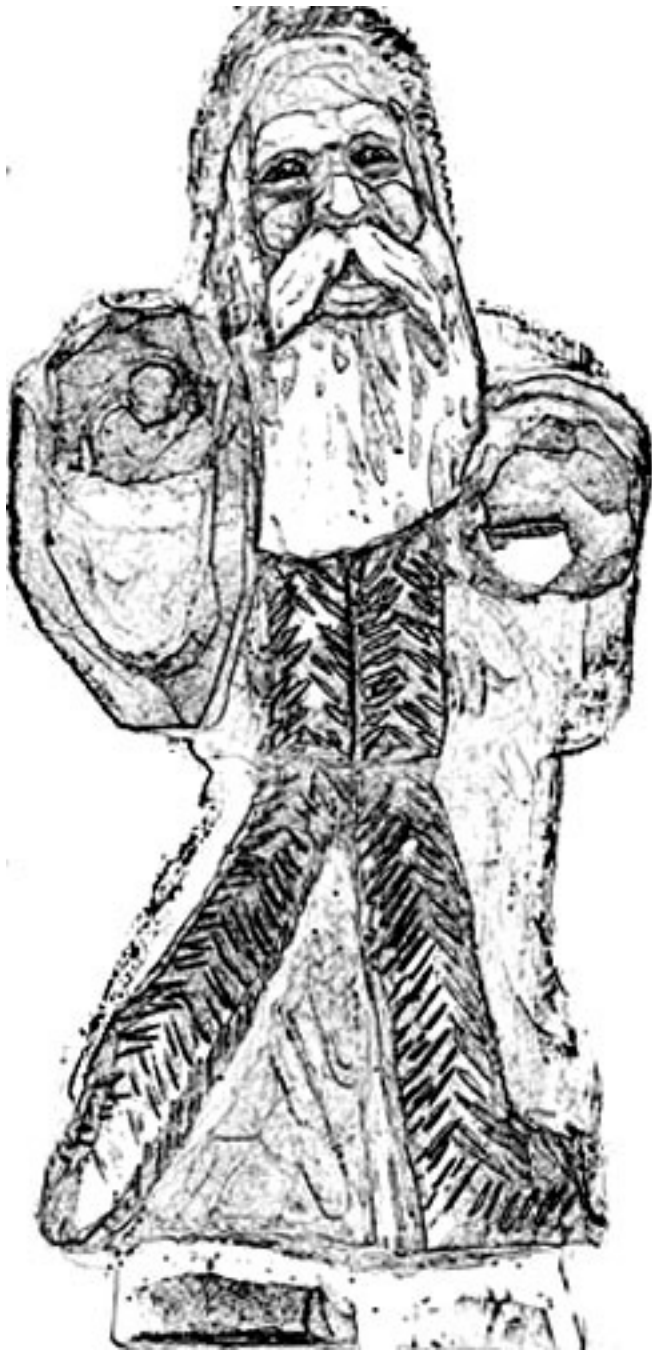
After the acrylic painted carving has dried (one or more hours), I protect the carving with a single coat of Deft spray. I usually use semi-gloss. After an hour the carving is dry. If you desire, this could be a good end to the painting process. For me, I like to antique the carving making it look more like a carving that was carved in the late 1880s to early 1900s. I paint on a liquid wax mix of 75% neutral and 25% dark. Make sure the wax is slogged 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 slog 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.

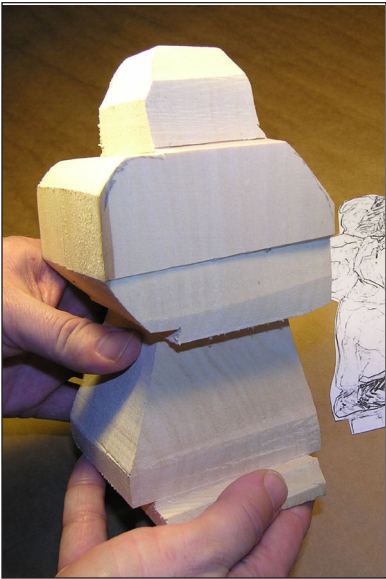
Vintage Santa #2

Circa 1895



Vintage Santa #2 Pattern

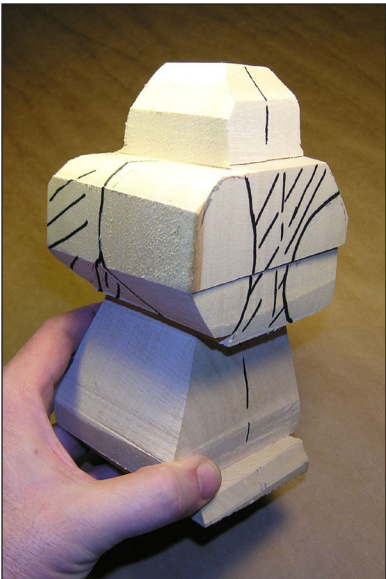




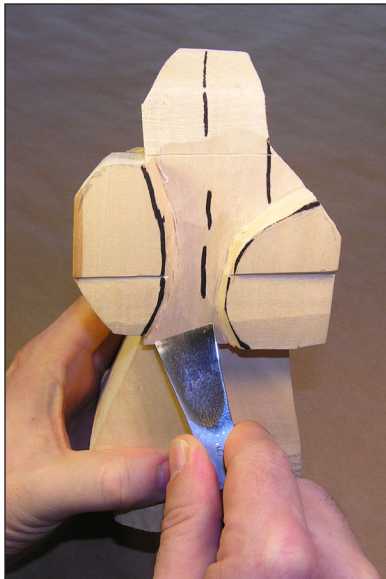
Make cutout according to the pattern.



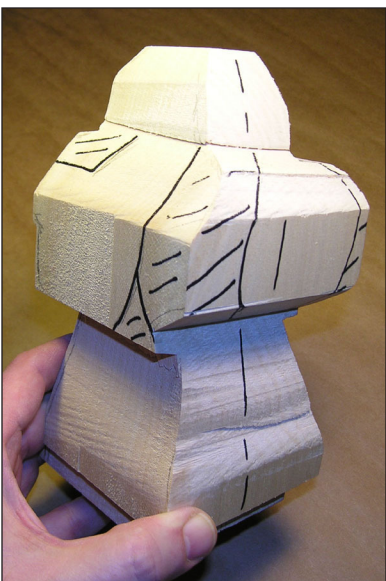
Draw in the feet. This Santa is walking.



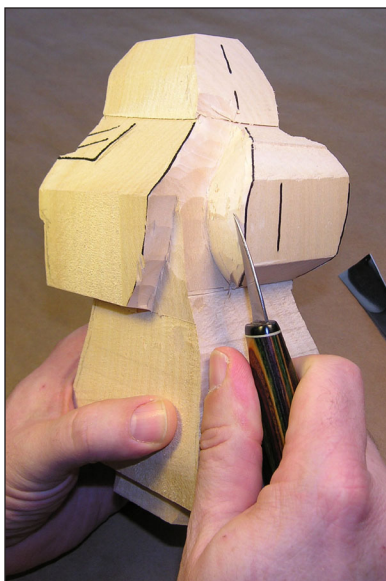
Draw center line. Draw arms in front ready to block out the arms.



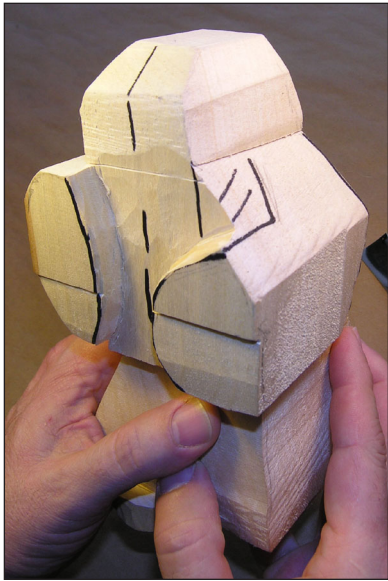
Block out the arms with knife or chisel.



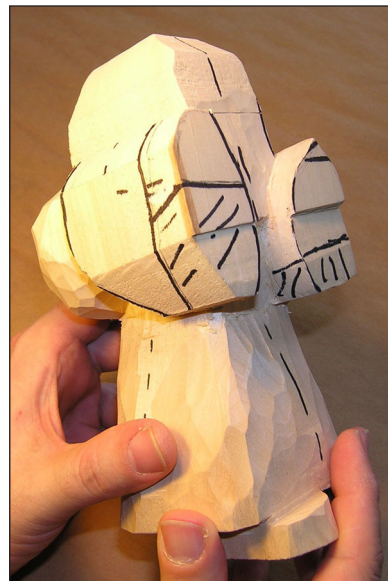
Draw center line. Draw arms in back ready to block out the arms.



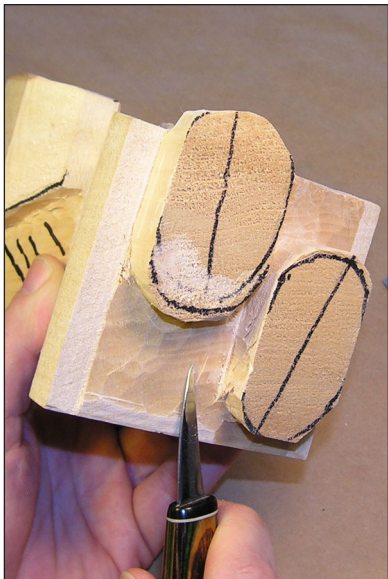
Block out the arms in back with knife or chisel.



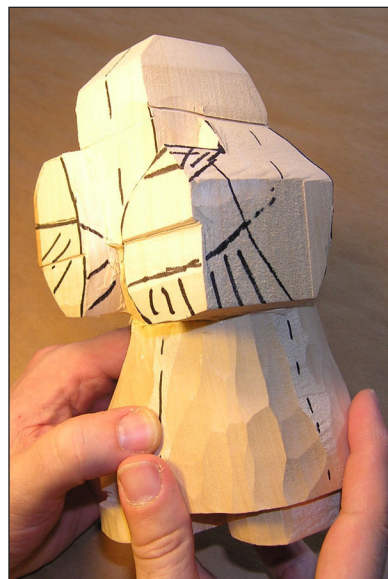
Front view of arms ready to carve.



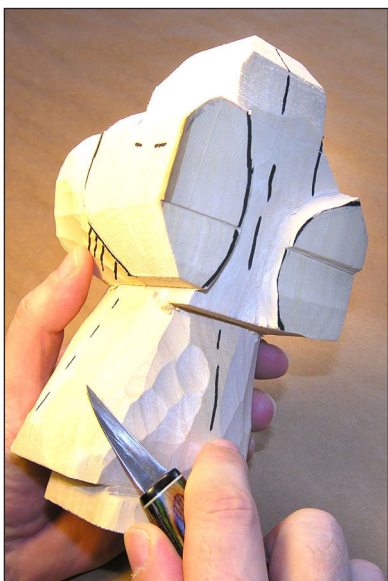
Draw in the right arm – hand and massive sleeve.



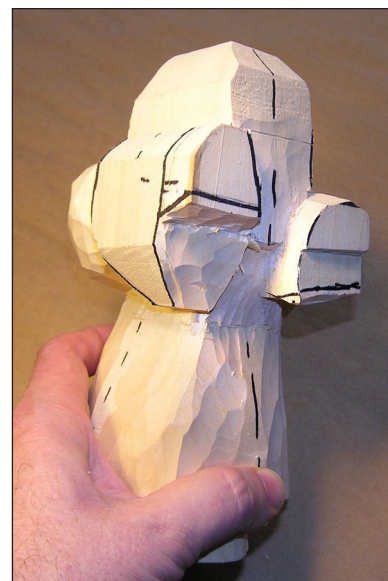
Carve out the feet.



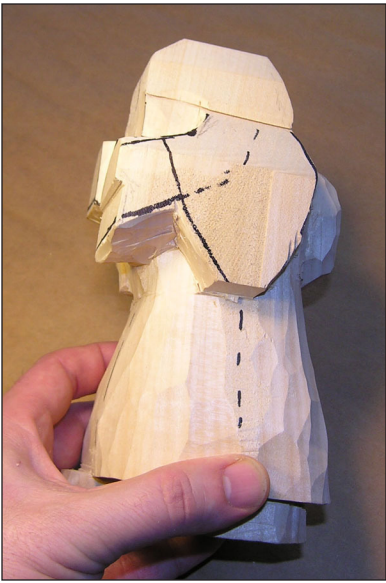
Draw in the left arm – hand and massive sleeve.



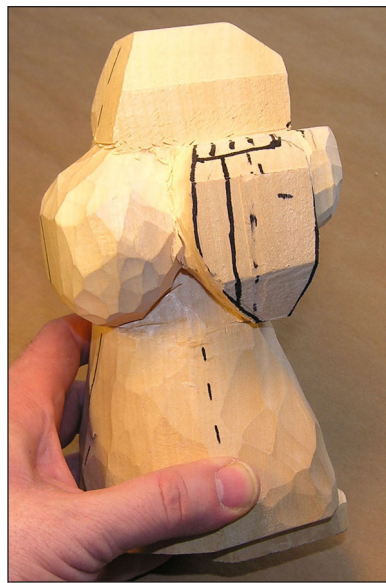
Round out the body.



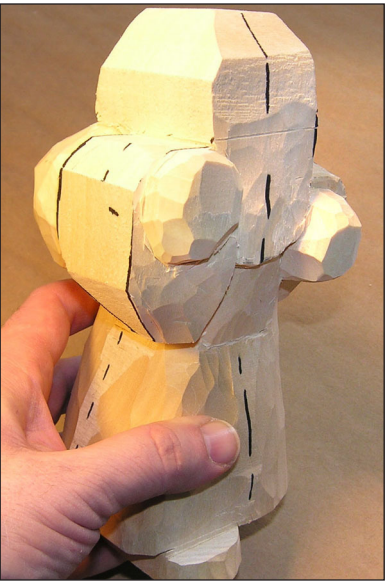
Cut out the right hand.



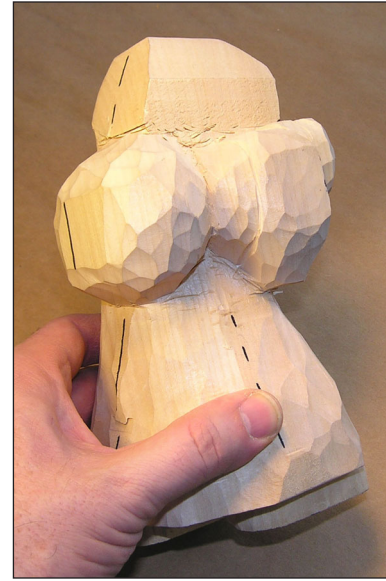
Cut out the left hand.



Block out the back of the right sleeve



Round the right hand.



Round out the right sleeve. Round out the back pack



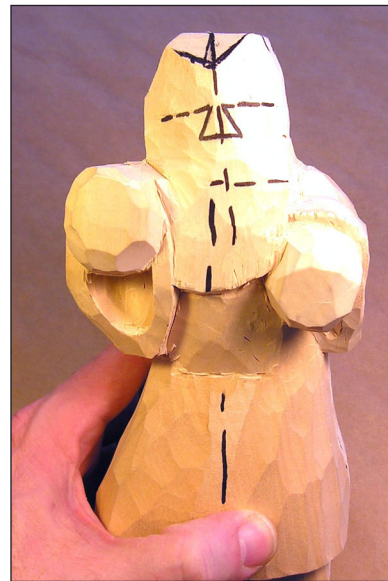
Round the left hand.



Round out the left sleeve.



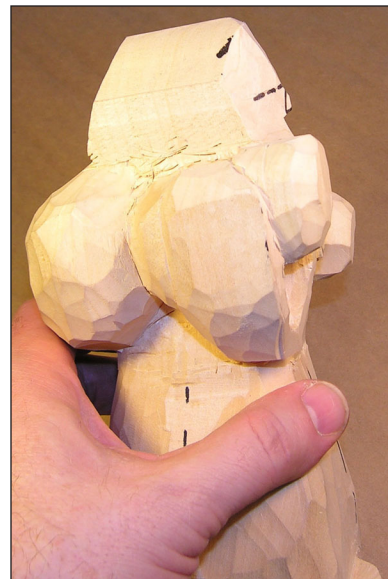
Draw in the bottom of the beard and cut out the upper front body to the beard. Make sure that the waist is the thinnest part of the body. Gouge out the inside sleeve.



Cut out to angle lines so that the tilted center line comes out to a point. Find the top and bottom of the head then 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.



This figure will have his head turned to his left and slightly tilted.



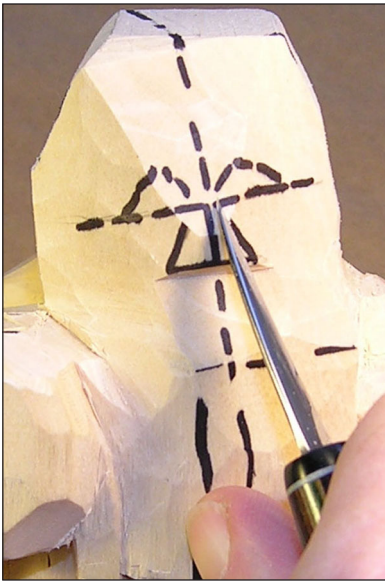
Make a stop cut on the nose line and cut away underneath. Cut away the forehead at about a 60 degree angle back from the tip of the nose.



Draw a center line down the front of the head, again, slightly tilted. Draw on top of the head two lines that are approximately 90 degrees from each other.



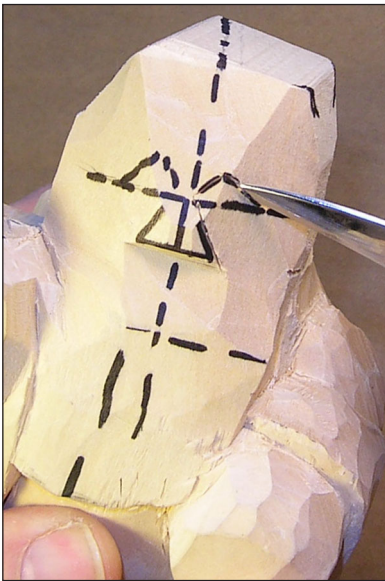
Use straight lines to draw in the nose and around the eyes.



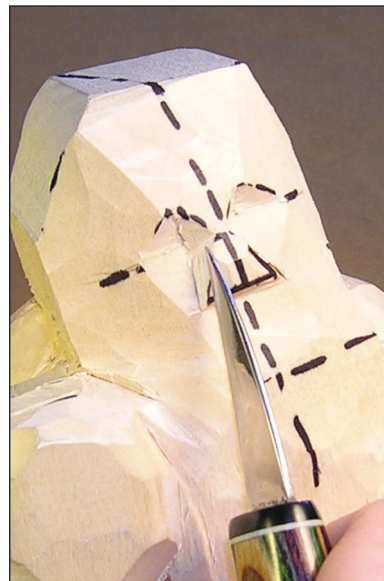
Cut along the nose line AWAY FROM the nose.



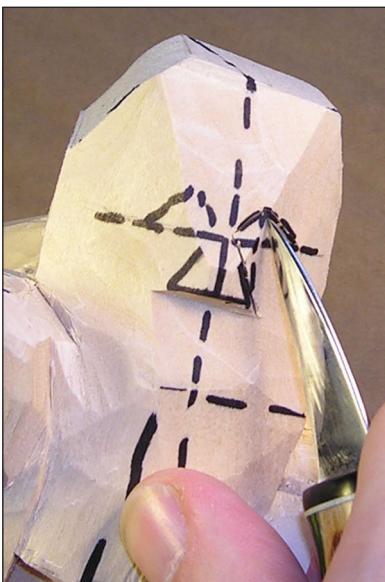
Make a straight cut perpendicular to the nose up towards the eye lines making a chip that should pop out. If not, work at it until it does.



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



Take this time to clean out the eye socket area.



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



Round the top of the head.



Make a mark around the upper front of the hood.



And all around as to where the belt line will be.



Carve the hood.



Use a V-tool to gouge around the belt line. Cut out below the belt line so that the top half of the robe is hanging over and covering the (imaginary) belt.



Draw at the thinnest point of his waist.



Draw out the fur and bottom opening of the robe.



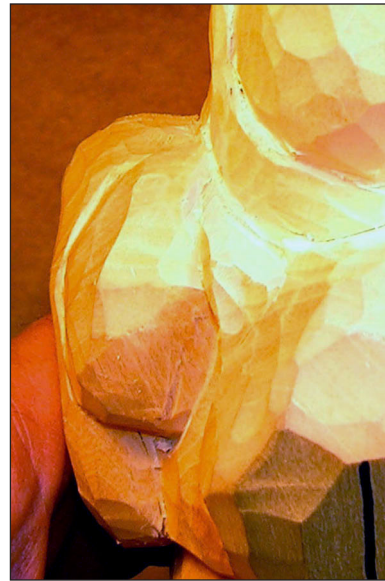
Draw the fur line at the bottom/back of the robe.



Round back the inner skirt to form with the legs. Keep in mind that the front leg's knee comes out.



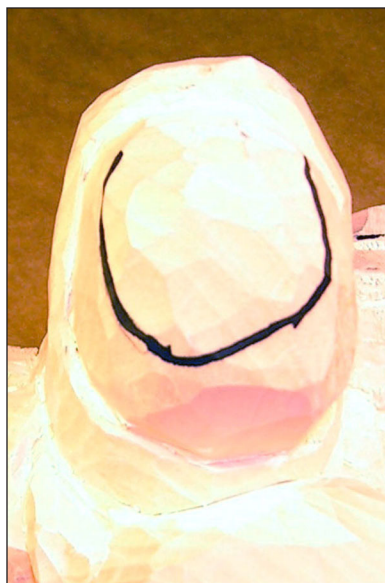
Use a V-tool to chisel on the draw lines.



Draw and carve in the back pack holding straps on both sides of his shoulder.



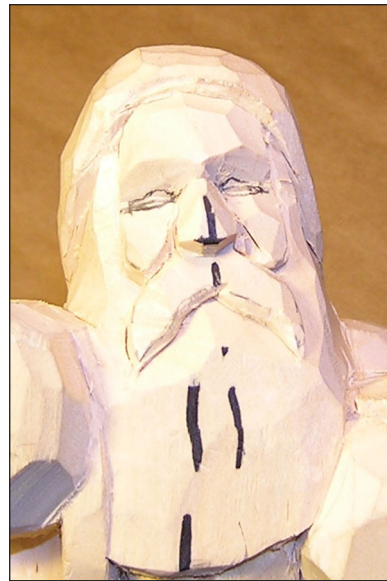
Then use a knife or flat chisel and round the fur.



Draw a semi-circle on top of the head as shown. Use a V-tool to create a line and round out as the finished picture shows.



Draw out the beard and mustache. Make a drawing around the face to form his hood.



Draw in the eye lines as shown.



Use a gouge to cut out the beard and mustache and round around the body under the beard.



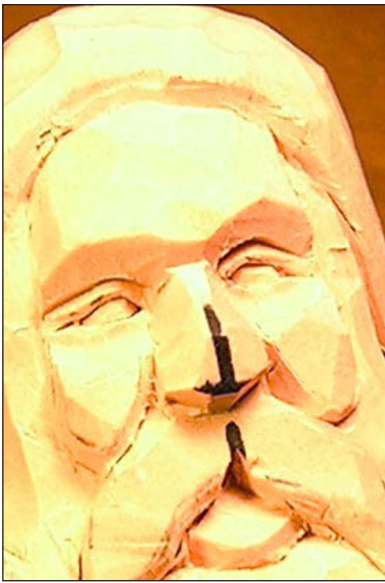
Take a knife blade and cut straight down around the eye line. Chip out the corner of the eyes.



Draw a straight line for the eyes.



Round out the eyes as shown.



Use a small V-tool to cut out upper eyelids as shown.



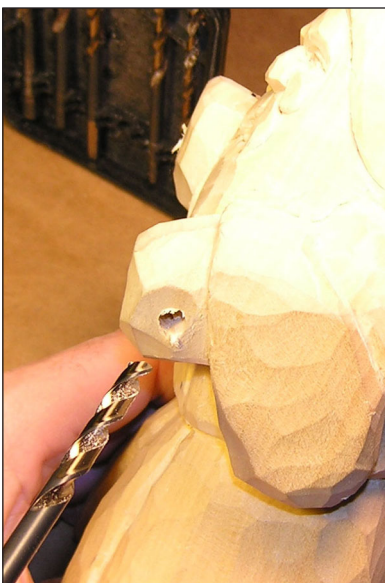
Carve out the mitten hand around the hole as shown.



Drill a 1/4" hole for the tree diagonally back. Start with a much smaller bit; re-drill with a larger bit until a 1/4" hole is made. This is to prevent the hand from cracking. When drilling, angle the hole so the tree will sway back and his head is not in way of the tree.



Carve out the mitten hand around the hole as shown.



Drill a 1/4" hole for the walking stick. Again, start with a much smaller bit; re-drill with a larger bit until a 1/4" hole is made.



Carve out the mitten hand around the hole as shown.



Carve in a thumb.



Another angle of the mittens.



Carve around the left hand and draw in a thumb.



With a small V tool, gouge diagonal lines to represent fur. Do this through all the fur around the coat and hat. **DO NOT GOUGE THE SLEEVES.** They are made with different fabric.



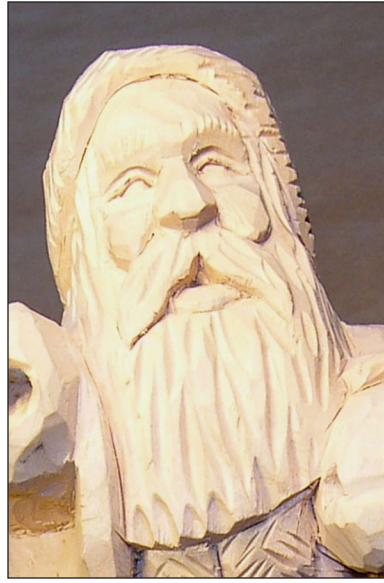
Carve in a thumb.



Draw in coat crease lines as shown.



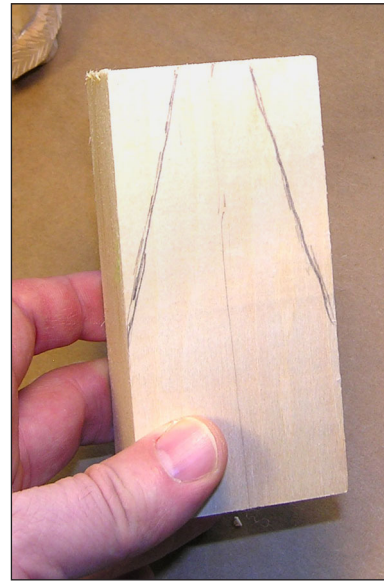
Draw in coat crease lines as shown.



Use a V tool to gouge in beard lines. Use a small V-tool to gouge in eye brows. For the mouth, cut out a chip below the mustache, use a V-tool to gouge the bottom lip, and then round out lip.



Gouge out coat crease lines.



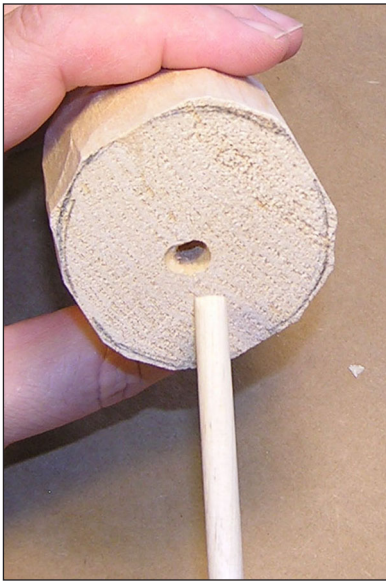
For the tree, select a piece of wood suitable for your Santa. Draw angles in the wood.



Gouge out coat crease lines.



Cut and round out the wood in a cone shape leaving the top flat.



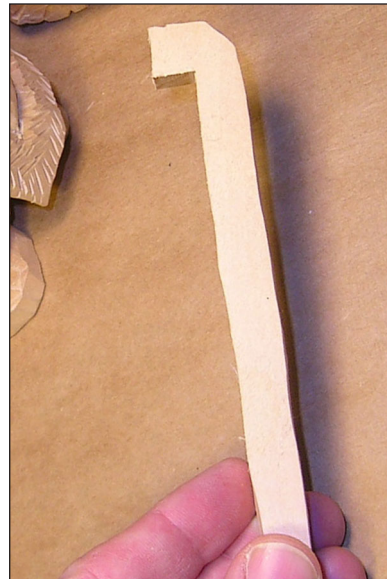
Drill a 1/4" hole at the bottom. Making the hole off centered will help fit the tree properly on your Santa.



Round out each branch as shown. Use a V tool to gouge marks on each branch. Place a 1/4" dowel (long enough for the Santa to hold the tree) into the tree.



Cut out with a band saw as show.



Cut out the cane.



Rotate the tree each time. Making cuts straighter in will create a good spruce tree.

Vintage Santa #2

Finished



Place the tree and traveling stick into the Santa.



Clean out any rough edges so that the Santa, tree and traveling stick are ready for painting.

The Gallery



Vintage Santa #3

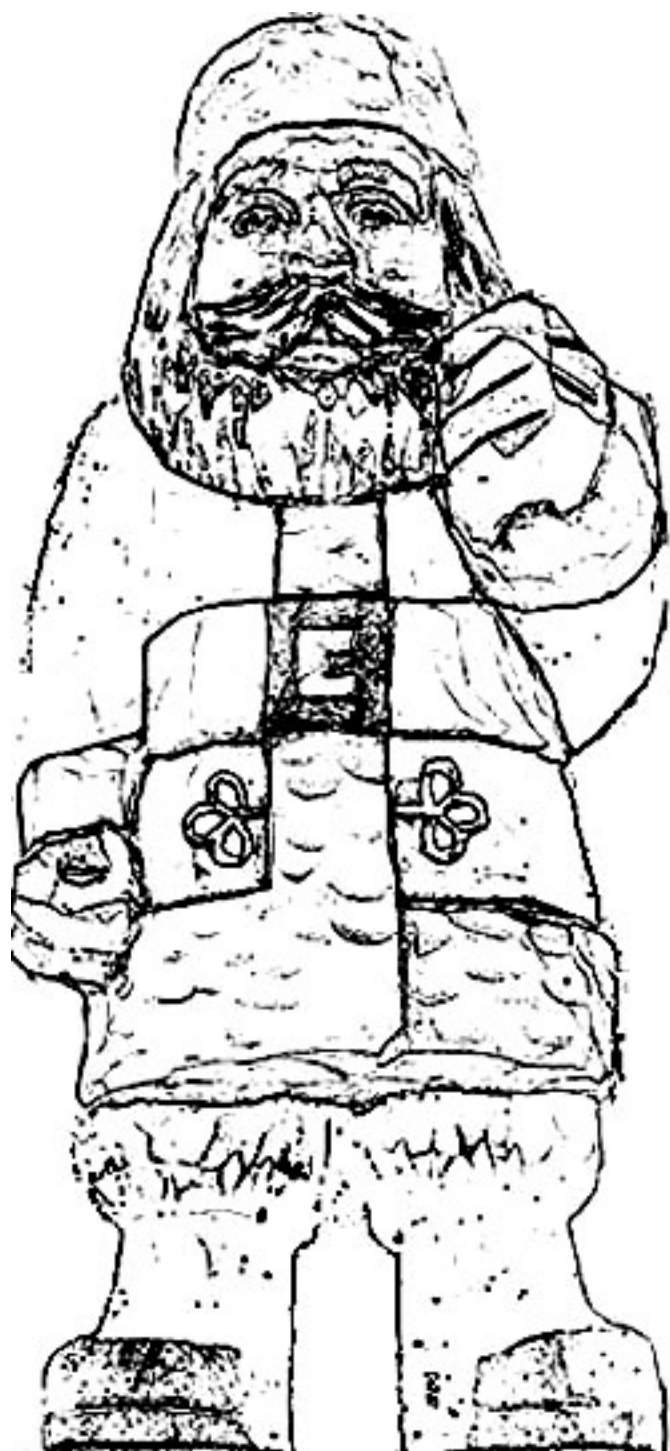
Circa 1920



Vintage Santa # 3

Pattern

Accessory patterns are near the back of the book



Vintage Santa #4

Circa 1912



Vintage Santa # 4

Pattern

Accessory patterns are near the back of the book



Vintage Santa #5

Circa 1890



Vintage Santa # 5 Pattern



Vintage Santa #6

Circa 1900



Vintage Santa # 6 Pattern

Accessory patterns are near the back of the book



Vintage Santa #7

Circa 1915



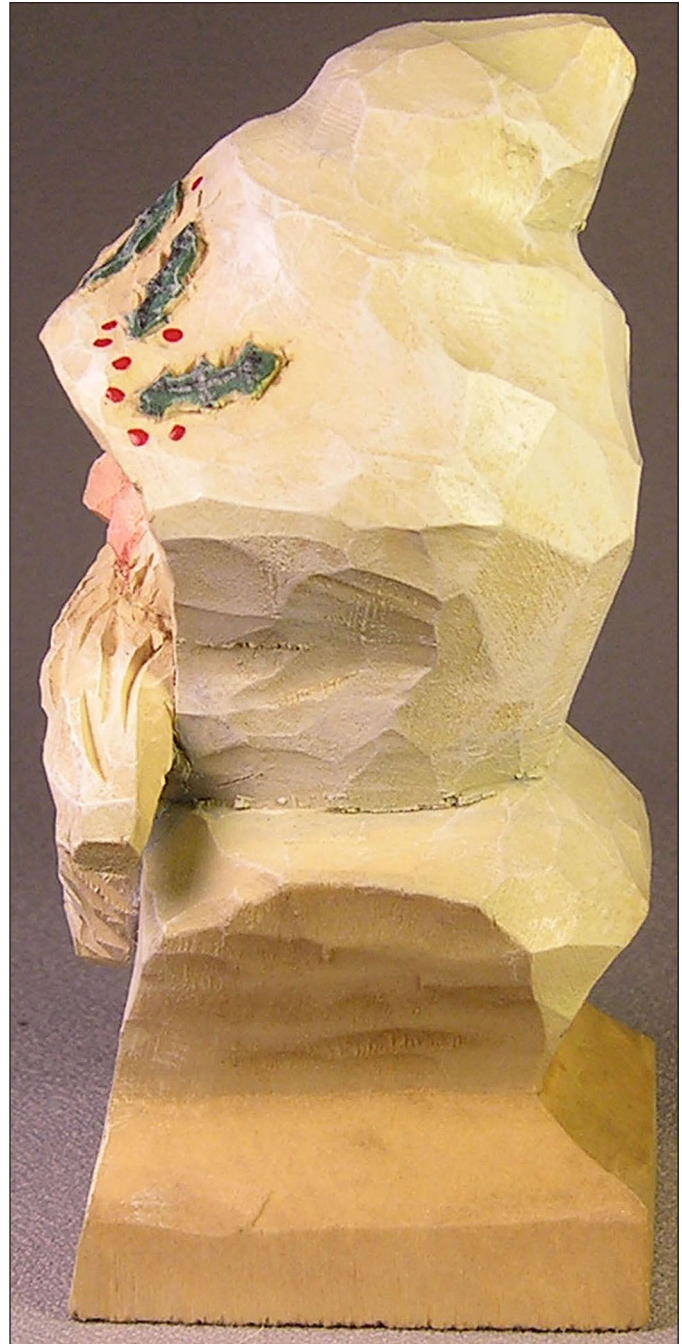
Vintage Santa # 7 Pattern

Accessory patterns are near the back of the book



Vintage Santa #8

Circa 1895



Vintage Santa # 8 Pattern



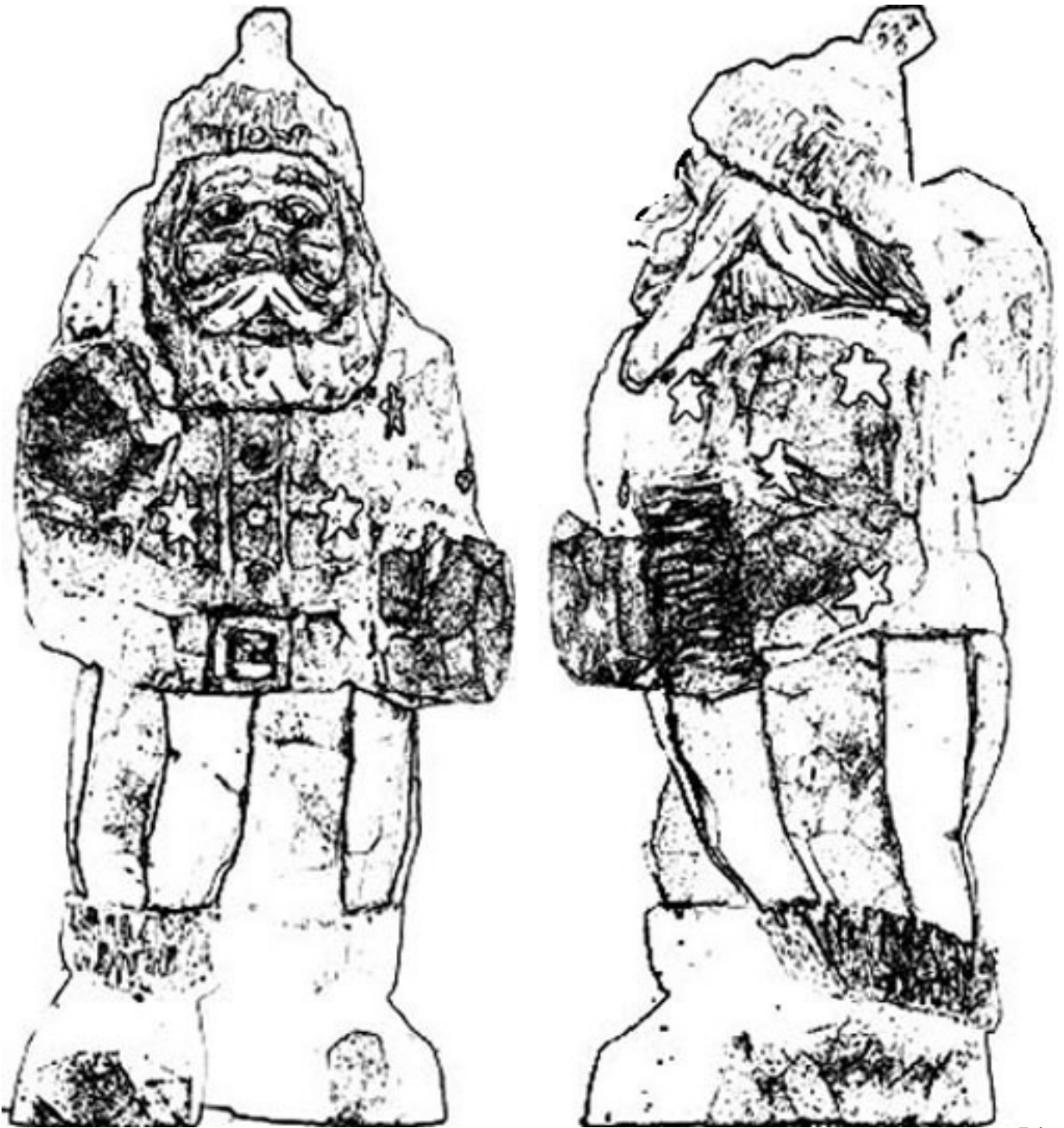
Vintage Santa #9

Circa 1863



Vintage Santa # 9 Pattern

Accessory patterns are near the back of the book



Vintage Santa #10

Circa 1900

Carve the tree like Vintage Santa #1 or #2

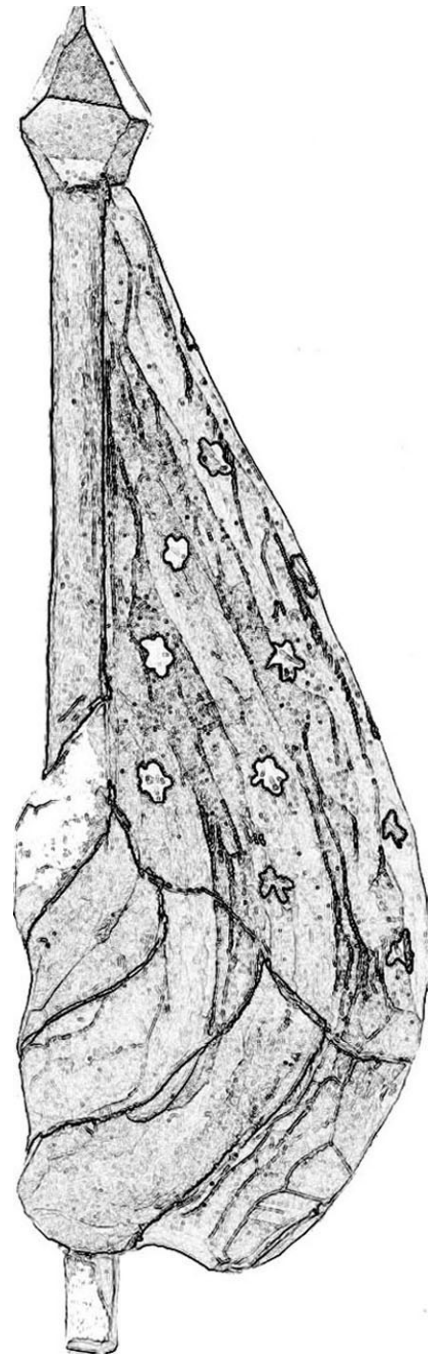
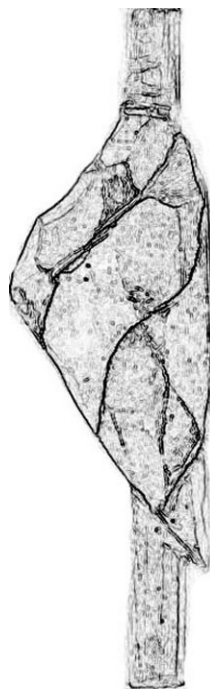
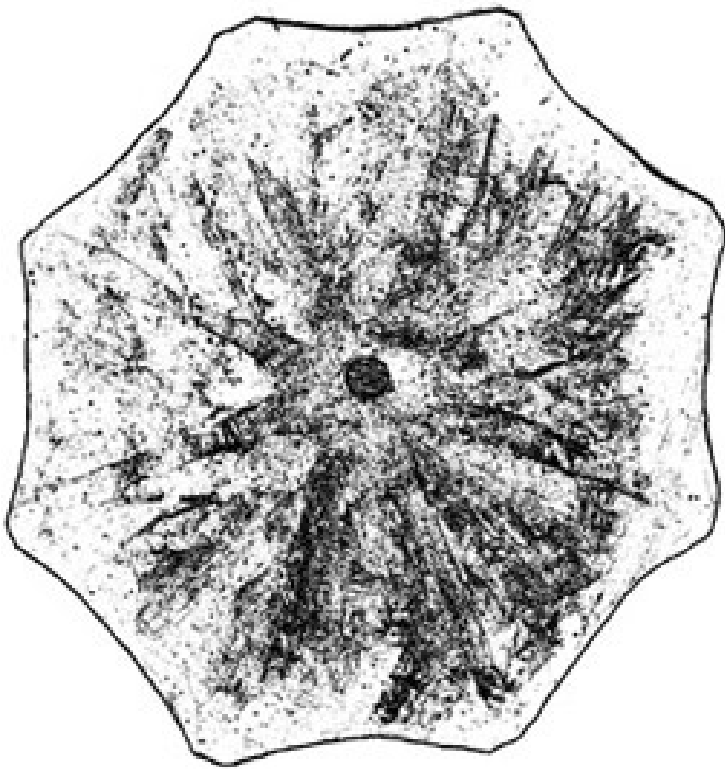


Vintage Santa # 10

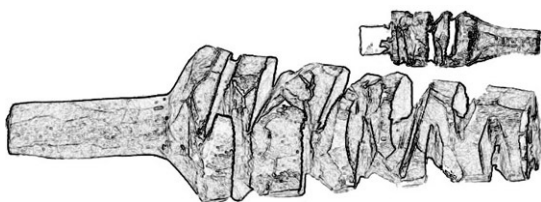
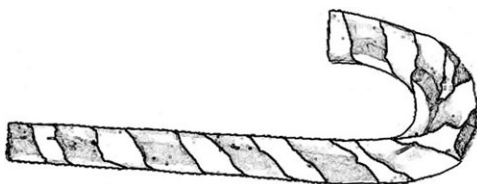
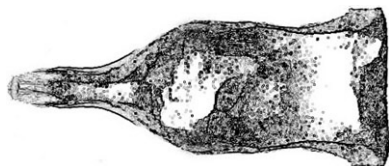
Pattern



Vintage Santa Accessory Patterns



Vintage Santa Accessory Patterns



Vintage Santa Bases



Vintage Santa Claus



Carving Santa Claus Caricatures from 1860-1920

Written and Photographed by Russell Scott
ScottCarvings.com

Russell Scott is an award winning carver with over 15 years of carving experience. He loves carving Santas. This collection of 10 patterns was modeled after vintage Christmas postcards from the late 1800s to early 1900s. The patterns are fun and offer something different from the pot-bellied, red-coated Santa of today. Artists from this era came up with their own ideas of what Santa should look like. These patterns will add variety to your Santa carvings and provide unique challenges to your carving skills.

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