



Vintage Santa Claus *Book Two*

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

by Russell Scott



Vintage Santa Claus - Two

Carving Santa Claus Caricatures from 1890-1920

Written and Photographed by Russell Scott

Acknowledgments

I'd like to thank those who collect and keep old vintage Christmas cards. They inspire me.

Also, thanks to fellow wood carvers who have purchased my previous book and videos and have sent me photos of their projects. I like to post them on my ScottCarving.com web sit for other carvers to see and become inspired. I love to see your results and variations. Keep up the good work.

- Russell Scott

Visit my web site at:

ScottCarvings.com

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

[YouTube.com/ScottCarvings](https://www.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 fifteen 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. Also, 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, 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 teach woodcarving classes. You may find several videos and books.

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 in 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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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 Instructional Books and Rough-outs

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

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

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Scott Carvings



Wood Carving Safety

For Hand Carving...

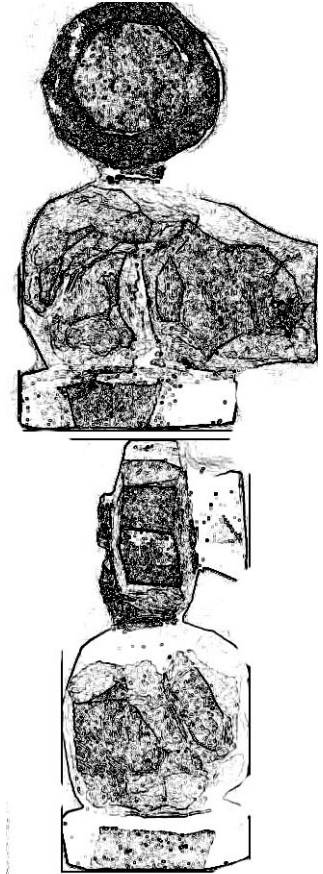
- **Safety Glove** – Kevlar threaded gloves are recommended when holding small wood carvings to help prevent cuts to the hands or fingers. Leather gloves are useful when using the knife, chisel or while handling power tools.
- **Leather Finger Tabs** – Useful when working with knives. A thumb tab is 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 carvings.
- **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.

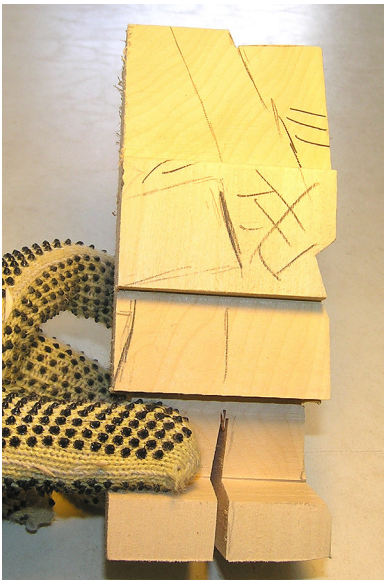
Vintage Santa #1

Circa 1900

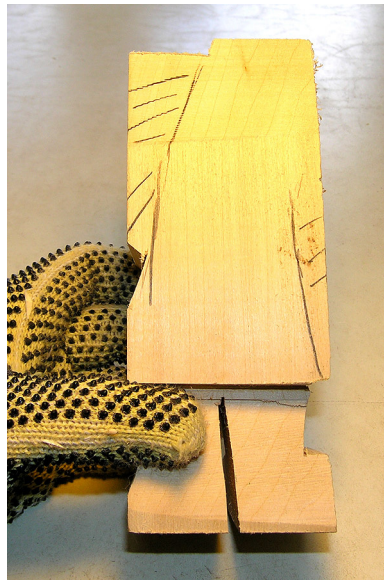


Vintage Santa #1 Pattern

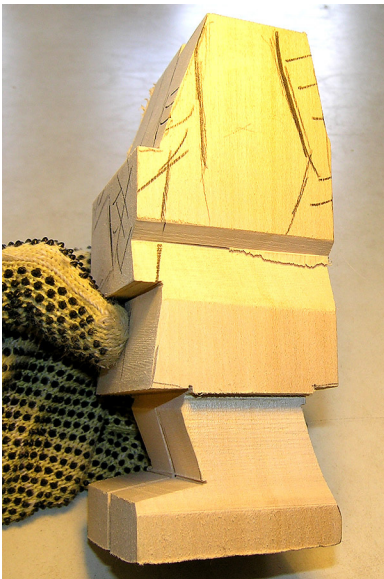




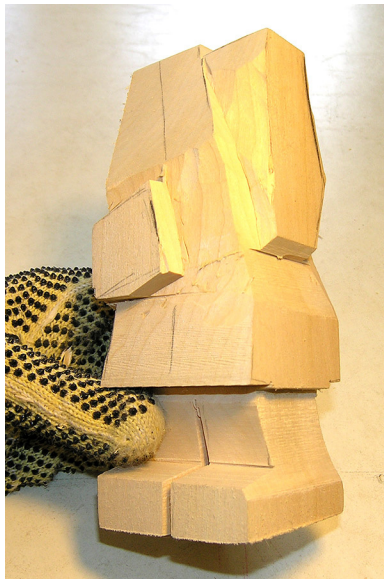
1. On the cutout, draw arm lines.



4. Draw arm lines on the back side.



2. Draw arm lines on the right side.



5. Block out the arms in front. (Cut down and across on both sides of the arm.)



3. Draw arm lines on the left side.



6. Block out the arms in back.



7. Draw the shape of the shoe on the bottom. Round out the feet.



10. Round out the body.



8. Draw the hat and tassel.



11. Round out the back.



9. Block out the hat and tassel.



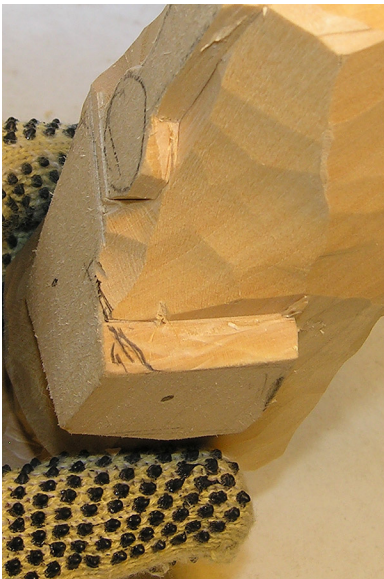
12. Round out the heels.



13. Round the legs. Make sure the legs come to a cone shape.



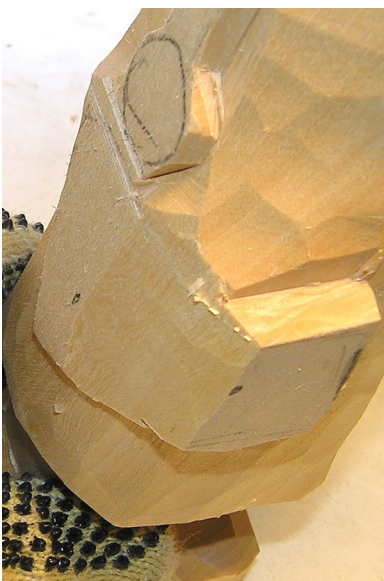
16. Draw separation lines between arm and shoulder.



14. Draw a dot on the wrist and elbow. Draw a line between dots as shown looking down.



17. Make a large chip cut above the elbow away from the beard to bring out the arm.



15. Cut the forearm straight between the two dots.



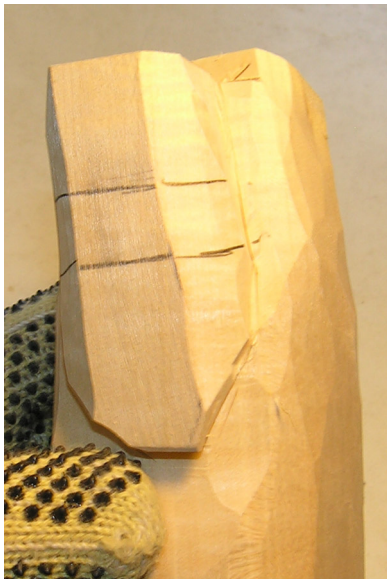
18. Draw the elbow line on the back.



19. Make a large chip cut bring the elbow out.



22. Use a V tool to chisel out the pencil marks.



20. Draw in the left arm cuff.



23. Draw the hair belt and front trim. line. Use a V tool to chisel out the pencil marks.



21. Draw in the coat belt buckle and belt in front.



24. Cut in for the belt. Left side view.



25. Cut in for the belt. Back side view.



28. Draw in the pants fur trim above the feet.



26. Use a knife to bring out the belt buckle and fur trim by cutting into the coat.



29. Cut out the pants fur trim by shaping the feet.



27. Round out the bottom fur trim .



30. Cut out the heels as shown.



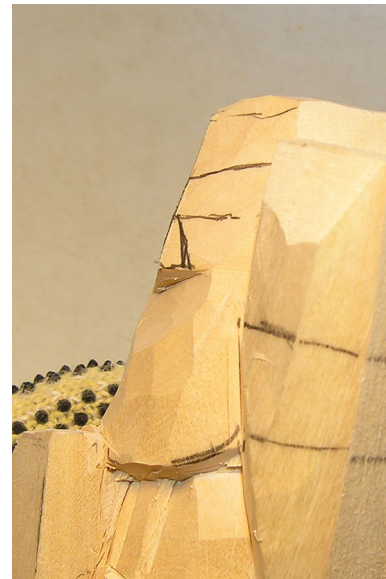
31. Draw the sole and heel lines on the shoe.



34. Draw in the eye line and the nose triangle as shown.



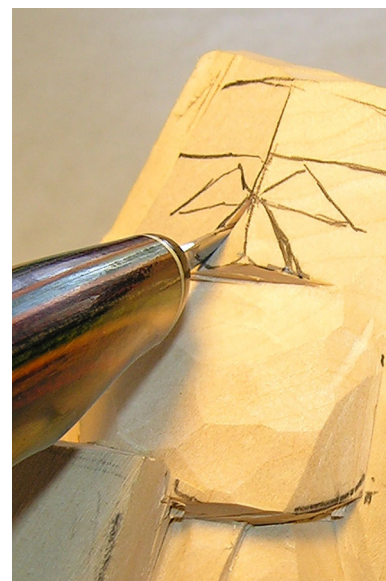
32. Use a V tool to chisel the sole and heel lines on the shoe.



35. Cut straight down on the bottom of the nose then scoop to make the nose protrude.



33. Draw a line in a diagonal pointing left. Create a 90° cut where the nose will be on the face.



36. Draw in triangles for the eyes as shown. Cut away from the nose.



37. Cut away from the brow pointing towards the eyeball as shown.



40. First eye chip cut.



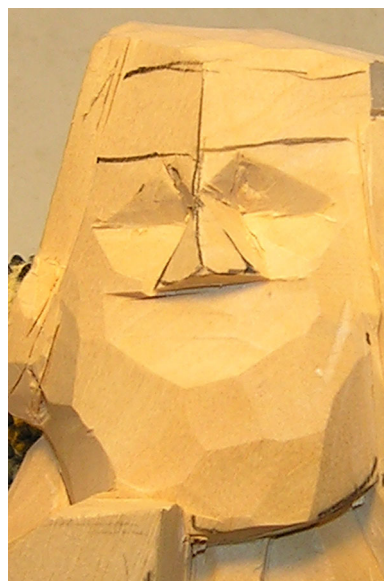
38. Finish the eye cut pointing towards the eyeball as shown.



41. Cut from the nostril down to the eye line as shown.



39. Cut towards the nose from the top of the eye corner down to the nostril to complete the chip cut.



42. Follow these steps on the other side of the face.



43. Make a chip cut at the bridge of the nose and the forehead as shown.



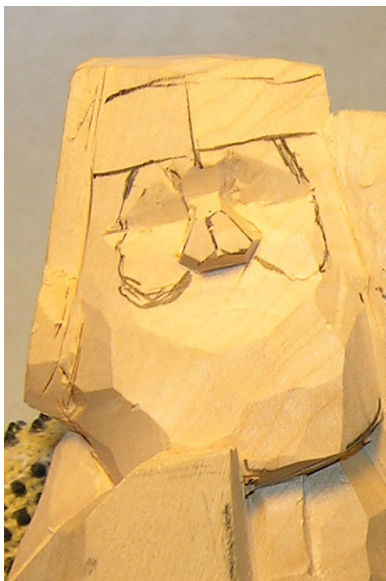
46. Using a V tool to chisel to cut with one blade away from the face.



44. Cut the sharp corners off of the nose.



47. Draw the mustache. The shape is to your liking. Use the V tool to bring out the bottom of the mustache.



45. Draw the face line from the nostrils up to the forehead on both sides as shown.



48. Use your knife to deepen the cut underneath the mustache towards the beard.



49. Deepen the beard to raise the mustache.



52. Cut away some of the top of the hat to bring the fur trim out.



50. Draw and V cut the top of the hat and the hair.



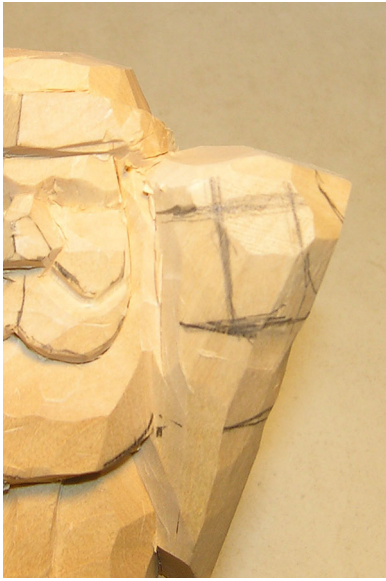
53. Draw a line on top of the hat to separate the tassel from the top of the head. Cut away from the top of the hat bringing the tassel out.



51. Cut the hair to bring the hat out.



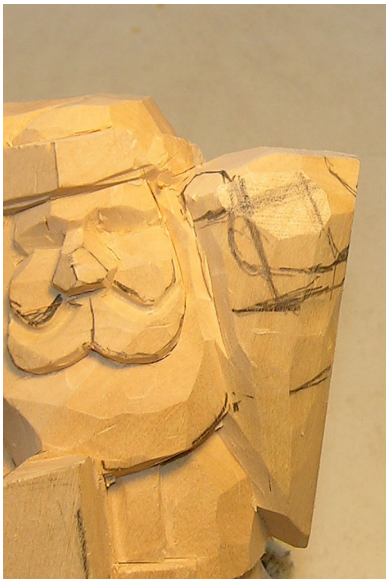
54. Round out the tassel.



55. Draw lines to prepare for his left hand holding the receiver of the phone. Begin rounding process of the glove and the receiver.



58. Use a V tool to cut away the mitten and the end of the receiver. Cut the bottom part the heel of the hand to allow the fingers to extend.



56. Draw a line to separate the thumb and the rest of the mitten. If desired you can have the thumb cut away to reveal the receiver against his ear.



59. Cut away from the mitten to reveal the receiver.



57. Draw a circle for the receiver.



60. Top view.



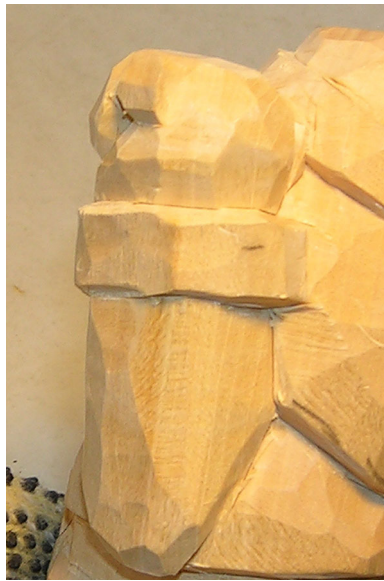
61. Cutaway a portion of the mitten to reveal the receiver on his ear.



64. Block out the forearm.



62. Back view.



65. Round out the forearm.



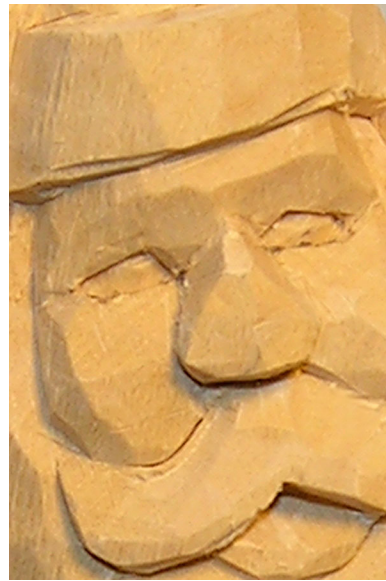
63. Draw lines to shape the arm. Make sure the forearm is tilted forward as the elbow will be tilted towards his back.



66. Drill and cut a hole in the forearm for the mitten and receiver.



67. Draw a small circle semi circle under the mustache for the mouth. Use a V tool to chisel out the bottom of the mouth. Make a cut deep under the mustache and make a hole for the mouth.



70. Round out the eyeball.



68. Draw the eyes as shown.



71. Draw the eyelids.



69. Use a knife to make straight cuts drawn by the pencil. Make chip cuts on both sides of the eyeball.



72. Use a V tool to chisel out the eyelids.



73. Use the tip of your knife to dig a sharp V cut to bring out the eyelids.



76. Use your knife to scoop the beard as desired.



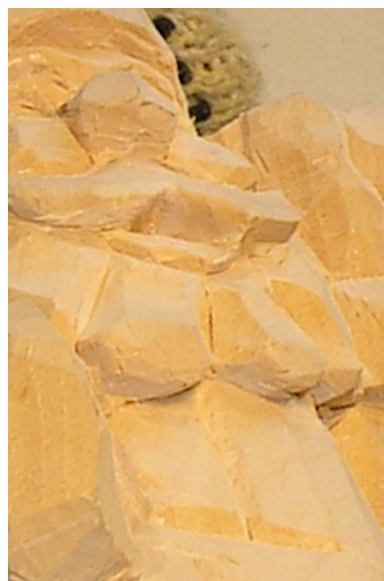
74. Shape the forehead.



77. Another view.



75. Cut out the beard as desired. Use a knife to carve very deep cuts.



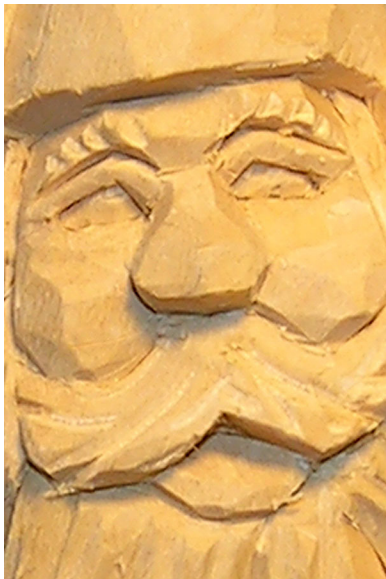
78. Make undercuts to bring the tip of the beard out.



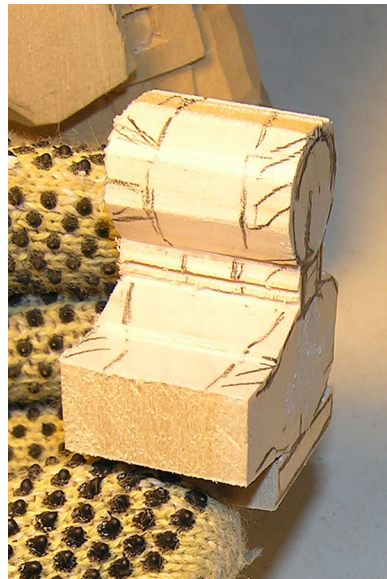
79. Use a V tool to finish the beard.



82. Draw in the transceiver and glove as shown.



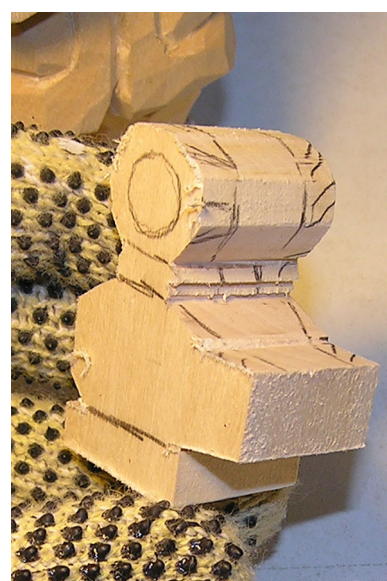
80. Use a V tool to put in his eyelash eyebrows.



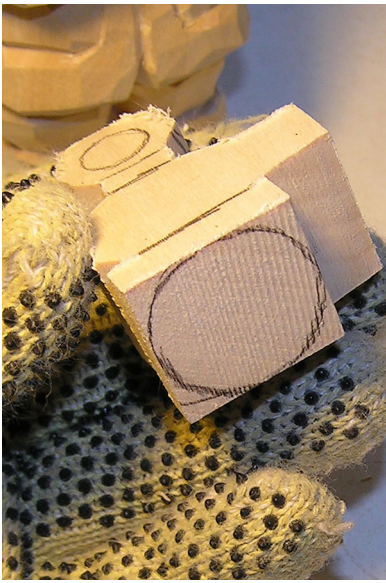
83. Draw around circle for the base of the phone.



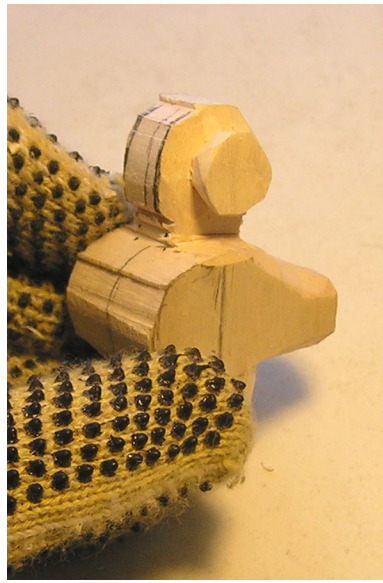
81. Transceiver cut out.



84. Another view.



85. Round the bottom of the base of the phone.



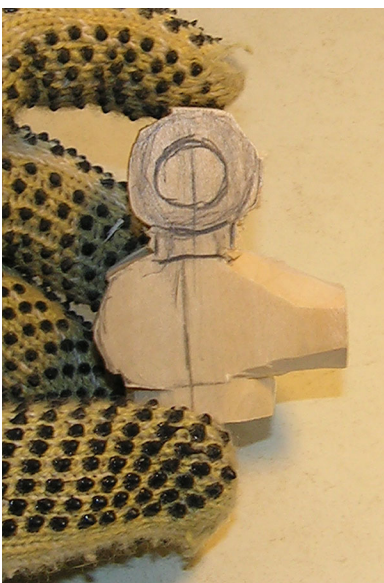
88. Cut out the horn for the receiver.



86. Draw around circle for the base of the phone.



89. Round the bottom of the base of the phone. Cut out the horn for the receiver. Another view.



87. Draw around circle for the base of the phone.



90. Another view.

Vintage Santa #1

Finished



Place the hand and phone into Santa's arm.



Clean out any rough edges so that the Santa and phone assembly is ready for painting.

Vintage Santa #1

Finished



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

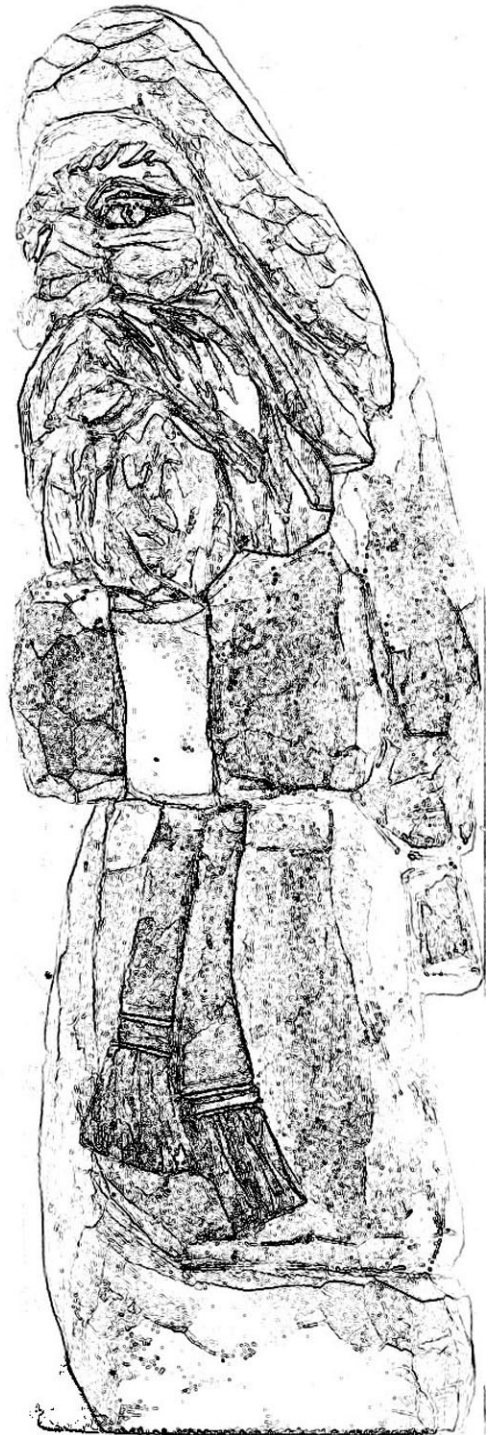
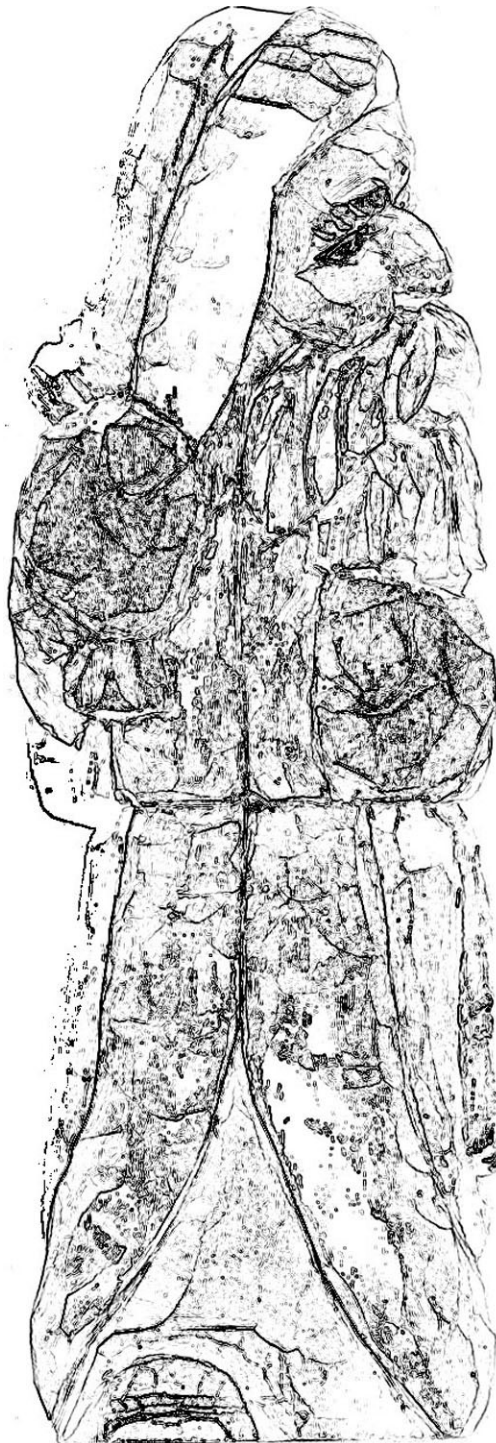
After the acrylic painted carving has dried (one or more hours), I protect the carving with a single coat of Deft spray. I usually use semi-gloss. After an hour the carving is dry. If you desire, this could be a good end to the painting process. For me, I like to antique the carving making it look more 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 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.

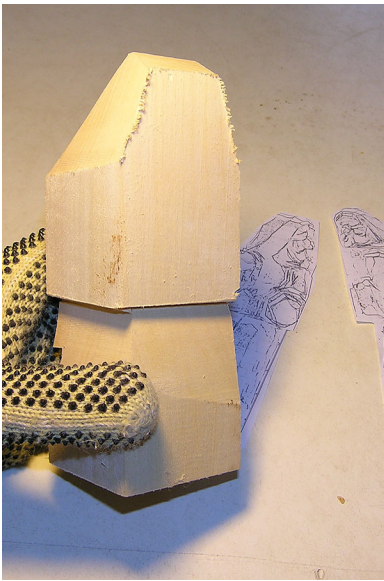
Vintage Santa #2



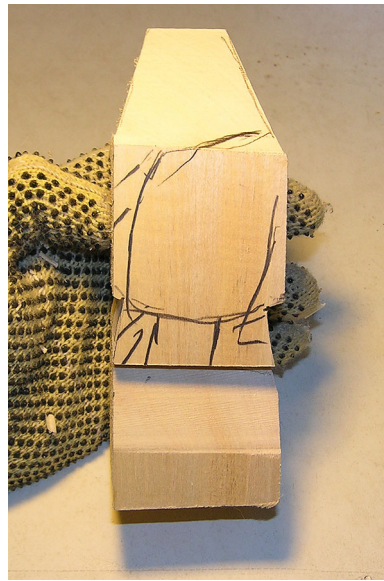
Vintage Santa #2

Pattern





1. Cut a block of basswood from the pattern.



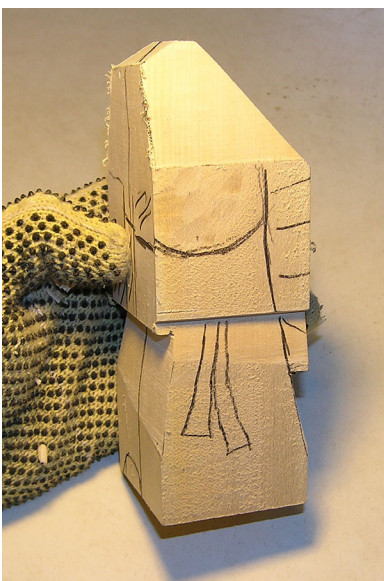
4. Draw in the bag with package slipping out in the back.



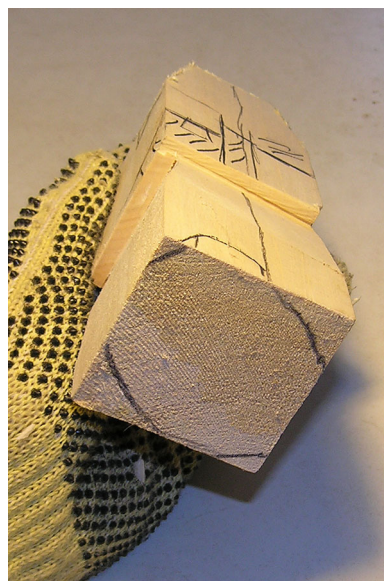
2. Draw in the arms and feet on the front side.



5. Draw the arm lines.



3. Draw the beard and hanging belt line.



6. Circle out the base. This Santa is walking so it would not be a perfect circle.



7. Take a V tool and cut out his right arm and beard.



10. Block out the hands.



8. Take a V tool and cut out his left arm, beard and bag opening.



11. Round out the bag and the back. Do the same for the right side.



9. Take a V tool and chisel out his right arm.



12. Another view.



13. Cut around the belt to bring the arm and bag opening out.



16. Round the bottom.



14. Round the skirt. Cut out the hanging belt.



17. Draw in the coat, tufts and underskirt.



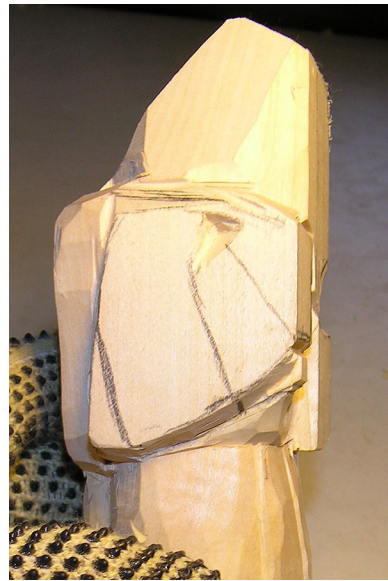
15. Round the skirt. Shape the present falling out of the bag.



18. Use a V tool to chisel out the coat/tops and underskirt.



19. Use a knife to cut the inner skirt down so that the coat tufts come out.



22. Draw in the right arm tufts and mit.



20. Round the tip of the foot.



23. Use a V tool to bring out those lines ready to cut. Make sure you have the bag attached between the back of the bag and his mitten.



21. Cut a separation between the coat and the tufts.



24. Round out the right arm and the right side of the bag.



25. Undercut between the shoulder and the bag.



28. Cut out the opening of the bag using a V tool or a knife.



26. Round out the mitten and coat arm tufts.



29. Draw the coat tufts above left hand.



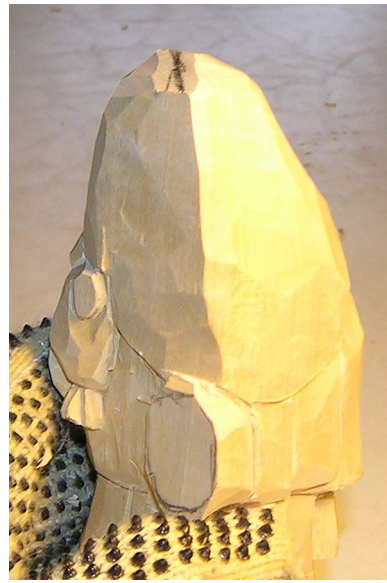
27. Use a V tool to chisel out the thumb as shown.



30. Round his arm hand out.



31. Another view.



34. Draw a line down the center of the face and beard. Make sure the line shows the Santa is bent over with his head forward. Cut so the line would be 90° where the nose would be.



32. Undercut the hanging belt to show shadow.



35. Draw in the nose and face as shown.



33. Round the back around the present.



36. Cut straight down into the wood from the nose. Carve on the mustache area so that the nose would come up.



37. Cut away from the nose and away from the eyebrows.



40. Cut the sharp nostril points off.



38. Create the first cut.



41. Cut a chip cut between the bridge of the nose and forehead.



39. Draw the knife up from the nostril, down to the eye line.



42. Draw in the cheek as shown.



43. Use a V tool to chisel the cheeks out.



46. Draw a little circle under the center of the mustache for the mouth. Take your knife cut make a stop cut and cut part of the beard away for the lip.



44. Draw in and use a V tool to produce a mustache to the shape of your choice.



47. Make a large chip cut a deep chip out for the mouth.



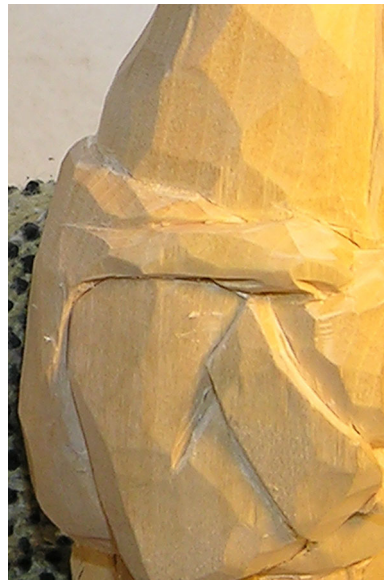
45. Cut underneath the mustache so the mustache is higher than the beard.



48. Another view. Do the same for the top mustache.



49. After the face is set, draw a line for the hood tuft.



52. Cut fold creases in the bag.



50. Use a V tool to chisel the pencil line for the hood tuft.



53 Drill a hole in the left hand the size of the stick you want to put it. In this case this is for a 3/8 dowel.



51. Cut away part of the hood so the hood tuft would come out.



54. Pencil in the thumb on the left hand.



55. Draw the thumb on the left hand.



58. Make his left eye wider and his right eye narrower like he's thinking because he realized he is losing his packages. The eyebrow will be higher on his left and lower on his right.



56. Use a V tool and chisel out the palm on the left hand.



59. Draw in the eye line as shown.



57. Cut away from the mitten so that the thumb is forward.



60. Use a knife to cut along the line then make small chip cuts on both sides of the eye-ball.



61. Round out the eyeballs.



64. Use a #9 chisel and a 45° angle away from the nose and 45° angle up and cut in.



62. Use a V tool to chisel in the eyebrow. Remember his left eye lid should be higher than his right eyelid.



65. Do this to both sides of the eyebrow as shown.



63. Shape the forehead. Leave the brow bone.



66. Cut out the beard and mustache hair clumps.



67. Use a V tool to chisel in the beard and mustache line and his eyebrows.



70. Cut the sole line on the foot.



68. Use a V tool to chisel in the last details of the hanging belt.



71. Use a one quarter inch thick flat piece of wood for the snow scene, base. This is an example of what I used.



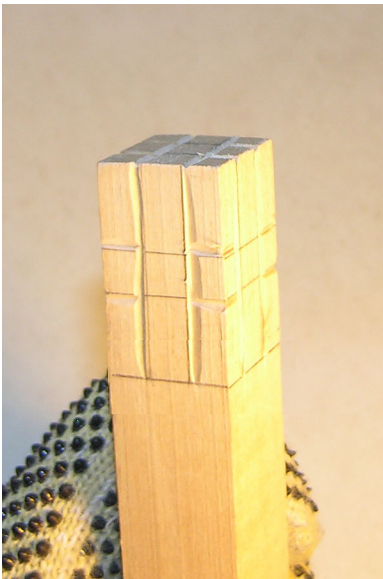
69. Draw the ribbons around the package. Take a V tool and chisel out the pencil line. Cut the ribbon in around the package.



72. Select different sticks of wood to create your packages.

Vintage Santa #2

Finished



Use a V tool to cut out the package so the ribbon is higher than the package.



Finish the present as shown.



Vintage Santa #2

Finished



Vintage Santa #3



Vintage Santa # 3 Pattern

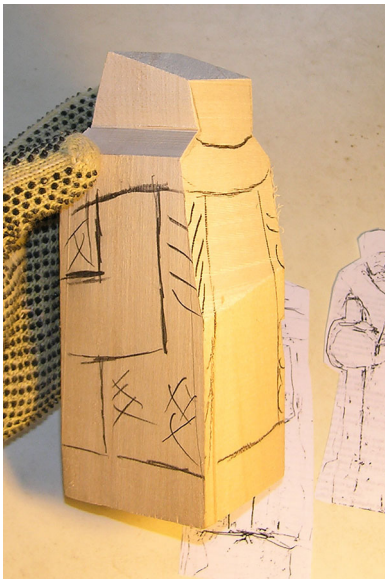




1. Cut a piece of basswood to the pattern. Draw in the arms hand, stick and lantern.



4. Cut out the lantern. Pencil in the and cut out the window panes of the lantern.



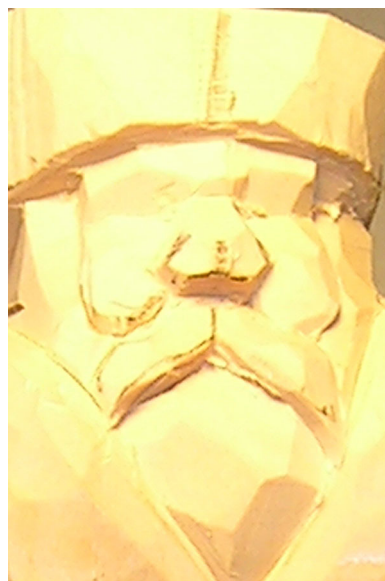
2. Block out the arms and lantern then round out body.



5. Draw a centerline down the head. Cut to a 90° angle, draw in nose eyes as shown. Cut down the nose to a stop cut and trim the mustache area to bring the nose up.



3. Block out the arms and lantern then round them out.



6. Cut out the eye sockets, round the nose, put in the mustache and put in the face as shown from the two previous step-by-step instructions.



7. Round out the hat rim. Circle in the top of the hat. Use a V tool to cut out and a knife to round out.



8. Put in the thumb and the hand and round out the rest of the body.



9. Use a V tool to chisel the fur as shown.



Vintage Santa #4



Vintage Santa # 4

Pattern

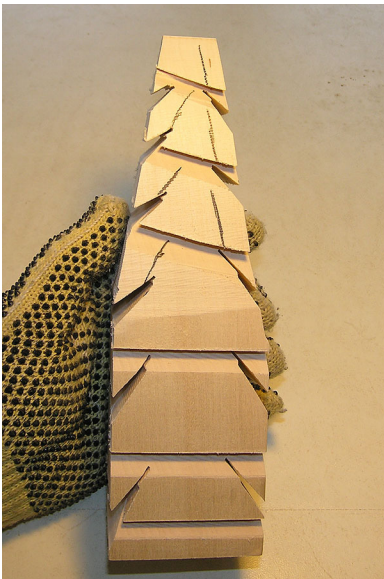




1. Take a desired size of wood and cut in the shape of a tree. Use the band saw to cut branches as shown.



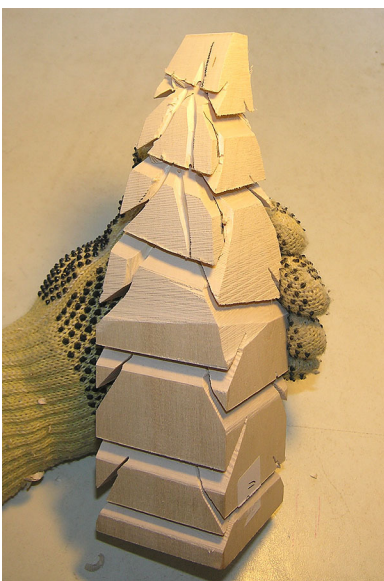
4. Make big deep cuts to bring the branches out.



2. Pencil in where the branches continue on.



5. Use scooping action to shape the branches.



3. Use a V tool to chisel out the pencil marks.



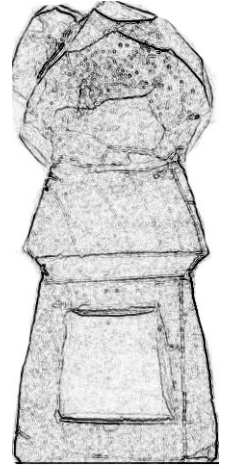
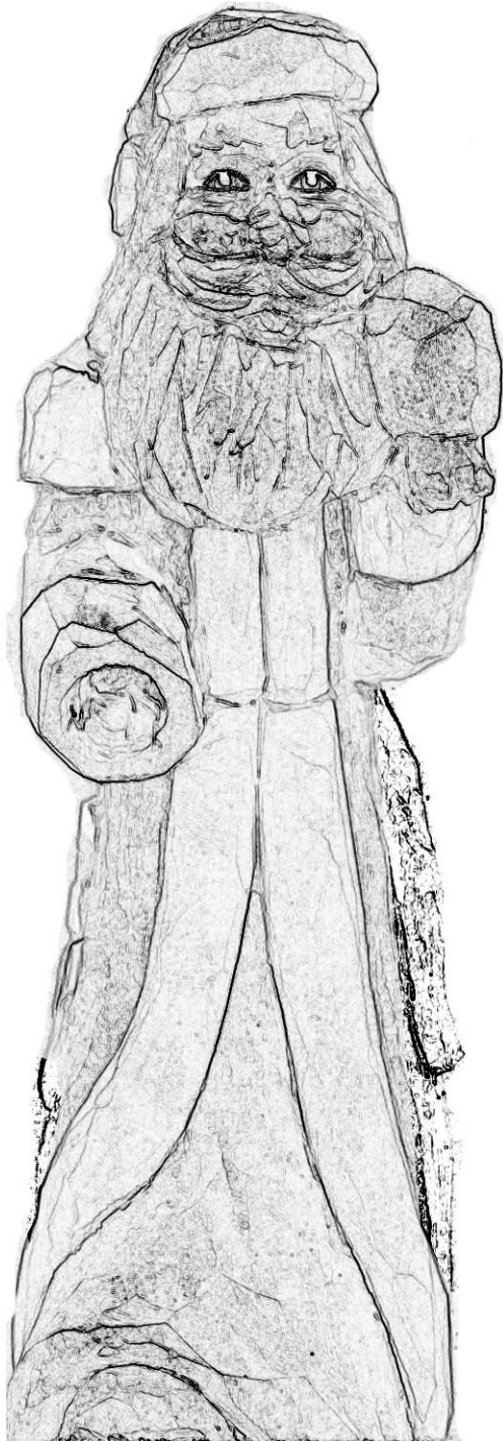
6. Use a knife or chisel to texture the tree.



Vintage Santa #5



Vintage Santa # 5 Pattern



Vintage Santa #6



Vintage Santa # 6 Pattern



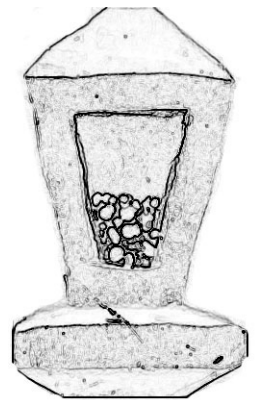
Vintage Santa #7



Vintage Santa # 7 Pattern



Bird Feeder
Pole is 1/4"
dowel 9" long.



Vintage Santa #8



Vintage Santa #8 Pattern



Vintage Santa #9



Vintage Santa # 9 Pattern

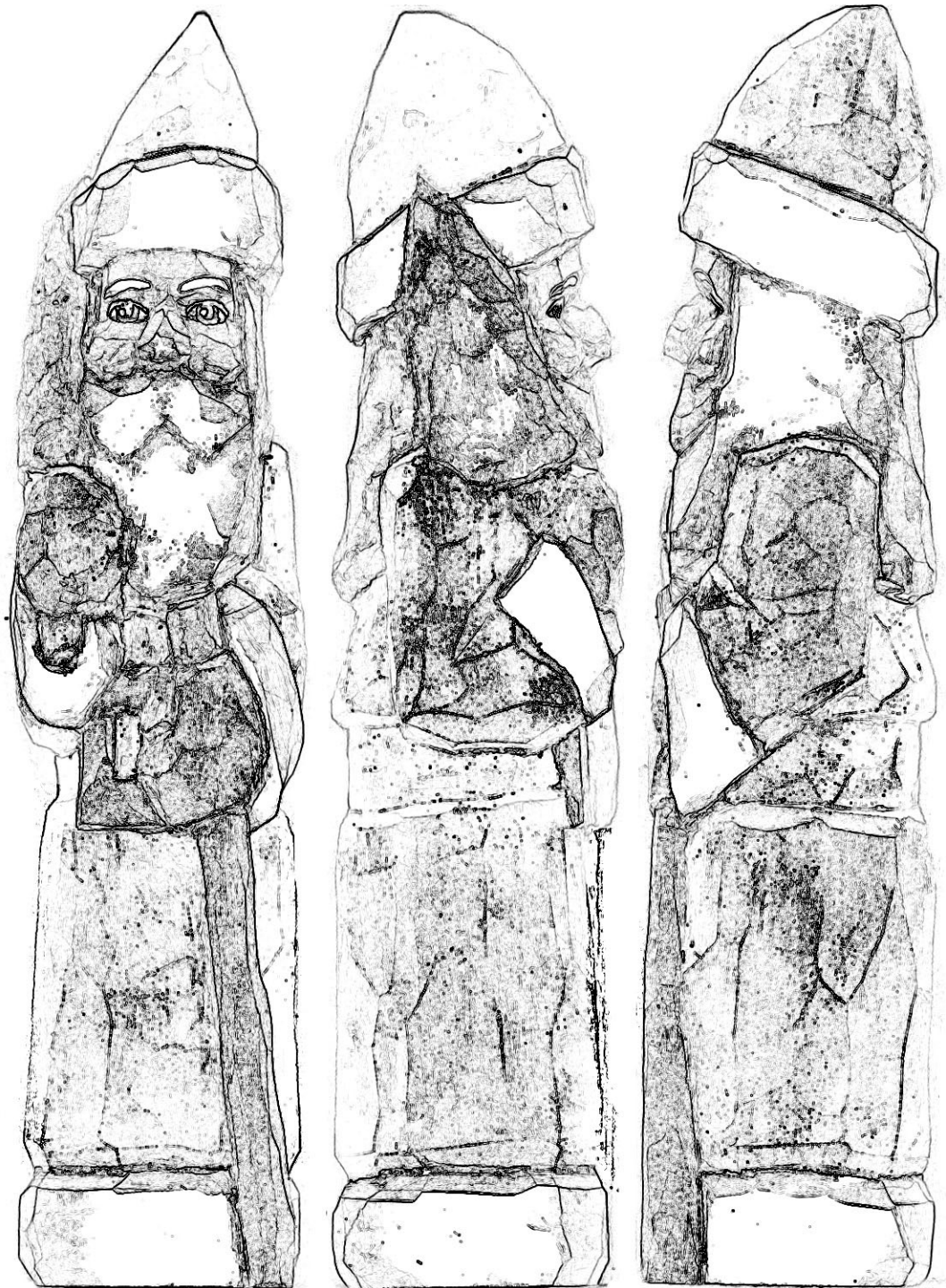


Vintage Santa #10



Vintage Santa # 10

Pattern



Vintage Santa Claus – Book Two



Carving Santa Claus Caricatures from 1880-1900



Written and Photographed by Russell Scott
www.scottcarvings.com

Russell Scott, from Minnesota, has been carving for 15 years and loves to carve Santa Claus. Santa comes in all shapes and sizes. This collection of 10 patterns was modeled after vintage Christmas postcards from the late 1800s to early 1900s. We hope you find these patterns to be imaginative and fun.

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