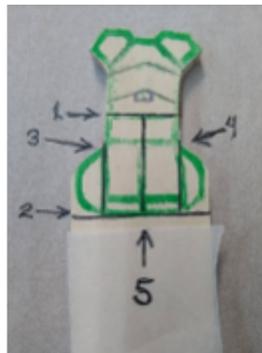
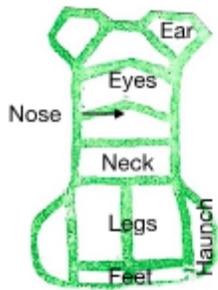


Carving a Dog from Beginning to End

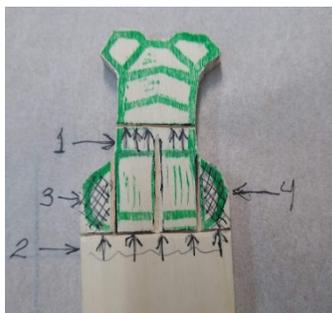
For this paper and a companion video, see www.oregoncarvers.com/tutorials.

This project is an introduction to carving for beginners requiring a single carving knife. For safety a carver's glove should be worn on the hand not holding the knife, and a sharpening tool should be used to keep the blade sharp since using a dull blade is both dangerous and difficult. Carving with only a knife is known as whittling. Since this is intended to be a first project there are added comments describing several basic knife cuts. Carving terms are highlighted by with dark lettering. The handle extending below the dog form is for safety.



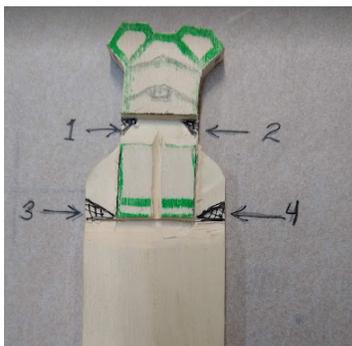
Step 1

The diagram on the left identifies named features that are used in these carving instructions. Make stop cuts at the points numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as shown in the right-hand picture. A **stop cut** is a line that has been cut into the carving that forms a border or stop point for **paring cuts**. Stop cuts are one of the basic types of cuts when carving with a knife.



Step 2

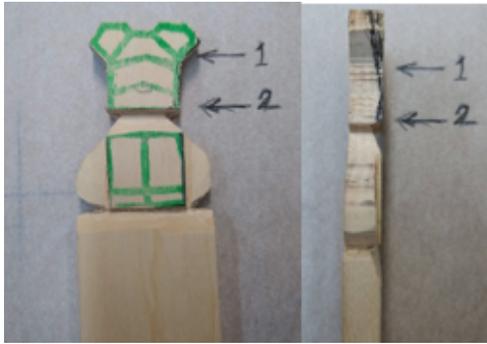
This picture shows stop cuts made in Step 1. The next cuts slice through the wood in the shaded areas, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4. This type of cut is known as a **paring cut** and can be done by either pushing or pulling the blade, also known simply as **push or pull cuts**. The wood removed from areas 1 and 2 forms a ramp that is angled down into the two stop cuts. The wood in the cross hatched areas at 3 and 4 is removed half way down, leaving those areas level and lower than the uncut surface.



Step 3

As described in Step 2 the work has removed wood to form sloping surfaces under the chin and beneath. The areas outside the two forelegs have been removed creating flat planes. The work being performed to this point is known generally as **blocking** or **roughing out** a carving. The triangular areas marked with cross hatching at points 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be removed next.

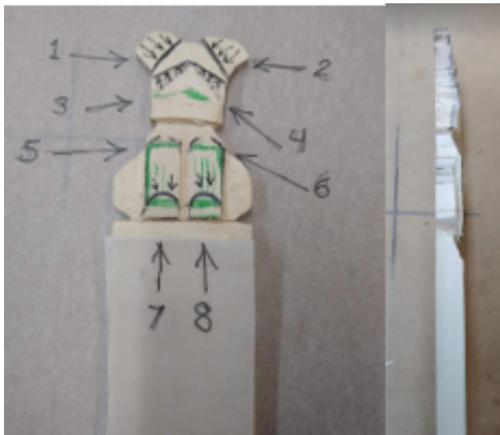
Carving a Dog from Beginning to End



Step 4

Note in the left picture that triangular pieces have been removed below the chin and at the haunches. This is the result of the cuts from Step 3. These cuts are made by using a series of stop cuts then push or pull cuts to remove slices until the triangle being formed is large enough. The picture on the right shows the wood on edge. The dark lines at points

1 and 2 mark a slope that will be carved next. This will result in the wood above the nose sloping down to the tip of the ears and the wood below the nose sloping down to the chin.



Step 5

The area around the head will now have most of the green feature lines removed as shown in the left-hand picture below. This was caused by work done sloping the head in Step 4 as shown in the right-hand picture below. This carving is done using push or pull cuts slicing very thin pieces of wood. If you feel that the wood is splintering and not carving smoothly change the direction that the knife is traveling across the wood. This is known as carving with the grain and is always the preferred method. This is a busy step. We are now going into **detailed carving** steps. Stop

cuts should be made at the base of the ears (numbered 1 and 2) and push or pull cuts into these stop cuts to lower the ears. The cuts above 3 and 4 form the brow ridges and eye sockets. These are stop cuts below the brow and push or pull cuts into those stop cuts and will form eye sockets. The push or pull cuts should be made with the point of the knife held stationary at the inner point and blade rotated through an angle on the outside to create a triangular chip. At the areas marked by numbers 5 and 6 the tops of the front legs are rounded with small push cuts. Number 7 and 8 points to the front feet and legs. Make rounded stop cuts at the top of the feet then carve down into them with a pull cut.

Step 6



The picture on the left is the carving immediately after completing step 5. The middle picture shows the carving rounded a little, sanded lightly and with facial features drawn in. The picture on the right is the carving painted with a light acrylic wash. Other ideas for the project are: removing the completed dog from the handle, adding a small staple on the back to make a hanging point for an ornament or changing the face, for example schnauzers, poodles and French bulls are very distinctive.