

THREE VERSION FACE STUDY STICK



Three Version Face Study Stick begins as a one inch square by five inch basswood block. At the top of the block establish a square by making notch cuts in the four corners on the side of the block one inch down from top. Next connect the four corner notches with a notch going across each side of the block.

A notch is formed by making two angled slicing cuts that meet at the bottom of a V trough. Slice off the top corners of the square at an angle.

On the bottom of the block slice of two corners adjacent to each other to simulate the narrowing of the sides of the face.



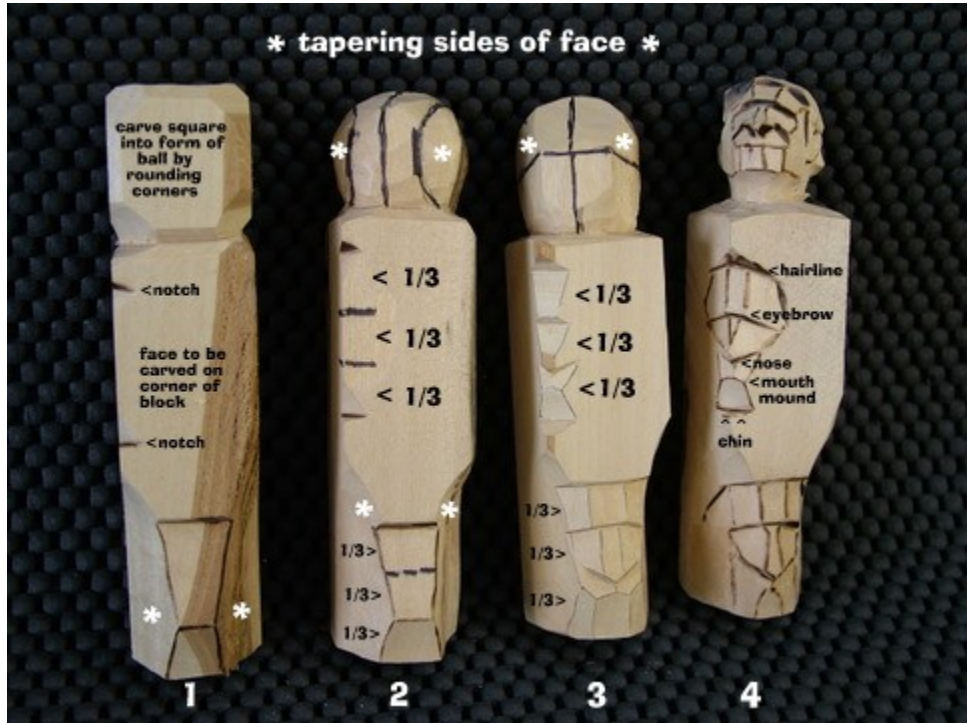
Between the square to be rounded into a ball and the sides tapered to narrow the face, cut in two notch cuts in the corner a little over an inch apart. These three steps are illustrated in the second block from the left in the first photograph.

Moving back to the square to be carved into a ball, begin to slice off each corner at an angle, top four corners and bottom four corners. An octagon or stop sign shape will begin to appear on the top and the four faces of the square. Draw a center horizontal line around the octagon shaped ball. This center line represents the equator of this ball to guide the direction of the slicing cuts. Slice up towards the imaginary North pole from the center line and down towards an imaginary South pole from the center line. Slice off the corners of the octagon shape and continue to round off corners until the form of a ball is carved.

Moving down to the bottom of the face stick where the face was narrowed, slice in a notch cut a little over an inch from the bottom to establish the hairline of the face. Divide the space between the hairline and the bottom into thirds to indicate the three divisions of the proportions of the face. The Rule of Three of Facial Proportions are: *hairline to eyebrow; eyebrow to bottom of nose; bottom of nose to bottom of chin.* At the line representing the bottom of the nose slice downward an angled cut towards the bottom of the chin. Then from the nose line slice an angled cut toward the hairline notch to begin the plane angle of the nose and forehead. This is illustrated in the third study block in the photograph.

The fourth study block on the right shows the completed study stick with three faces established with facial planes and angles. The top face is carved out of the ball to illustrate the carving of a face in the roundness of the head. The second face down is carved on the ninety degree corner to illustrate that the face does fit into a ninety degree angle and is not a flat face. The third face at the bottom carved into the narrowing of the sides of the face is to illustrate that the face is two thirds wide and three thirds long as established by the Rule of Three.

Study the next photograph carefully by looking at each block and comparing each one to the other three. The progression is left to right with the right block being the finished face study of three faces.



Number 1 in the above photograph shows the opening up of the study stick. Number two shows the ball carved to roundness along with a vertical center line and two circled lines on either side of the center line. These two circled areas are to be sliced off to illustrate the narrowing of the face. This narrowing mirrors the tapered face at the bottom of the study stick as the face flares or widens as it moves toward the back of the head.

The rest of Number 2 shows the Rule of Three divisions of facial proportions. Number 3 shows the next shaping of each of the faces. The ball has had its face narrowed with the horizontal line indicating the tip of the nose is raised up to set the stage for the face to be carved looking up slightly.

The vertical center line on the ball is drawn showing that the face will be looking slightly to its right. The use of the ball shape is to illustrate that the head can rotate sideways, up or down, or tilted

at an angle. The vertical center line helps to establish which way the head is turned and the horizontal line indicates the up or down look of the face. The face in the ball will also be divided using the Rule of Three of Facial Proportions.

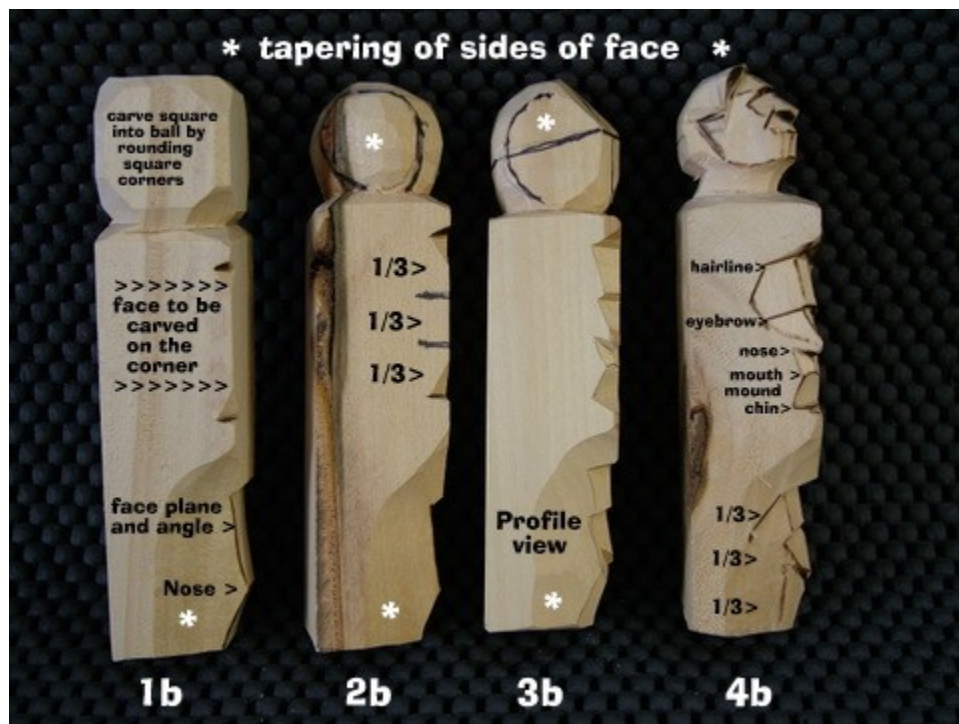
The angle and plane of the nose and forehead have been established with a slicing cut. The angle from the tip of the nose to the chin has also been established with a downward angled slicing cut.

In the center of Number 3 a face has been opened up with angled slicing cuts for each of the three divisions. A horizontal notch cut at the eyebrow, two angled notch cuts for the nose nostrils set the starting points for laying in the planes and angles of the forehead, nose, mouth mound and hairline. Compare Number 3 with Number 4 to see the development of these slicing cuts.

At the bottom of Number 3 and then compared with Number 4 the same steps were followed to lay in the planes and angles of the face according to the Rule of Three of Facial Proportions.



This photograph shows another view of the four illustrations as they look with the corner face in the middle looking straight ahead. Compare this photograph with the previous photograph.



This photograph presents a profile view for the bottom face to be compared with the previous photographs. Such a study of all the photographs together will begin to give a mental picture to guide in the carving of a Three Version Face Study Stick.

The purpose of this study stick is to carve it several times in order to learn the basic structure of the human face with its planes and angles. *“The more one carves the better one carves.”*

Once the carving of a face to this basic form becomes second nature, then the carver can move on to carving in the details of the face. But before any details can be carved a good foundation and a good form must be established. Once the proper form is established then the details fit right in very naturally.

“Would be carvers would be carvers if they would carve wood,”* is a motto to guide each carver on the *woodcarving journey.

The WOOD BEE CARVER

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