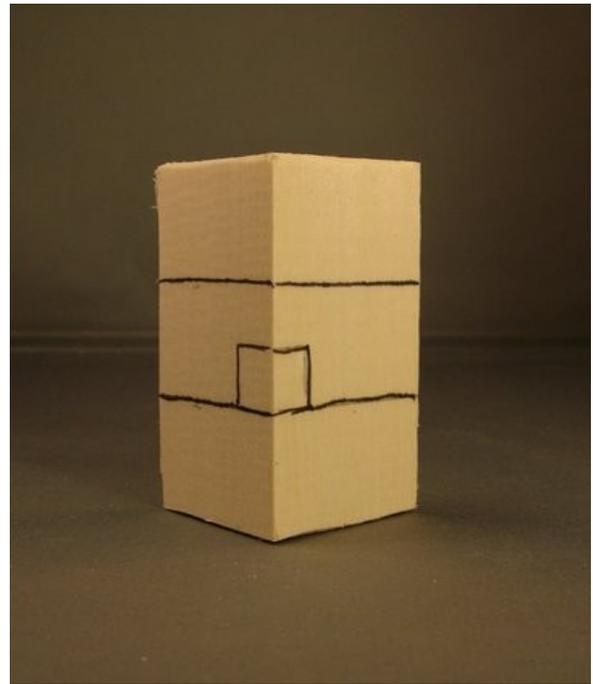
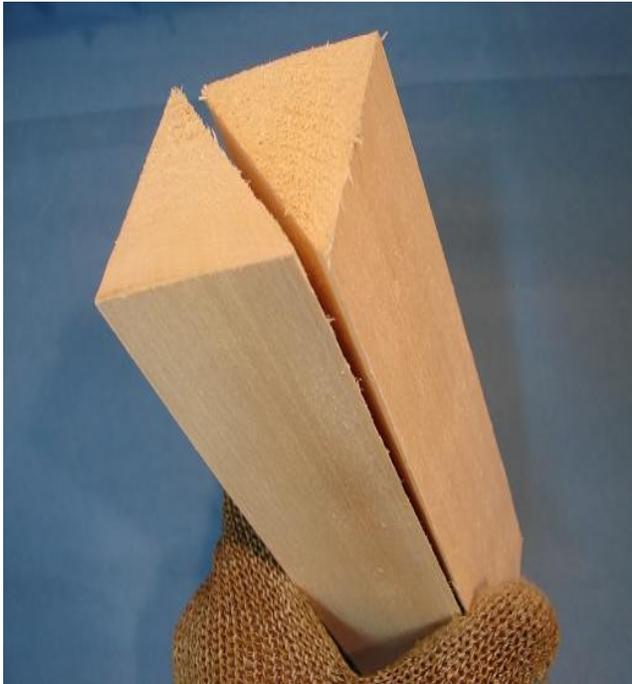


# FACE STUDY ON TRIANGLE BLOCK

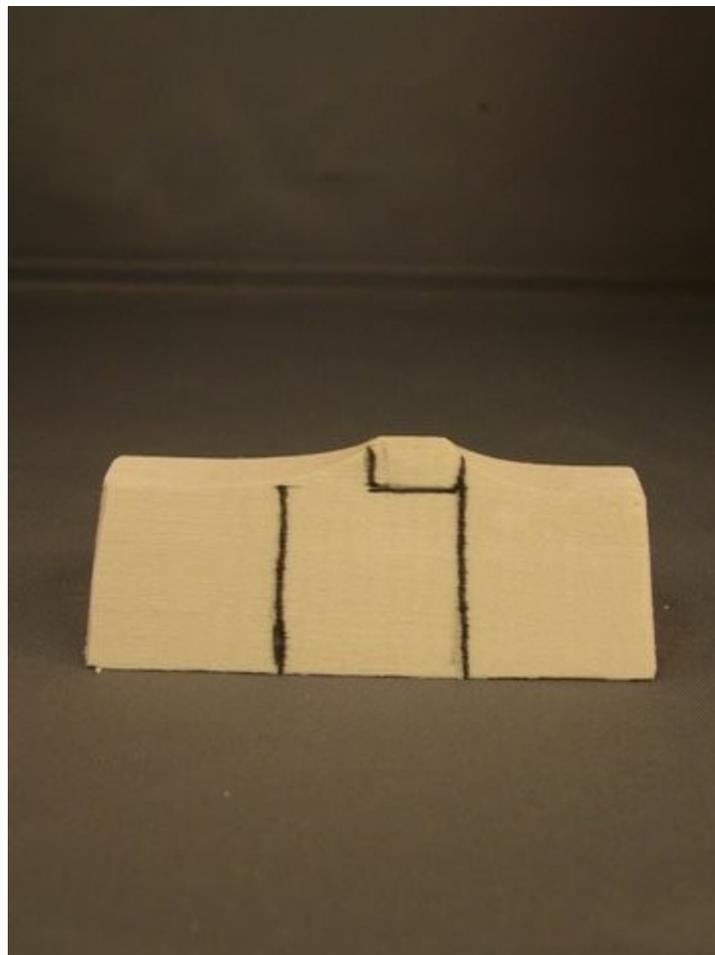


**Face Study uses a three inch tall triangle block cut from a one and half inch square block of basswood. Using the ninety degree angle of the triangle block is to symbolize the way the face angles from the tip of the nose back to the cheek bones to fit within a ninety degree angle.**

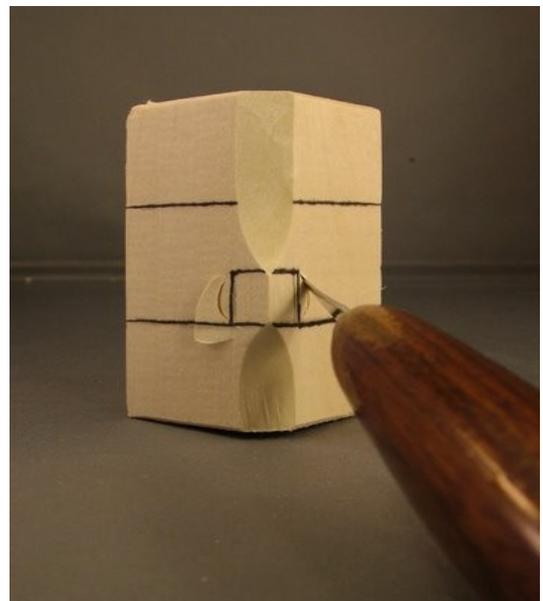
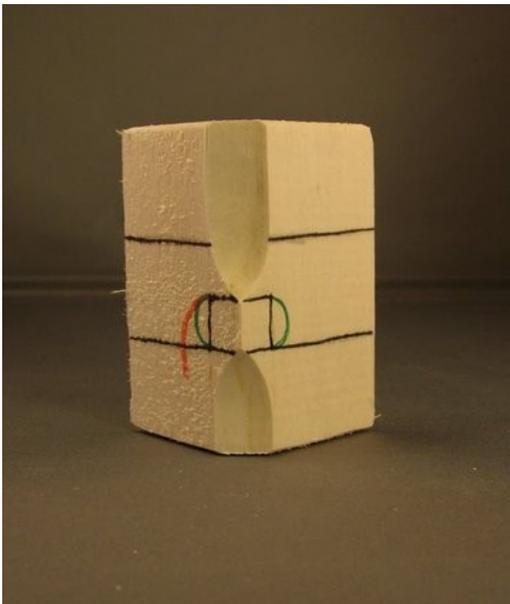
**Using the *Rule of Three of Facial Proportions* as a guide, divide the three inch tall triangle block into three equal sections of one inch increments with horizontal lines. The top division represents the hairline to eyebrow third, the middle division represents the eyebrow to bottom of nose third and the bottom division represents the bottom of nose to bottom of chin.**

**In the middle division draw a small square box with top of box half way in the middle section making the box one half inch square. This box is going to represent the ball of the nose.**

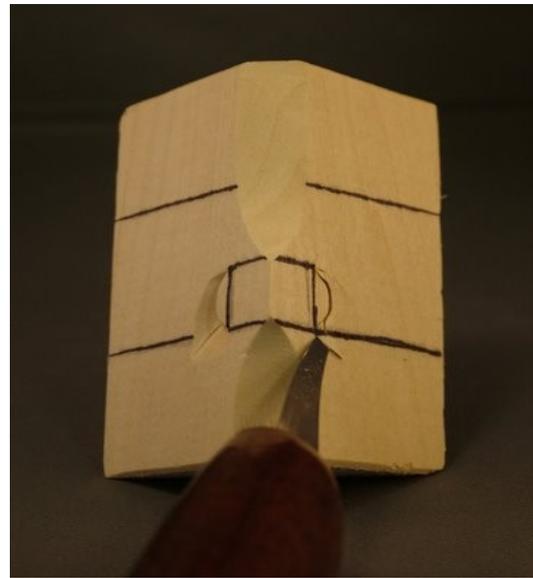
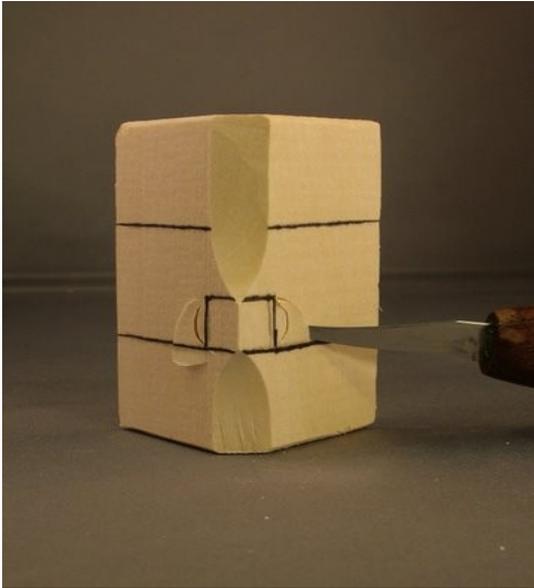
**Beginning at the top of square box, slice off the ridge of the triangle roof going the direction of the inch and a half section. Do the same under the box by slicing off the ridge of the triangle roof going the direction of the inch section as in the photograph below.**



**On either side of the square nose box draw a half circle on the outside of the box as in the photo below on the left. These half circles represents the curvature of the nostrils. On the left side of the photograph on the left there is a second line drawn that represents the smile line that begins at the top of the nostril spreading outward from nostril and ending one third of way into the bottom division.**

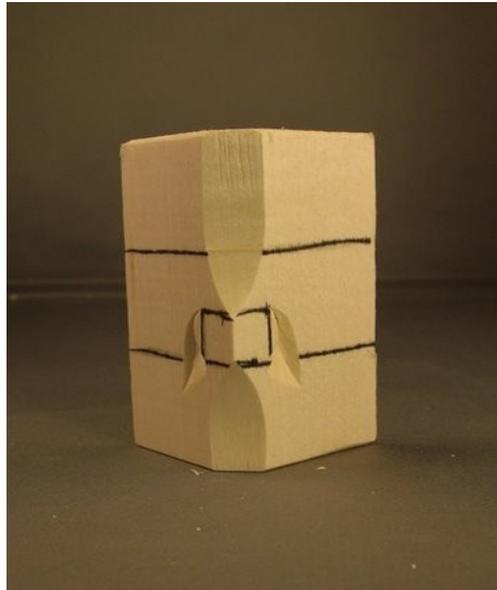


**The photograph on the right shows the knife making the first cut of a three cut triangle chip. This first cut follows the curvature of the outside of the nostril with the knife blade angled away from nostril toward the cheek area. The cut begins at the top of the outside of nostril following the half circle around with a slicing cut ending at the bottom of the nostril. *Begin slicing action before turning knife blade to eliminate bending or braking the tip of the knife blade.***



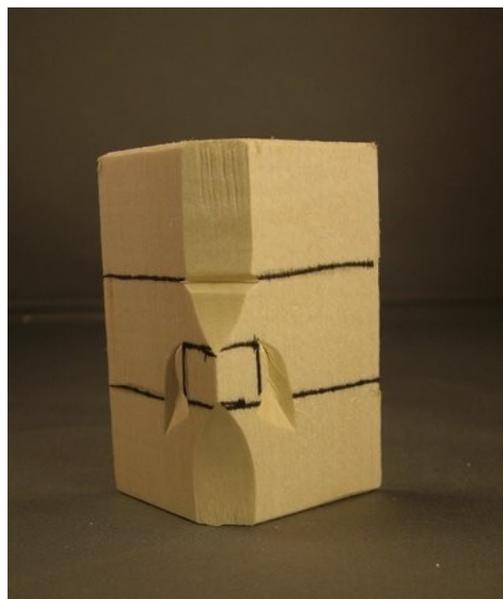
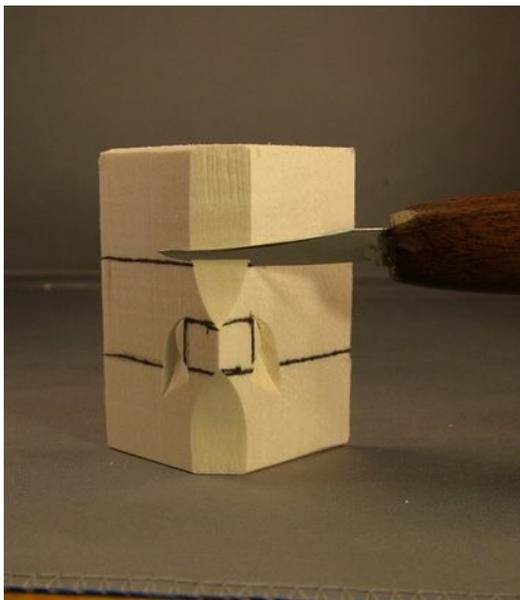
**The second cut of the three cut triangle chip begins at the top of the first cut swinging out and down with a slicing cut angling in towards the bottom of the first cut and ending one third of the way in the bottom division. The photograph on the left above shows this second cut being made.**

**The third cut removes a triangle chip by slicing up from where the first two cuts ended and slicing to the bottom of the two cuts as seen in the photograph on the right.**

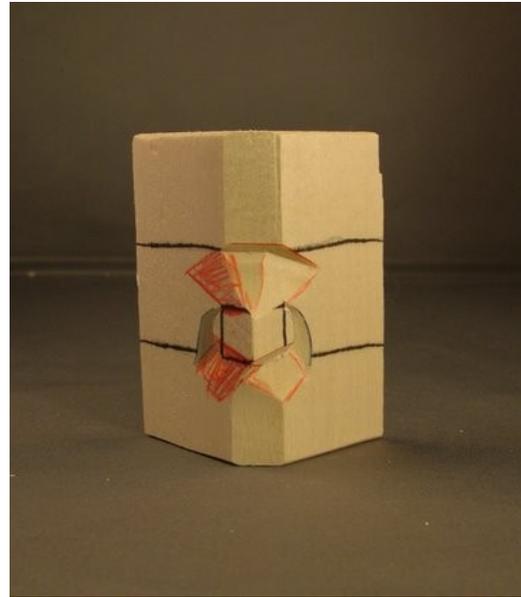
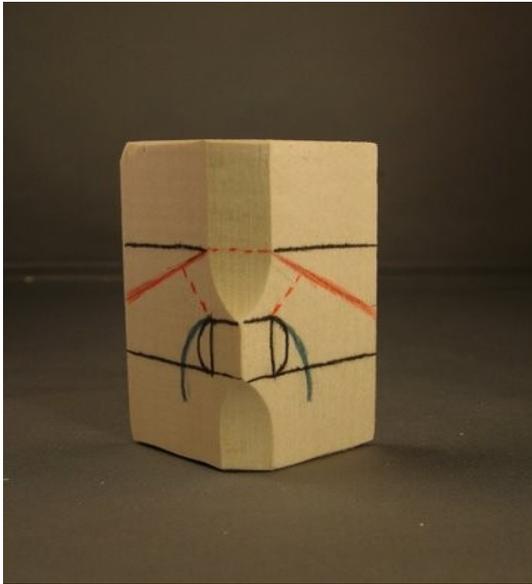


**The results are seen in the photograph above. Next a notch is cut across the top line where the bridge of the nose and eye brow intersect. A notch is made with two angled slicing cuts that meet at the bottom as a trough or groove.**

**The next two photographs show the notch being cut in left photograph and the finished notch in the right photograph.**



**Study the next photograph on the left which is a review of the nostril and smile line drawings. The dash line across the top horizontal line represents the notch cut just made and the two angled lines down from that notch represents the angle of the bottom of the eyebrow notches.**



**Compare that photograph with the one on the right that shows the angled notch underneath the eyebrow and the angled notch underneath the nostril on the right side has been carved while the left side the shaded areas indicate what needs to be sliced away to match the right side.**

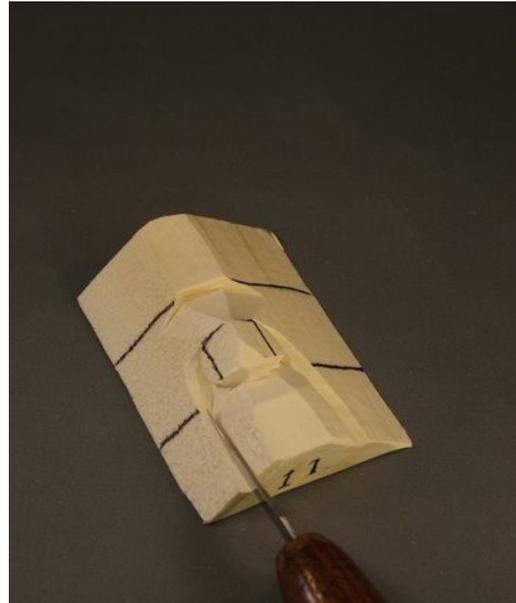
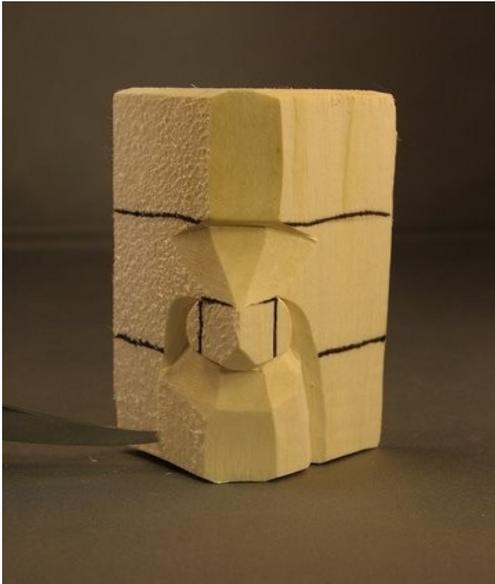
**The angle notch cut underneath the eyebrow and above the square of the nose ball represents where the eye will be carved.**

**Study the area underneath the angled notch cut of the nostril in the photograph on the right, both the shaded area on the left and the carved area on the right. The first cut slices the bottom of nostril at an angle while the second cut begins one third of the way down in the bottom division and slices up to the first cut. These cuts are setting one half of nose back on the dental curve as well as establishing the apex of the mouth mound. The mouth mound begins one third of the distance between the nose and the bottom of chin. The apex of the mouth mound is the upper lip.**

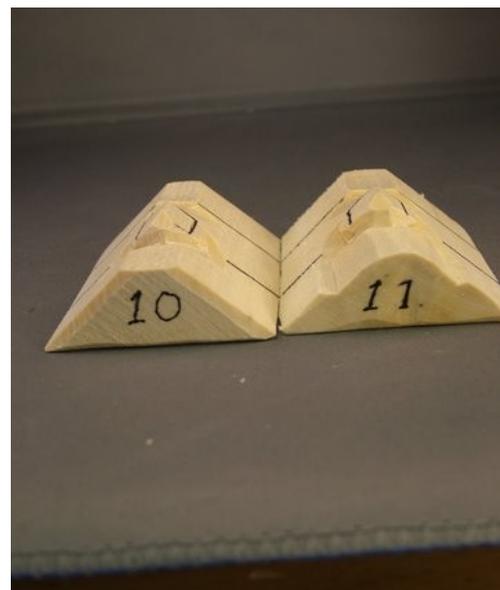


**These three illustrations in the photograph above show the progression of the smile line, dental barrel and mouth mound. Notice that the mouth mound is one third of distance below the nose.**

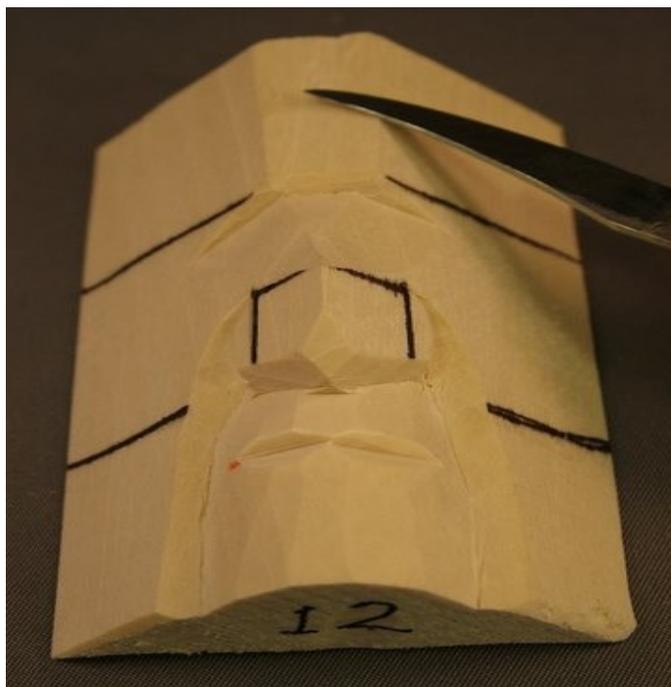
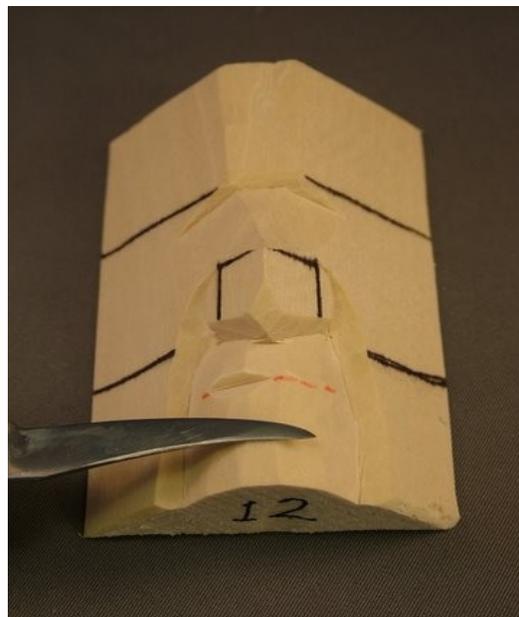
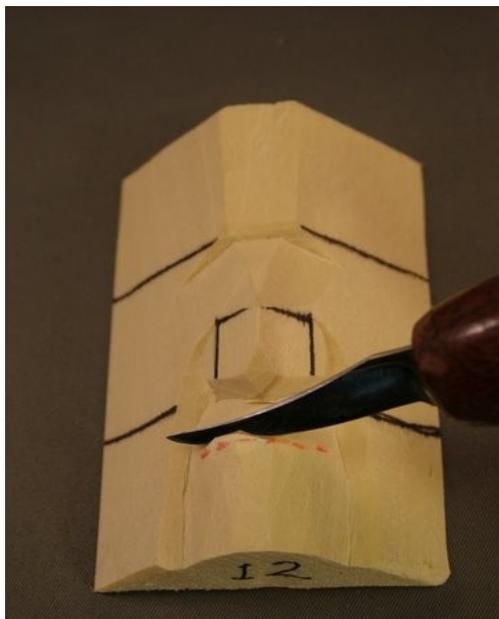
**The mouth mound represents the top of the upper lip.**



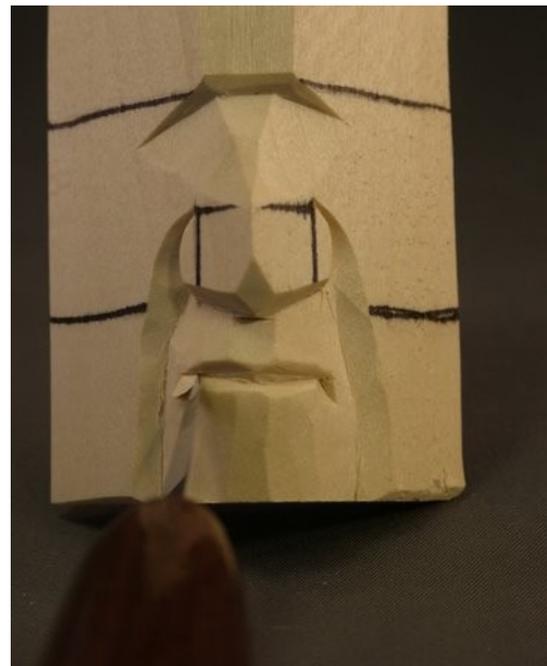
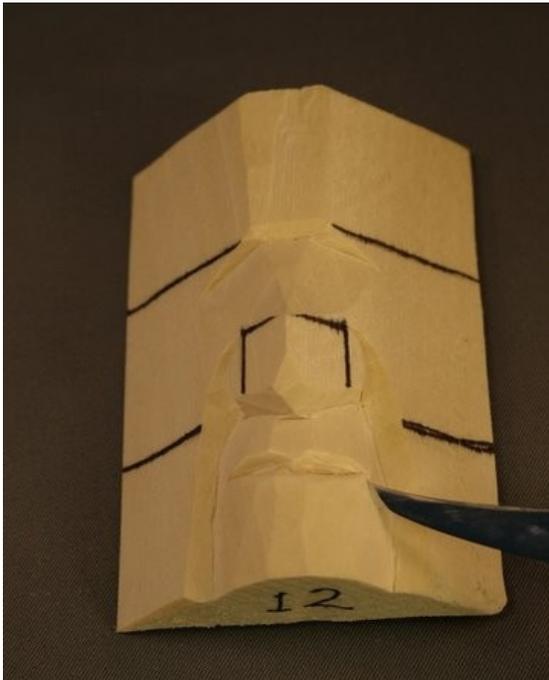
**These two photographs show the extending of the smile line and shaping of the dental barrel. The one on the left shows the first cut extending the smile line while the photograph on the right shows the second cut to meet the previous stop cut of the smile line.**



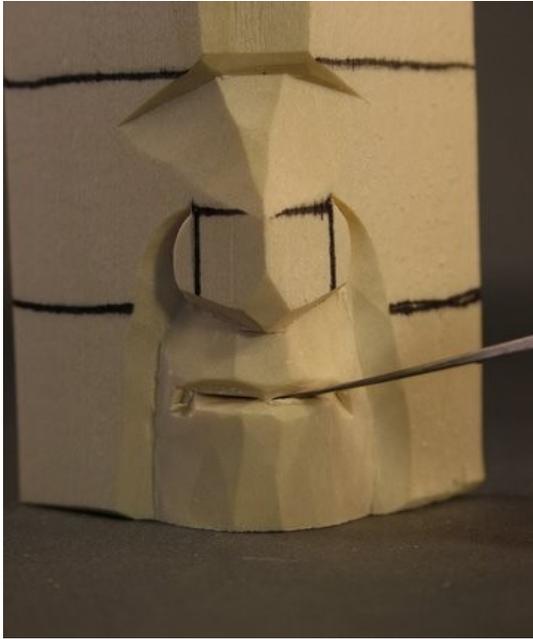
**These two proceeding photographs show the before and after of shaping the dental barrel. The one of the left in each photograph is the before phase while the one of the right in each photograph shows the after phase result.**



**These three proceeding photographs show the progression for carving the lip and mouth opening. First a line is drawn across the mouth mound on third of the distance down from nose. The first cut is a slicing angled cut beginning at the center of the mouth slicing to the outside corner. The second cut slices up to the first cut to form a groove. Both procedures are repeated for the other side of the mouth with the end result in the third photograph.**



**The outside corner of the mouth is carved with a slicing stop cut coming down at an angle from the outside corner of mouth as in left photograph. The second cut slices out a little triangle wedge as illustrated in the right photograph.**

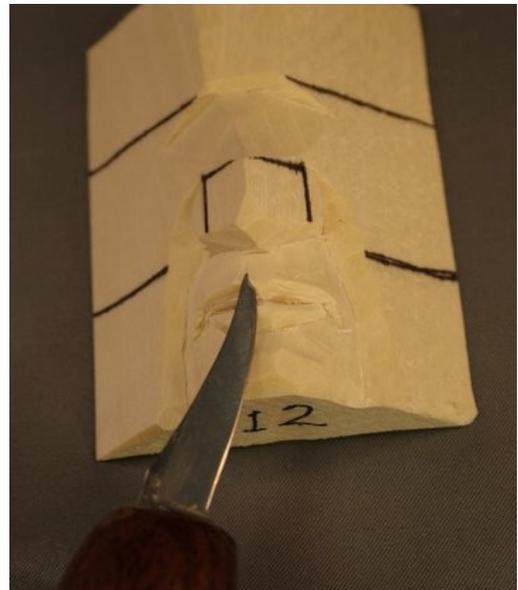
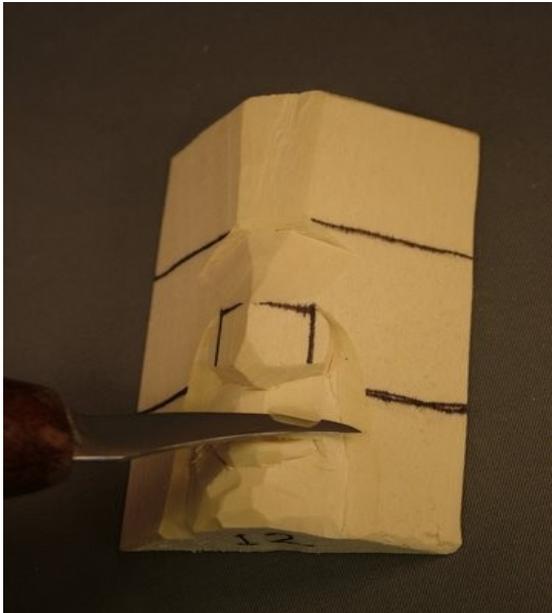


**A separation between the the lips is carved on either side of where the center of the upper lip touches the center of the bottom lip. This is done with a perpendicular stop cut followed by a second cut at a slight angle to the first cut to remove a small sliver of wood to create a shadow.**

**The photograph on the right shows the bottom of the bottom lip being shaped with notch cuts.**

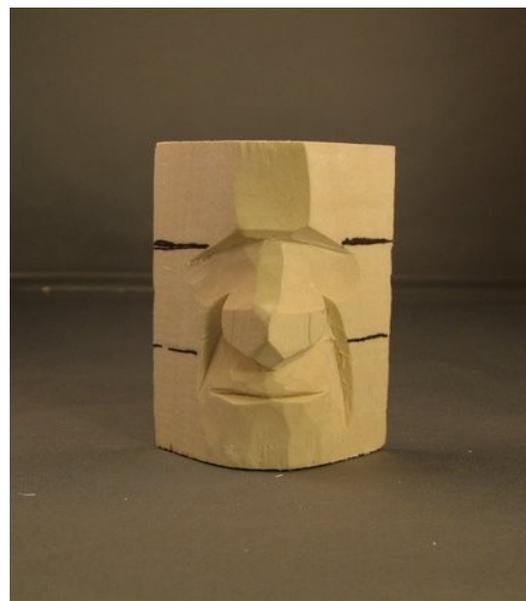
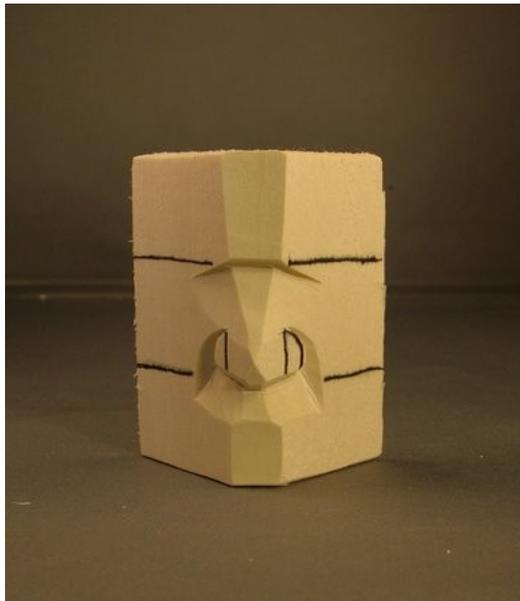
**Right above the upper lip on either side of the center a slicing rolling cut is made to create a shallow valley. The septum is created with a slicing cut of the cutting edge of the knife slicing forward as if it was like an ice skate with a twisting action.**

**The next two photographs show both procedures being done.**



**The end result is illustrated in the photograph above.**

**The next four photographs show the progressive development of the facial features. Study the facial proportions as well as the profile to see how the nose is positioned with one half on dental curve and one half off the face. Notice also that the pointed tip of nose has been sliced off.**



**This Face Study covers the steps in positioning the eyebrows, nose, mouth, smile line and chin in order to have a good foundation to carve the eyes which will be covered in an Eye Study document to supplement this Face Study.**

**Keep in mind that the purpose of the Face Study is to help the carver begin to “see” how to carve a face to the basic form within proper facial proportions.**

**Once the carver “sees” where to go, then these mechanical steps, guidelines and verbal descriptions will become second nature. The carver will simply use the results of the various cuts to achieve the same purpose of this Face Study.**

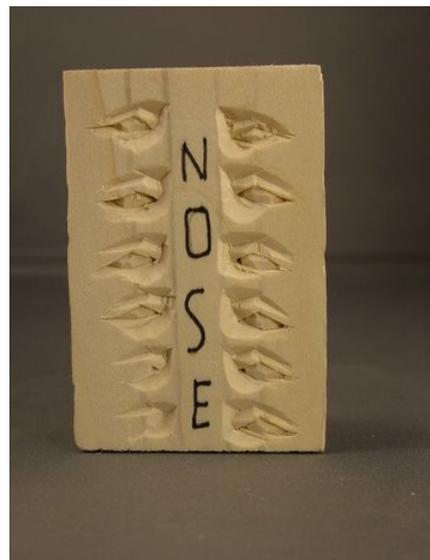
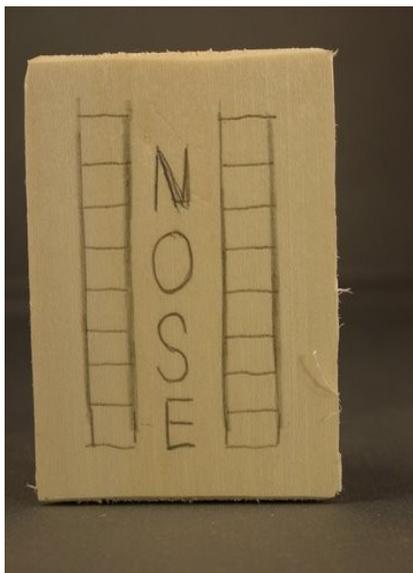
***“Woodcarving is more the journey than the destination,” so enjoy the journey.***

**The WOOD BEE CARVER  
DONALD K. MERTZ  
729 Prairie Road  
Wilmington, Ohio 45177  
937-382-8287  
[www.woodbeecarver.com](http://www.woodbeecarver.com)**

# EYE STUDY – KNIFE CUTS

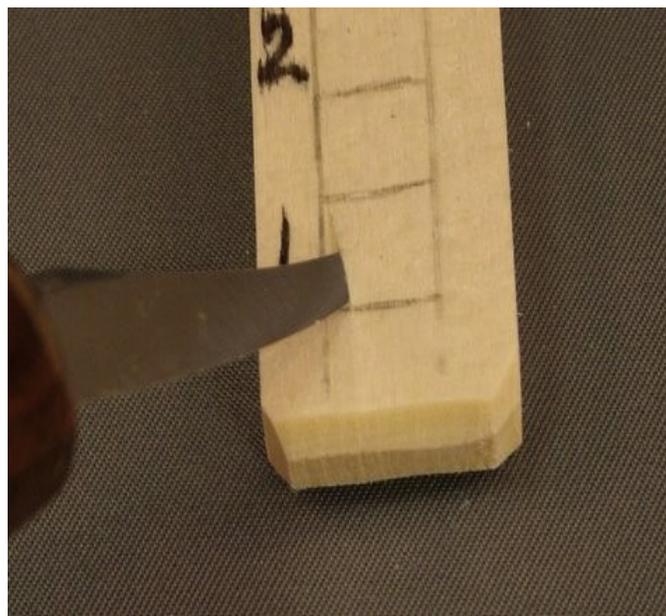
**EYE STUDY** is an exercise in one way to carve eyes using only knife cuts. As an exercise it means to practice these procedures over and over again until they become second nature. Once again it is a matter of being able to “see” an eye being carved before it is carved so that it becomes automatic rather than mechanical in nature.

**On the back of the triangle face practice block, lay out two ladder grids like in the photograph below on the left. The photograph on the right shows the results of repeated practice of carving eyes with knife cuts.**



**The ladder grid is made up of eight quarter inch squares drawn on the back of the triangle face block from the Face Study exercise. The practice eye is carved in every other box with the other box forming the space in between the practice eyes. The space in between the two ladder grids represents the nose so that one can carve a left and right practice eye.**

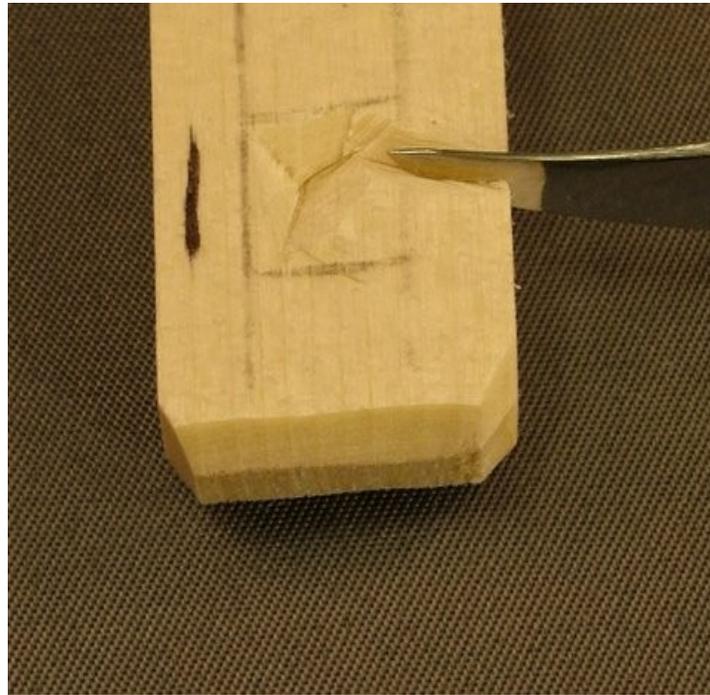
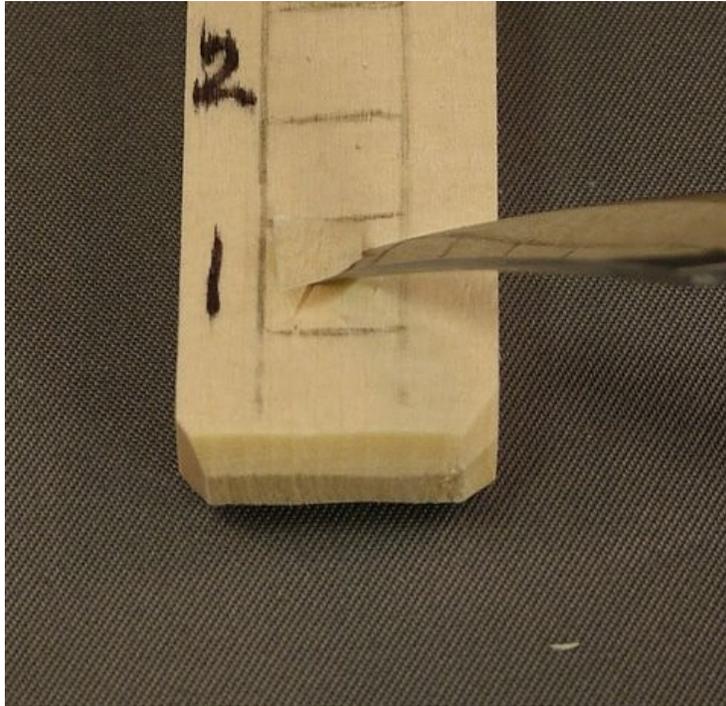
**The first step is to carve the inside corner of the eye mound with three cut triangle chip cuts. The first cut begins at the junction of the bridge of the nose and the bottom of the eyebrow slicing down following the outward angle of the nose as well as the downward angle of the nose as in the photograph below.**



**The second cut of the three cut triangle chip cuts across the bottom of the eyebrow beginning where the first cut began. This second cut is also sliced at an angle with the deepest cut being where the two cuts meet.**

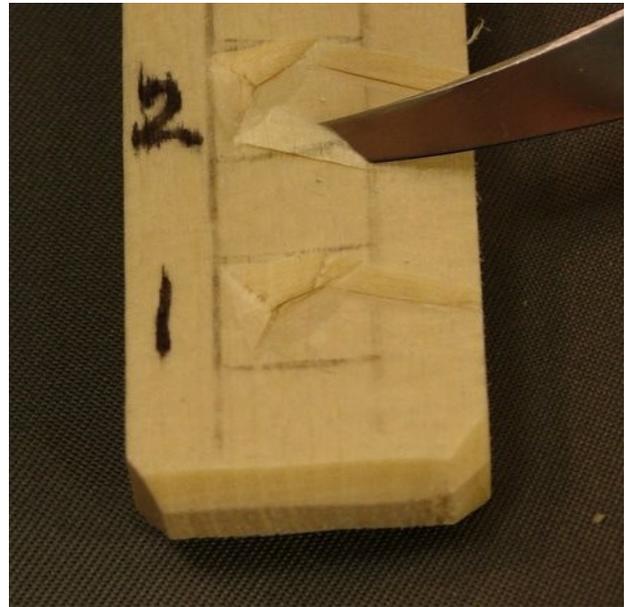
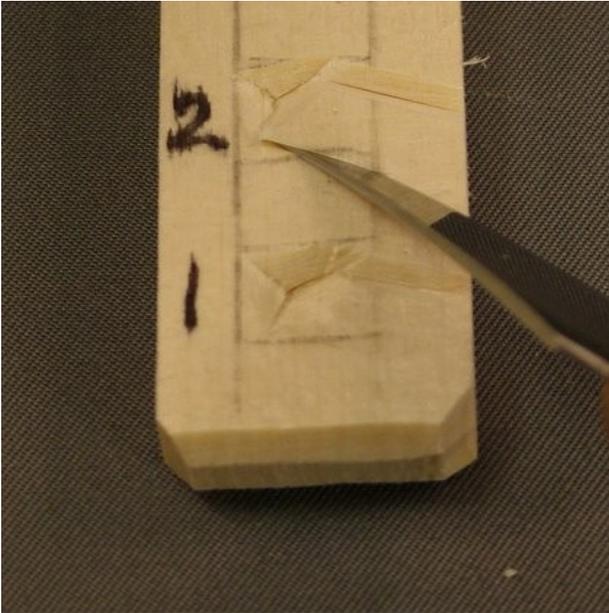


**The third slicing cut begins where the first cut ended, slicing over to the end of the second cut while slicing towards where the two cuts first began. The next photograph shows the third cut being made followed by another photograph of the end result and the extension with notch cut of the bottom of the eyebrow to set up for the eye mound.**

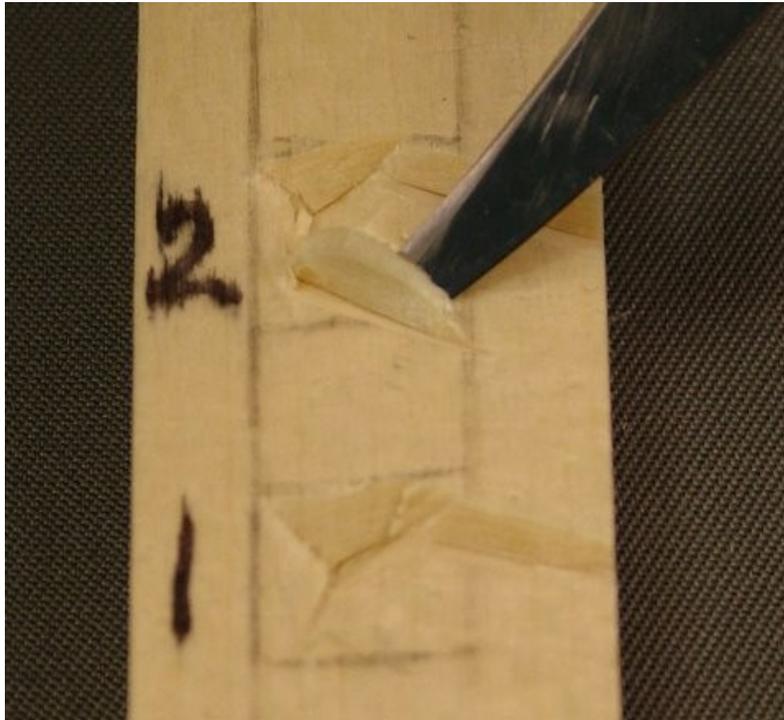


**This second photograph also shows a notch being carved to extend the bottom of the eyebrow at an angle over to the side of the eye mound.**

**The next photograph with illustration number 2 shows the eye mound as carved in the previous illustration and is slicing the first cut of a notch for one half of the bottom of the eye mound. The second photograph shows the second cut of the notch.**



**The result of the notch cut for the bottom half of the eye mound.**

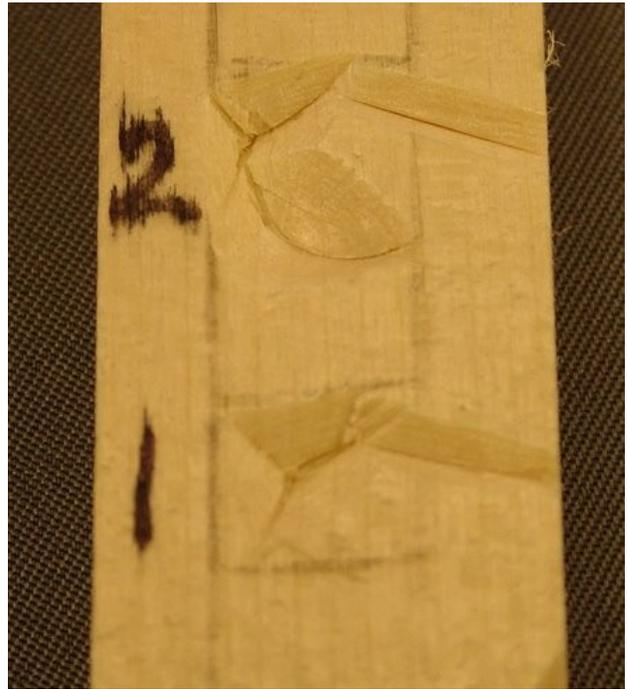
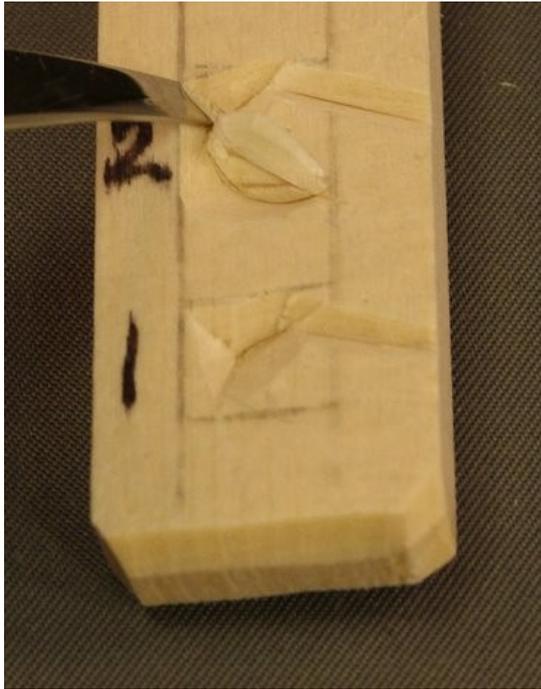


**The next step is to slice the facet or flat surface of the previous notch cut making it a little larger. In the same slicing action cause the point of the blade to slice into the side of the nose and into the cheek area below the eye mound.**

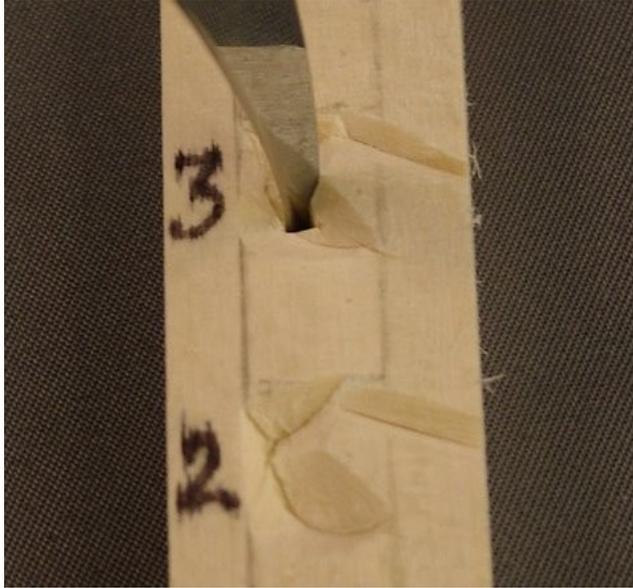
**This will prepare for the next crucial cut that will create a soft transition of the area of the nose and cheek that frame in the inside corner of the eye mound.**

**Begin the slicing cut at the half way point of the bottom of the eye mound, making an arching slicing cut following the curve of the inside of the eye mound along the cheek and**

**side of the nose ending up at the junction of the bridge of the nose and eye brow. Study the next two photographs to follow the cut and see the end result.**

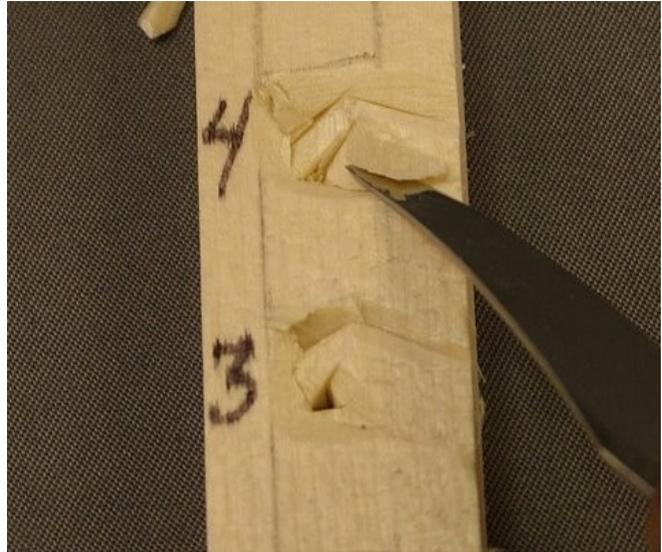
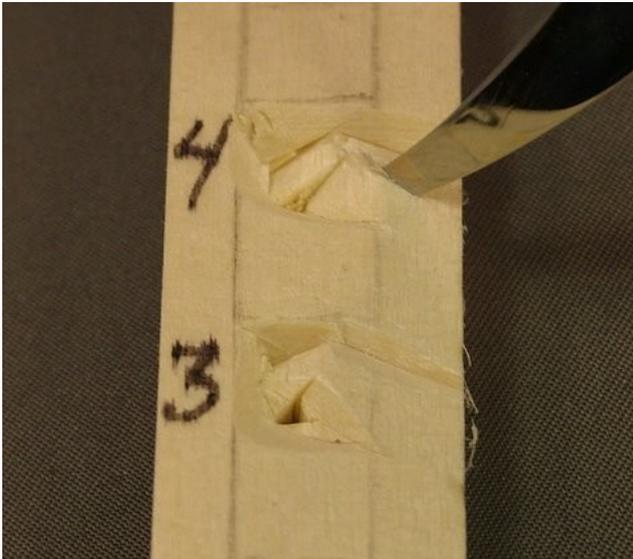


**The next step is to cut in a tear duct with a three cut triangle chip. The first cut goes up at a 45 degree angle towards the center of the eye mound. Second cut goes straight across the bottom towards the outside of the eye mound. The third cut removes the triangle chip. This is a very small triangle chip because it represents the tear duct. Extend the first cut at a 45 degree angle as a stop cut about one third the distance of the eye mound. Illustration number 3 shows this step.**

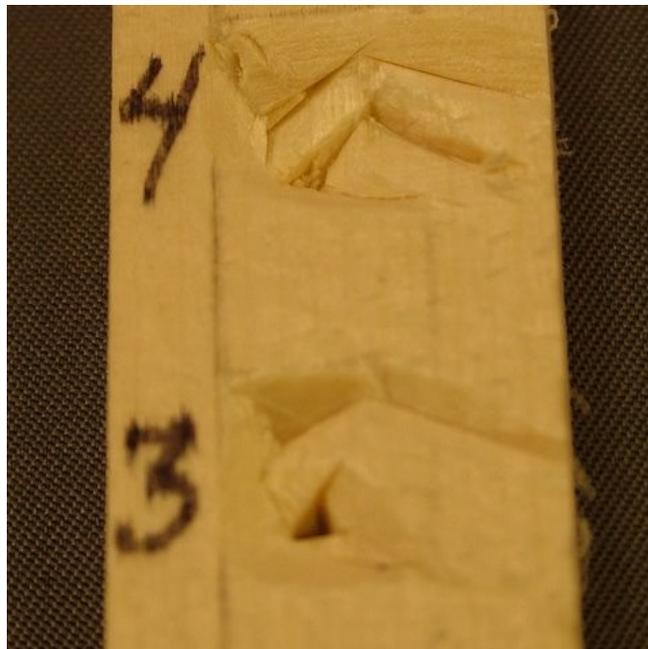


**Illustration number 4 shows a slicing cut beginning at the tear duct and bottom of the eye mound and slicing up to the stop cut in the previous step. This cut creates one third of the upper eye lid and one third of the eye ball.**

**The next two photographs show a stop cut finishing the upper eye lid followed by a slicing cut from cheek area to the stop cut to set the eye ball underneath the eyelid.**

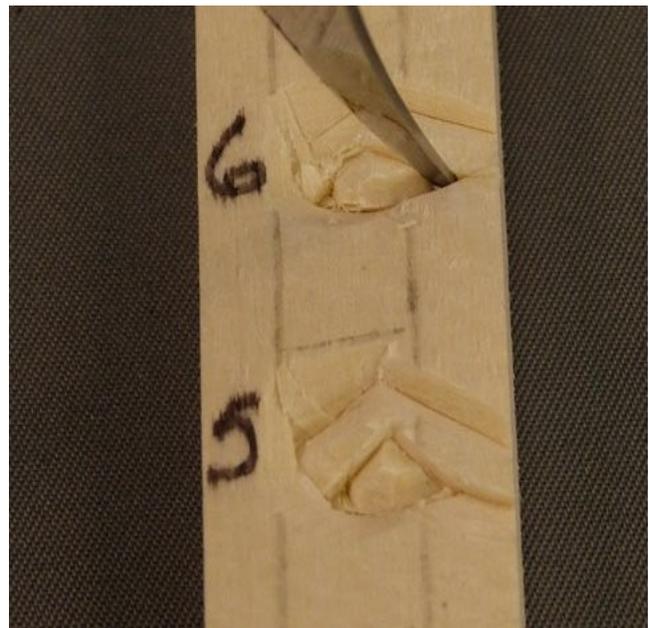
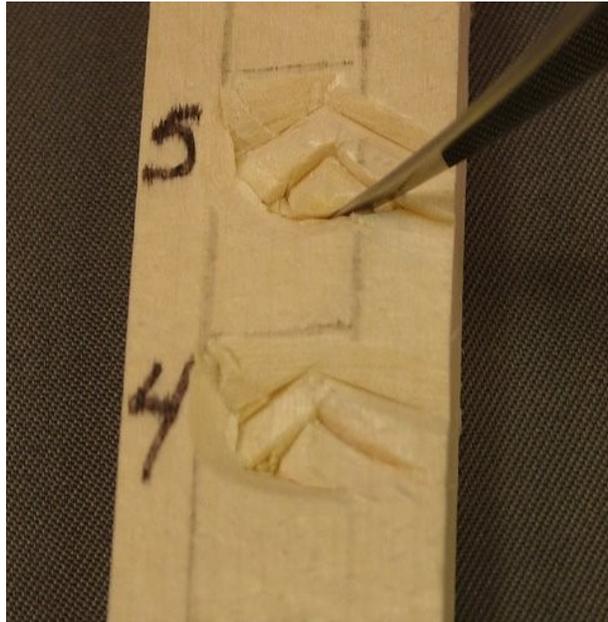


**The next photograph will show the result of the upper eye lid and eye ball established.**

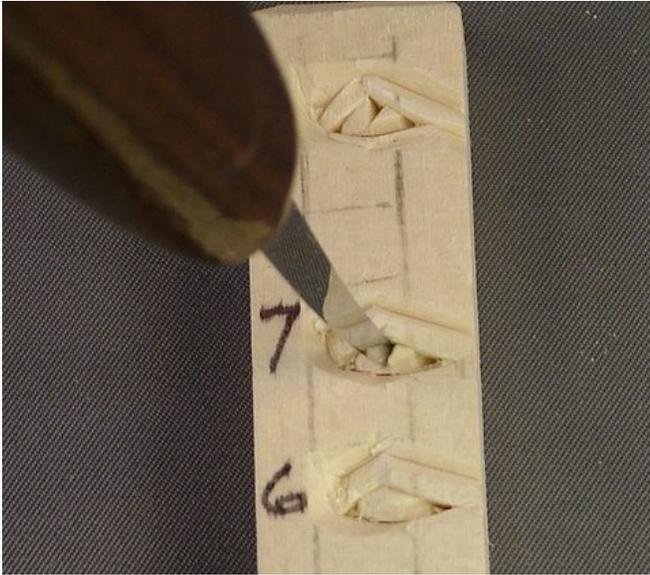


**The bottom eye lid is carved with a stop cut beginning in the tear duct, slicing across in almost a straight line ending under the upper eye lid at the outside corner of the eye. This**

**is followed by a slicing cut down from the eye ball area to the stop cut to set the eye ball underneath the bottom eye lid.**



**Illustration number 5 shows the bottom eye lid being carved. Illustration number 6 shows the next step of carving a very small triangle chip in the outside corner of the eye underneath where the upper and bottom eye lids meet. This creates an appearance of roundness to the eye ball.**



**Illustration number 7 shows a very small triangle chip being carved to simulate the pupil of an eye by the shadow it creates.**

**The final photograph shows a completed practice eye.**

**The secret to carving eyes or any other aspect of carving is to practice, practice and practice. What practice does is to help the carver become so familiar with the carving process that it becomes almost second nature.**

***“The more one carves the better one carves,”***  
is a truism of experience. The only way a  
carver will learn to carve eyes or any other  
aspect of carving, sharpening or applying  
finish is to do it. Do it over and over again.  
Woodcarving is a “learn by doing” experience  
so the more one carves the more one learns.

**Donald K. Mertz  
729 Prairie Road  
Wilmington. Ohio 45177  
937-382-8287  
[www.woodbeecarver.com](http://www.woodbeecarver.com)**