

WHITTLE FOLK 'POKES



STEPS IN OPENING UP A WHITTLE FOLK 'POKE

- > Begin with a 1 and ½ square by six inch tall block of basswood.
- > Round off the corners on the top into a dowel shape.
- > Draw a center line in the direction the Poke is to be looking.
- > Carve the hat first and then the head going up into the hat.
- > Continue to shape the head to the basic form.



Carve a notch on all four sides at the bottom to establish a base about $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch all around.

> Once the form of the head is carved divide the remaining block into Rule of Three for Body Proportions:

- Shoulder to Waist is one third;
- Waist to Mid Knees is one third;
- Mid Knees to Bottom of Feet is one
One third.

Draw the basic outline of the cowpoke on all four sides of the block as a guideline.



Compare the two Pokes with the one on the left has hat carved with basic form of head carved and guideline drawings for visual perception.

The one on the right has the entire Poke carved to its basic form.

“Form follows function, Detail follows form,” so the carving is carved first to its basic form before any details are carved into the foundation of the form.



A side profile view to visually study the basic form of a Poke inside the block of wood.

Notice that the pistol and holster have been carved almost to final detail as an illustration that going from basic form to finished details is done in small increments.

Carving in the round means to carve all around the carving rather than carving only in one section in order to keep carving symmetrical.

Carving to basic form is like baking a cake. Carving in the details is putting icing on the cake. Putting icing on a half baked cake would be like trying to carve details before there is a proper foundation of the basic form.



Three examples of Pokes in progressive steps. The one on the left is carrying a saddle bag over left arm while right hand is leaning on lever action rifle. The one in the middle has left hand thumb in belt and right hand holding onto the vest. The one on the right has a hat with upturned brim with head carved to basic form fitting into the hat and Rule of Three guidelines drawn around square block. Study the three different shapes of the hats.



Three Pokes all dressed up in their colors of artist oil paint mixed with boiled linseed oil.







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