

# Wood Spirit Carving Tutorial

<http://bladesandbushlore.com/index.php?topic=1914.0>

<https://youtu.be/OSTVrABZPnk>

First you will need some wood a limb or log your choice. I like mine to be about 3/4" to 1 1/2" round. Good walking stick size. The species I will be working with is Sycamore.

A strop. Strop a lot and carve a little.

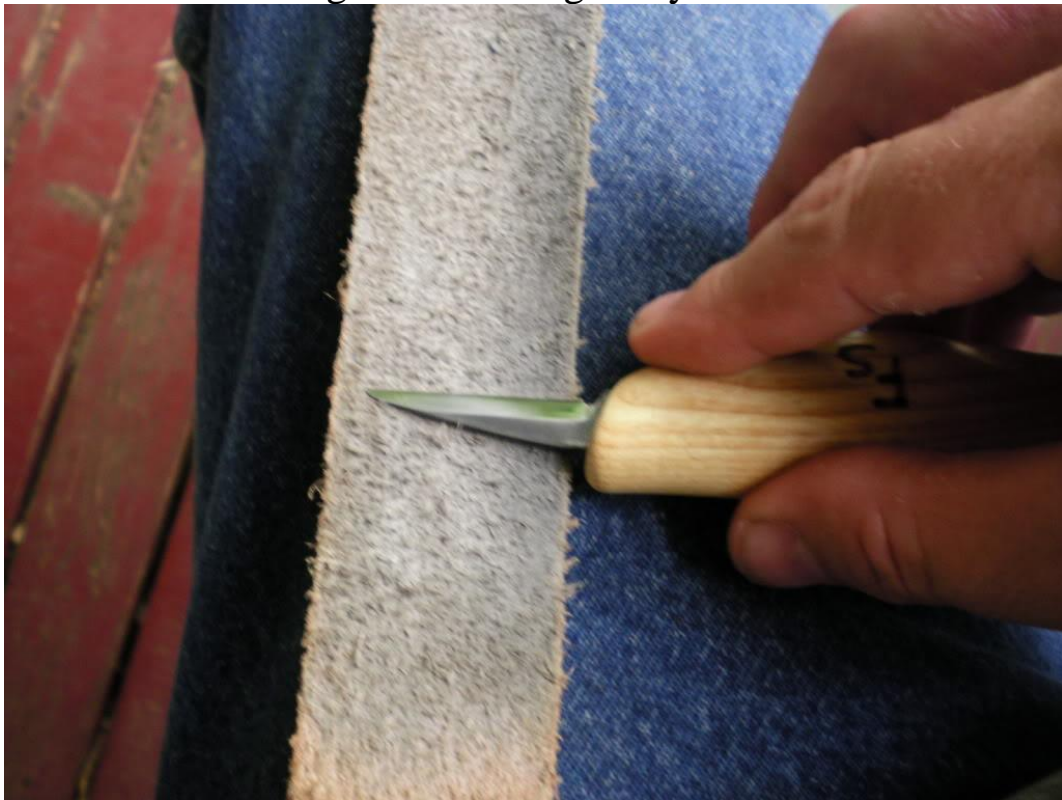
A knife. Mine is a Flexcut detail carving knife, but you can use a box knife, pocket knife, or a fixed blade you can safely hang on to while working small.

A good old fashioned pencil.

Not pictured, but highly recommended is a carving glove for your wood holding hand. Kevlar is preferred, but a good heavy leather glove will offer some oops protection.



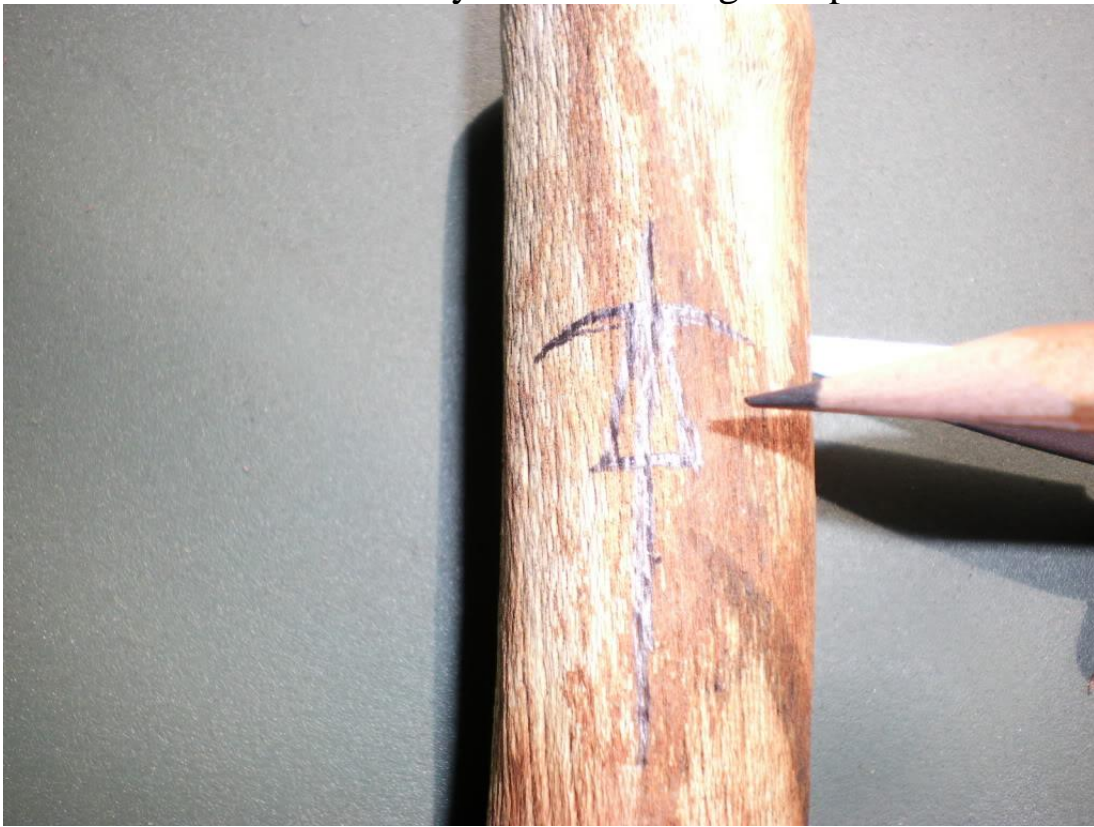
Get a good clean edge on your knife



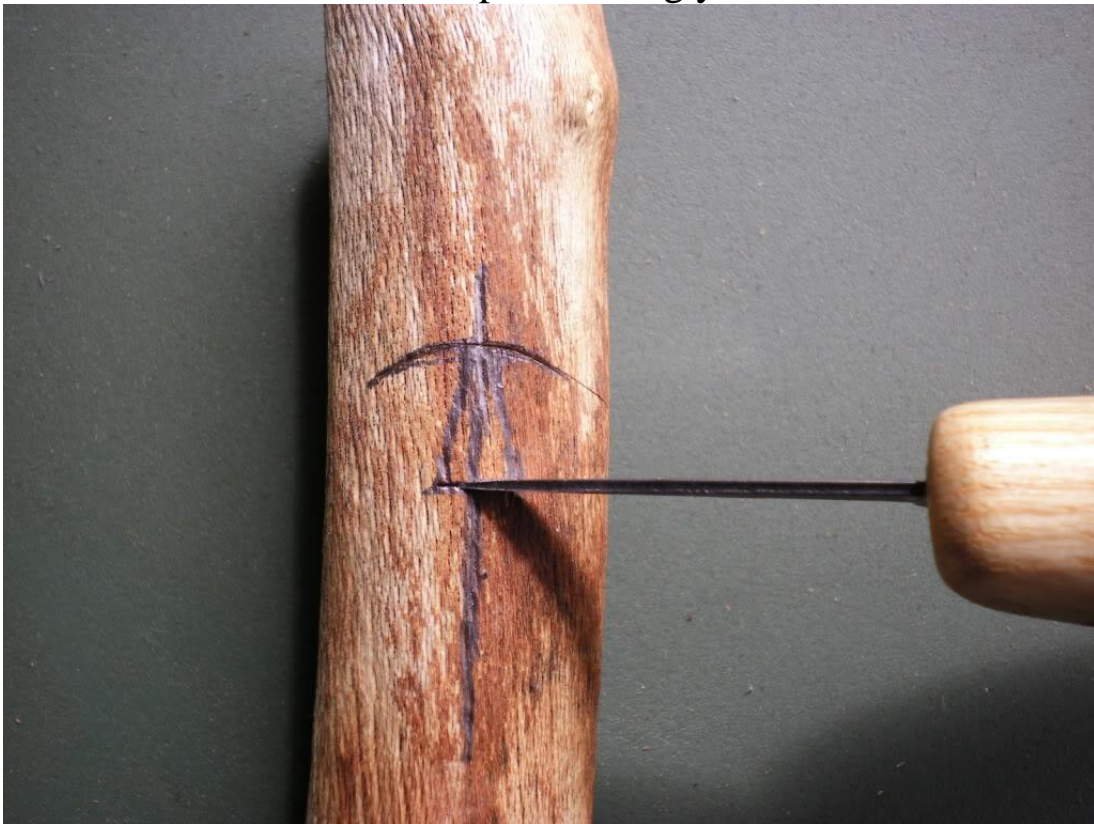
Mark a center line with your pencil



Draw the bottom of the eyebrow and rough shape of the nose.



Make stop cuts along your lines.



Make slicing cuts back to your stop cuts.



Start taking the eye sockets deeper. You may have to use a combination of stop cuts and slicing cuts to achieve this.



Set in the bridge of the nose with a slicing cut.



Now we will shave a bit of material off from under the nose.



Redraw your center line under the nose.  
You need this to help keep proportions straight.

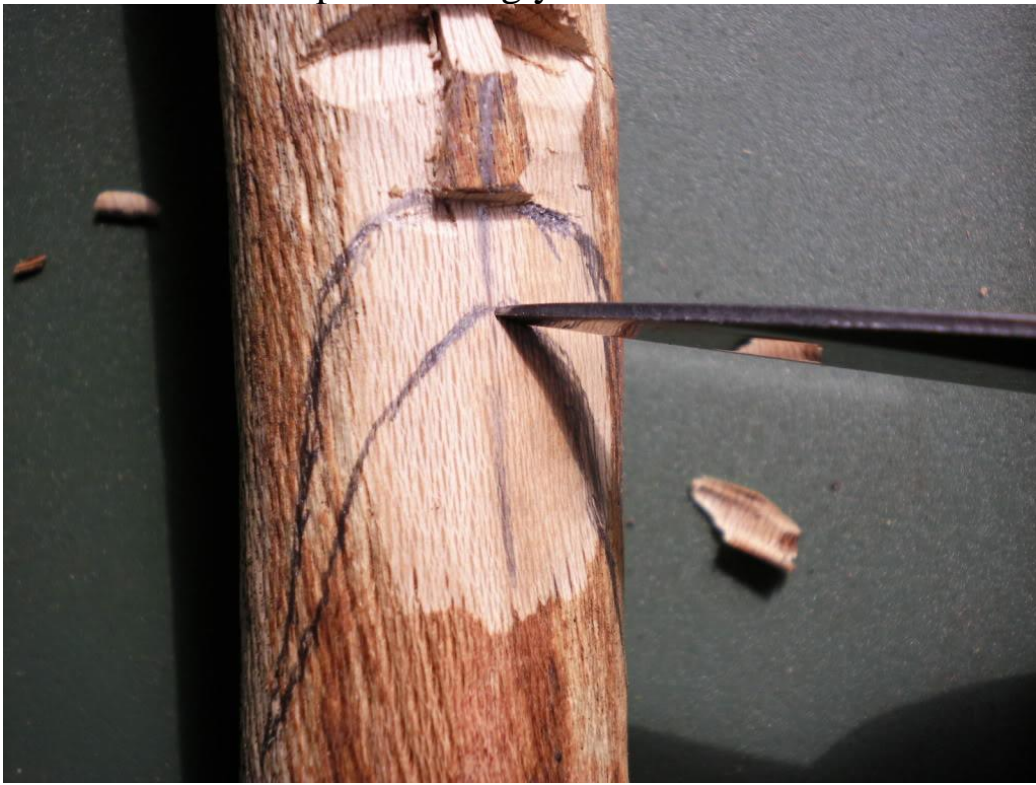


Draw the mustache.





Make stop cuts along your mustache lines.



Make slicing cuts back to your stop cuts in the mustache.



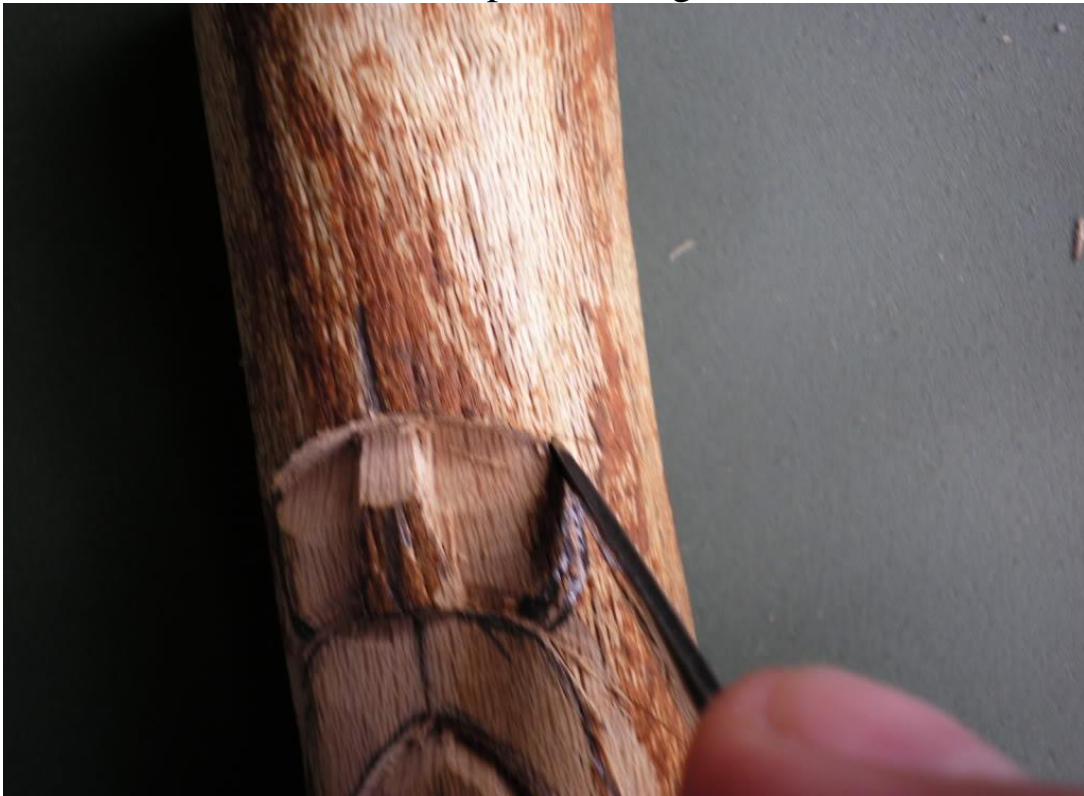
Strop that knife and let's get busy.  
This is what our mustache should look like.



Draw the lines defining the cheek area.



Make stop cuts along the lines.



Make slicing cuts across the face to the stop cuts.



Our face should look something like this now.



Draw in the bottom lip.



Make a stop cut along the lip line.



Make a slicing cut to the stop cut along the lip.



Our face should look like this now.



Next up we draw in the eyebrows.



Make stop cuts along the eyebrow lines.



Make slicing cuts to define the eyebrows.



Our Spirit should look something like this now.

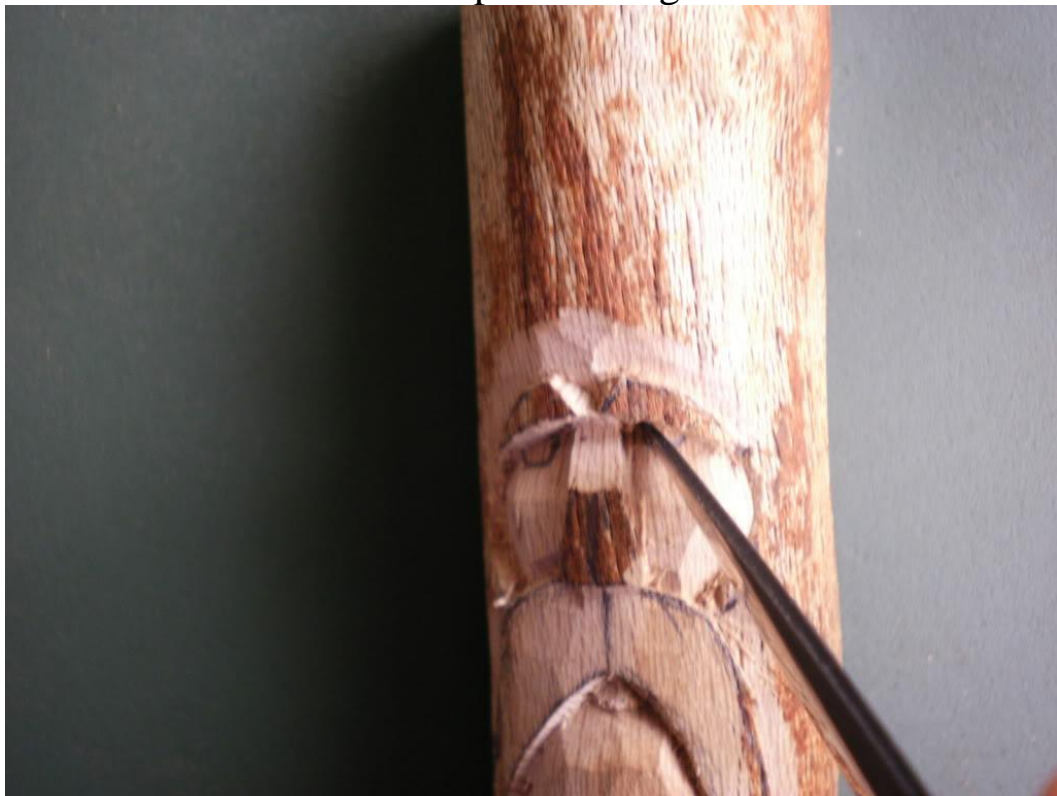




Draw in the eyes.



Make stop cuts along the lines.



Make slicing cuts to bring out the eyes. This is where a real pointy knife comes in handy, but with manipulation you can do it!



Now we should look a bit like this.



Make slicing cuts along the nose to "round" it off.



The nose should look something like this now.



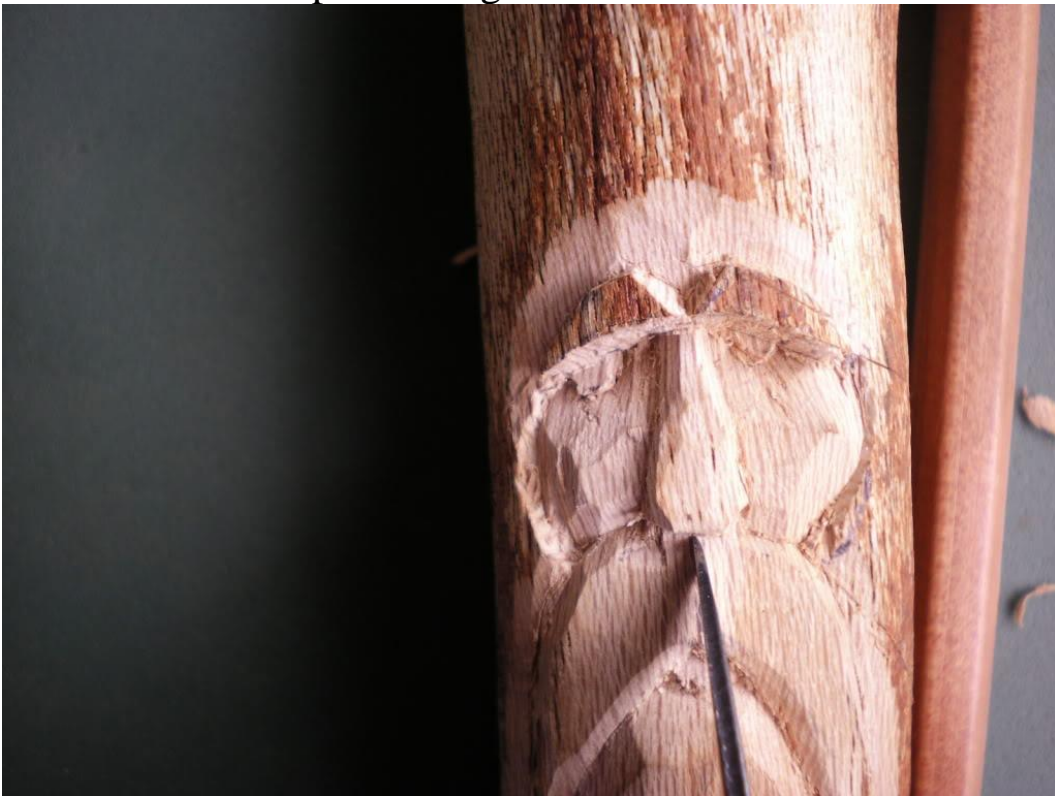
Make slicing cuts along the mustache to "round" it.



And our face now.



Make a stop cut along the mustache center line.



Make slicing cuts along both side of the center line.



Our face should look something like this.



Strop your knife!

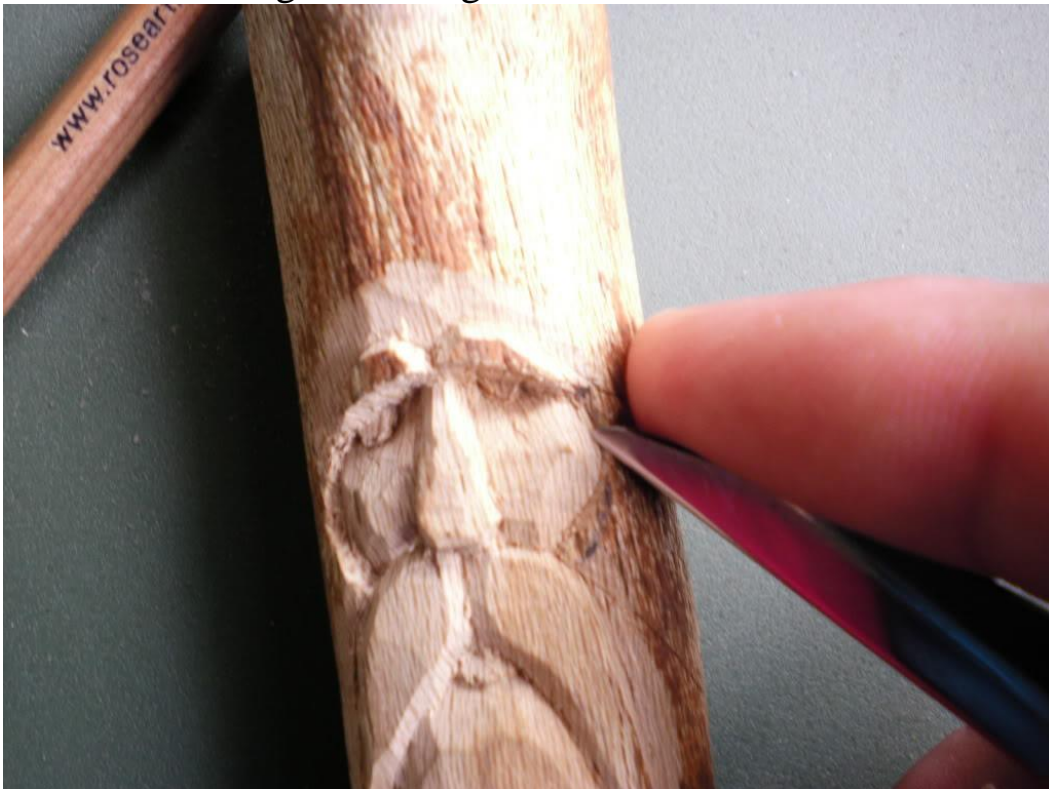
Now we need to make some slicing cuts along the eyebrows to "round" them.



What he looks like now.



Next, are slicing cuts along the cheek lines to "round" them.





Now our fellow looks like this.



Now we need to give our fellow some hair.

Draw in a few lines to give a hint of head hair.



Make stop cuts on your hair lines.



Make slicing cuts on both side of your lines to create a "V".





Our fellows' new hairdo.



Now we want to give him an indication of a beard.

Draw in a few curved lines.



Make stop cuts along your lines.



Make slicing cuts on both sides of your lines to create a "V".



How our beard should kind of look now.



If this were in a walking stick we could clean up our fuzzies and stop now. Since this is a short piece that could be placed on a shelf we have a little more work to do.

I like to slightly round the top and bottom of the limb with slicing cuts.



Now we clean up any fuzzies. Little bits that we need to gently cut on off or scrape off. You should notice that as we progressed we cut away our pencil lines. If you have any showing still you need to trim/scrape them off.

Now for the big finish! All that needs to be done now is applying your choice of wood sealer.



This is just one way of doing this project. Let your imagination be your guide. We all don't look alike so neither should our creations.

There are additional tools that you can use, but how many of us are going to pack in a tool roll full of carving tools? Unless that's the reason for your outing I would say not many of us. Otherwise almost all of us have a small knife of some sort with us and this is great way to spend time around the fire.



