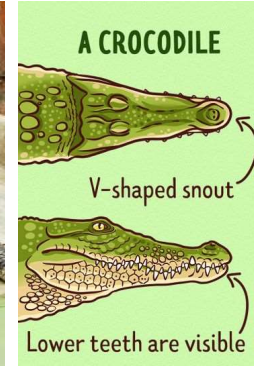
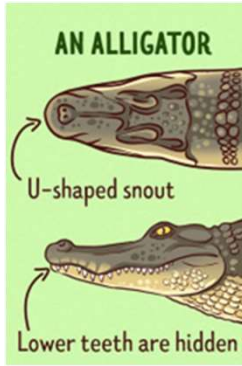


# Carve an Alligator or a Crocodile

MCC Jan 2024 J. Laffan

Chaotic  
scale  
pattern



Symmetric  
scale  
pattern



Clothespin geometries differ. You may have to adjust the pattern to fit your clothespins.  
We use a 3.25 inch clothespin.



1. Disassemble clothespin
2. Mark green, blue, and red lines in pencil. Pick just 1 red tail pattern and use the same top & bottom. Make sure the tail pattern on top and bottom line up for reassembly.



**Top**

top

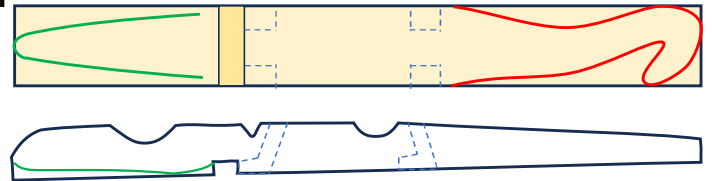
side



**Bottom**

bottom

side



3. Stop cut dashed lines and shave up to those stop cuts. Carve to the red and green lines.

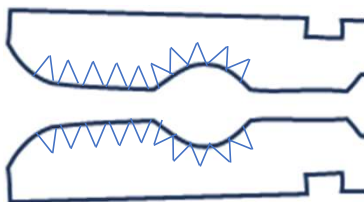
Carve away to the green line to shape the bottom of the jaw



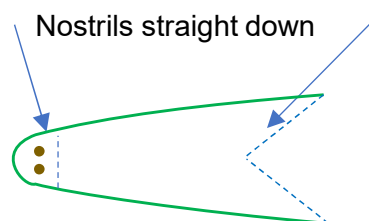
Make stop cuts at the blue lines to form the legs on both sides of the bottom pin. Then shave the wood up to those stop cuts to make the legs stand out from the wood on both sides

Extend the stop cuts that form the feet to the bottom of that pin to form the soles of the feet.

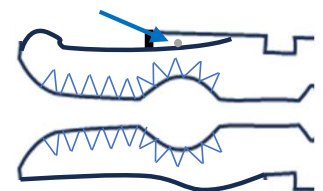
4. Add teeth, top and bottom with V cuts on the edges of both sides and front of head



5. Add nostrils and eyes with an awl or pen



Eyes into the side here

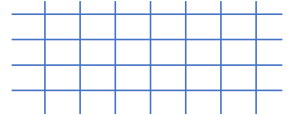


6. Round edges, define belly and feet area. Add any finishing touches to carving.

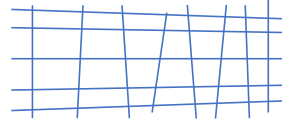
7. Add scales with a kolrosing technique.

- (add design to clean, sanded carving with pencil) we won't do this.
- Cut pattern with knife. nice clean lines. We will use a cross hatching design for the top, 4 sides and head and tail of bottom.
- Add pigment and rub into knife marks.  
We will use coffee grounds and oil (brown) or shoe polish (green).
- Wipe off excess pigment, can recut and repigment if missed pattern.
- Burnish design (optional)

clipodile



alligrabbor



8. Reassemble clothespin / Clipodile or Alligrabbor

Tips.

- Feel free to add embellishments to your creature.
- The colored lines in the figure can just be done in regular pencil.
- The tail can have nearly any shape, but a straight tail looks the worst. It is easiest to carve either the top or bottom tail, then realign the top and bottom pieces and trace the tail to the other side.
- The eyes are actually separate on these animals (see picture). You can separate the eyes here by gauging a trough between them but at this scale it is difficult.
- Nature almost never has 90-degree edges it will look better to round everything.
- Normally a kolrosing surface should be very clean and smooth as any knife marks will pick up the colorant. But in this case it does not matter if the animal has a spurious line.
- The colorant for the kolrosing should be very finely ground. You can use instant coffee or very fine ground regular coffee. Other colorants used are coal dust (hence the name), ground cinnamon (gives a reddish brown) and paprika (red).
- Some people rub the dry colorant into the carved lines, but I find it easiest to first oil the wood (I use walnut oil) then add a dab of the colorant to rub in.

