

March 2024  
MCC Presentation  
Hedgehog  
Carve-a-Long -- Hybrid

by Val Hildebrand

Also included are the

1. full instructions for the Egg Shaped Comfort Hedgehog
2. Handout for the Advanced Hedgehog and the website infor
3. Handouts for the Rustic and Val's version of the "Disney" Hedgehog

# Montgomery County Ag Fair Animal 2024

## Is the Hedgehog









Carve a Rustic Hedgehog #1

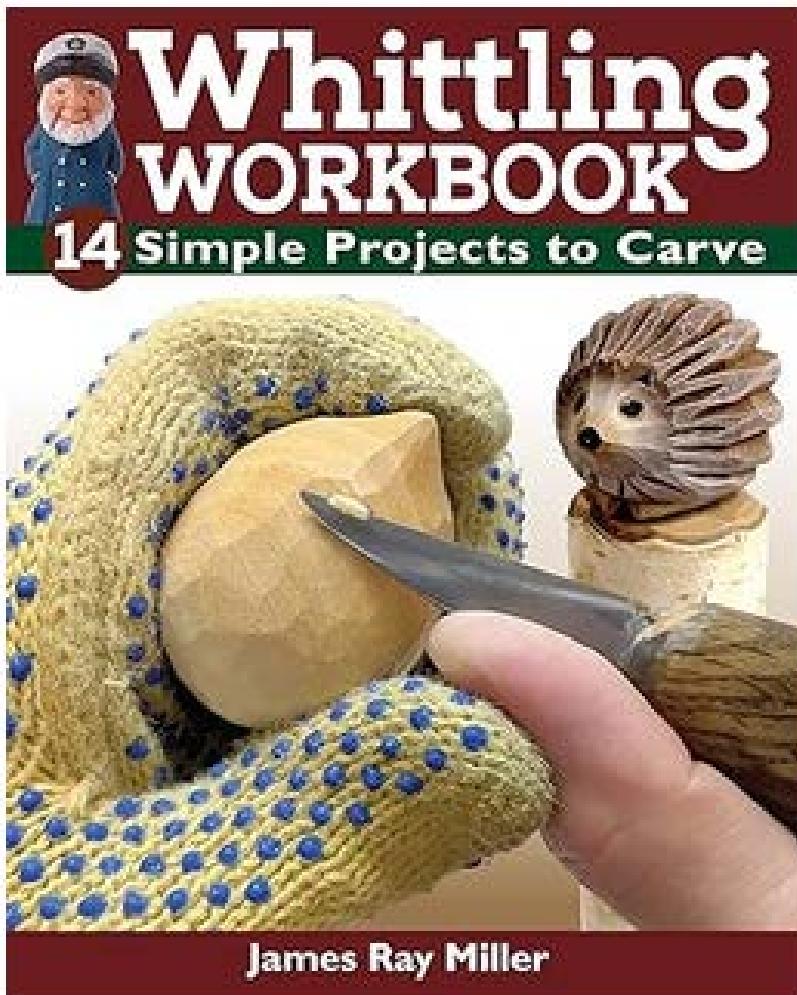


Carve the Disney Hedgehog #2



Carve the Advanced Hedgehog #3

#1



#2



Comfort critters are easy to make with basswood eggs and a simple template

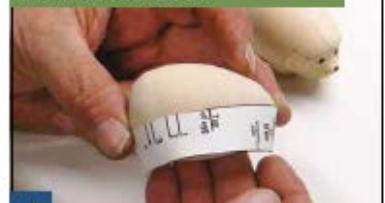
By Steven Kulp

**B**asswood eggs are easy to carry in your pocket or pack, and this hedgehog makes a fun trail project. If you don't have an egg, whittle a branch or piece of scrap into an egg, and start carving.

#### Getting Started

Purchase a basswood or butternut egg made for carving. Use a marker to make a dot on the point of the egg (the nose). You will be using this reference point throughout the carving process, so be careful not to rub the mark off.

#### MARKING THE BLANK



1

Draw a line from the point of the egg to the edge of the flat spot on the bottom. Use the edge of the template or a piece of tape as a flexible ruler. The line represents the bottom edge of the hedgehog's spiky coat.

#3



This sample is courtesy of Bob Jubb of the Woodcarvers Institute.

<https://woodworkersinstitute.com/projects/2021/05/tips-for-carving-hedgehogs>

# Advanced Hedgehog Painting Techniques



# Getting Started

The good thing is they all start out with the same basic shape.

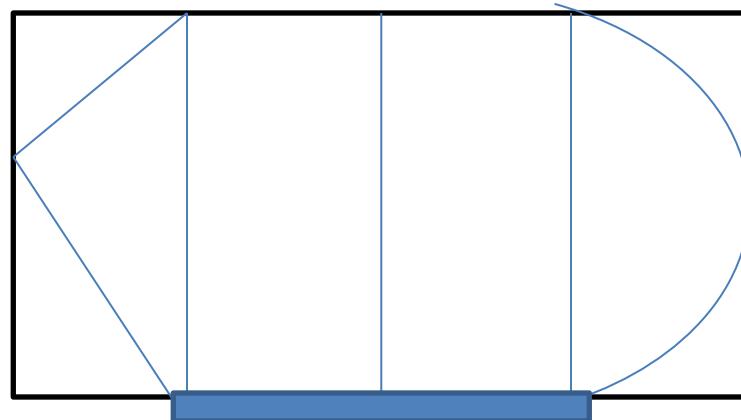
The other good thing is that after 1+ hours of carving, this is what I have.



# First Steps

1. Divide the rectangle into 4ths
2. Make one of the long sides the bottom
3. Carve a rump at one end
4. Round off  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the square for the body
5. Carve a pointed nose at the other

Note: Nose is higher than center



## Getting Started

Acquire or saw a block of basswood to roughly  $2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{3}{8}''$  ( $5.4 \times 3.8 \times 3.5$ cm) with the grain running in the direction of the longest edge. Draw a centerline parallel with the grain on one of the widest faces and the ends. Finally, mark the position of the nose on one end slightly above the center.





**1 Remove the back corners.** Early in one's carving journey, fully rounding a block can be a major challenge. To kick the process off, boldly remove the back corners, leaving one relatively large triangular facet in each.



**2 Round the rump.** Begin rounding the back edge so that it becomes a hemisphere (half of a sphere). To do so, continually slice off the edges of each new edge you create, starting with the edges of the triangles in the previous step.



**3 Round the edges of the body.** Slicing toward the nose end now, chamfer off each edge. At the top of the block, angle these cuts approximately 45 degrees, and at the bottom, make these cuts a bit wider, leaving the base flat and about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) wide. Then, remove the edges of the resulting facets several times until the shape, when viewed from an end, is evenly rounded on top and rounded in toward the flat bottom.



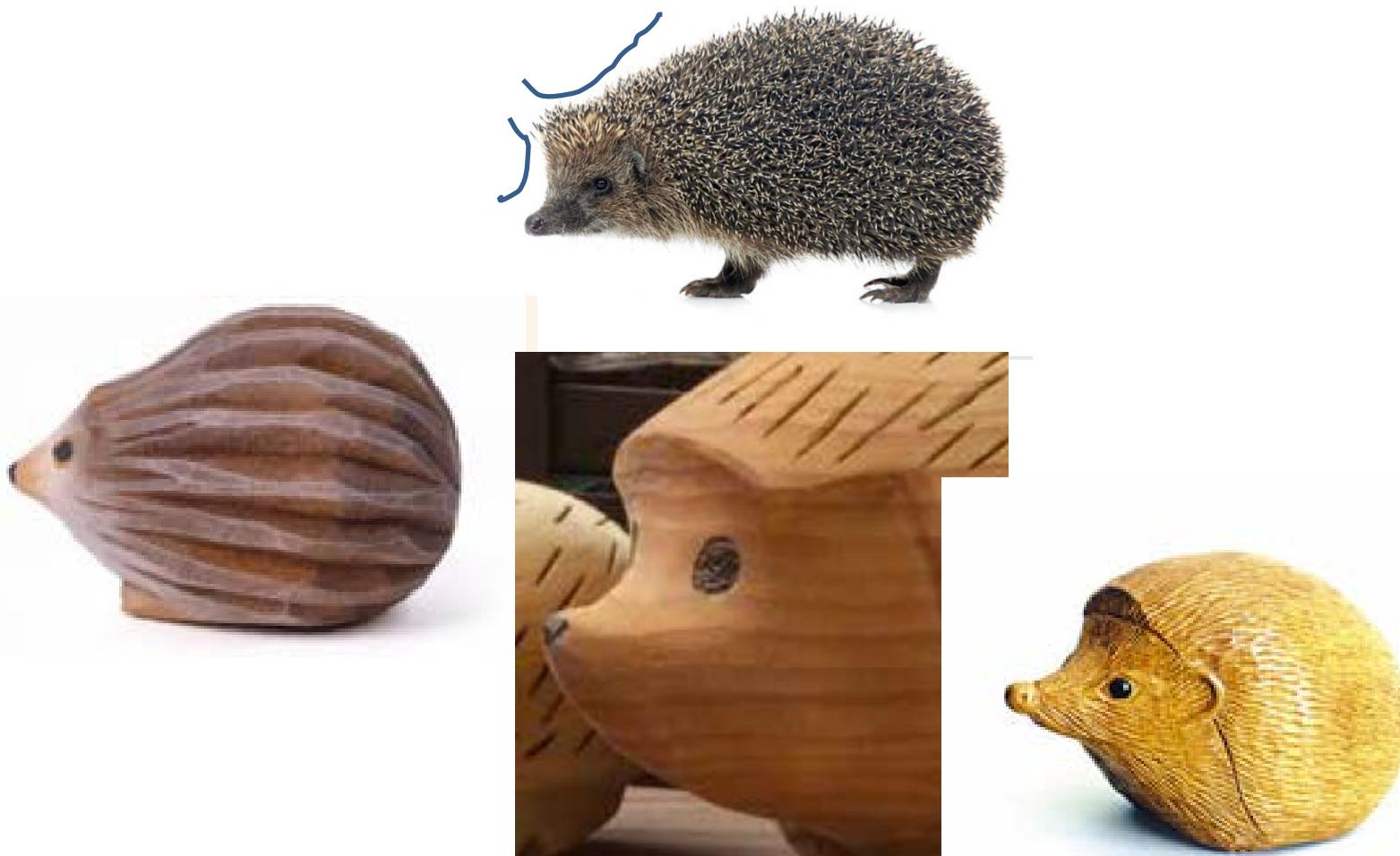
**4 Taper straight toward the nose.** Begin cutting from about halfway back on the body, and push your knife straight toward the nose. Repeat these cuts from the sides, top, and bottom, until the front comes almost to a point. At this point, you have created the most basic form of the whittled hedgehog.



**5 Make the sides of the face concave.** Slice toward the face, but this time, instead of cutting straight in, rotate your knife to leave a concave surface. Do so all the way around, but cut deeper on the top and bottom than on the sides. At this point, if the shaping in the front has caused the rump to lose its roundness or has created corners, return to that area and re-round it.



# Differences in Shaping the Head

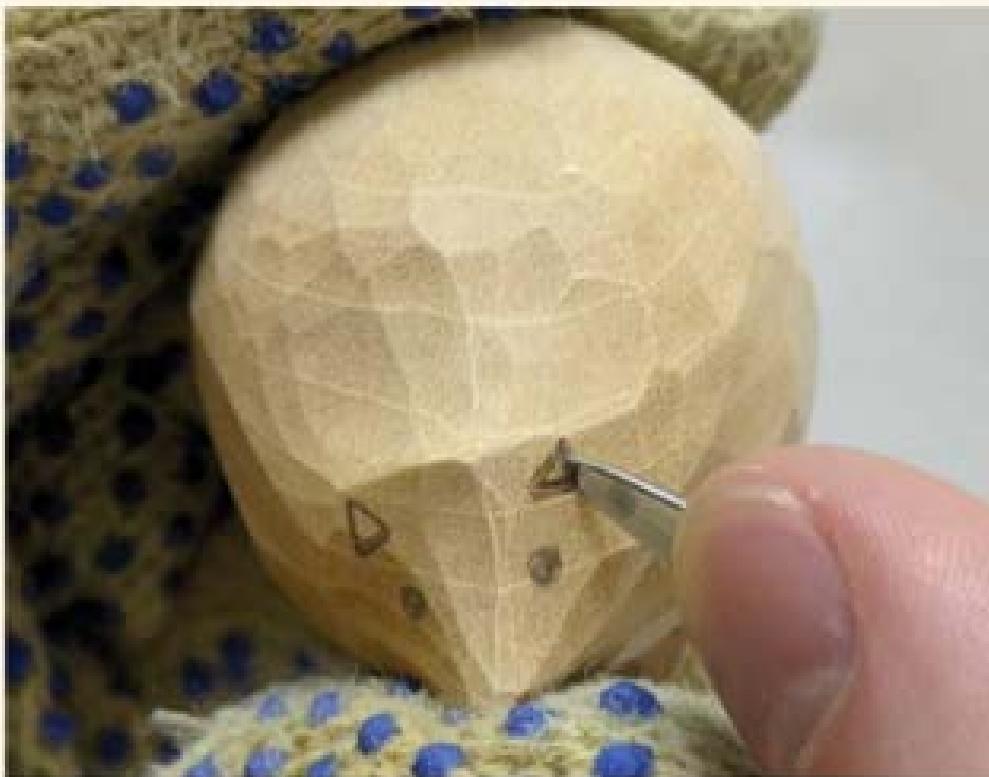




**6 Suggest the front paws.** Stop-cut straight into and straight across the front face about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (0.3cm) from the base. Then, meet this cut slicing down from under the head area. Extend this V-shaped cut about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (0.6cm), wrapping around each side. Finally, separate the paws from one another with another V-shaped cut.



**7 Create a swoosh on top of the head.** Sweep out another concave surface just above the concave surface on the top of the face. This will form the bit of a swoosh that hedgehogs tend to have where their quills begin to emerge from their head.



**8 Hollow out the ears.** Start by sketching a tiny triangle to represent the inside of each ear. Utilizing a fundamental technique of a style of carving called chip carving, remove a triangular chip from each ear. To do so, stick the tip of your knife gently into the wood on one edge of the triangle at such an angle as to cause the tip of the knife to reach the center of the triangle. Back out and repeat for the other two edges. Ideally, the third incision will cause the little pyramid to pop out.



**9 Separate some quills.** Sketch on the rough location of some major separations between quills, making each run somewhat parallel with the grain. Then, using the edge of your knife, stop-cut to form V-shaped cuts all the way from the head to the rump.



**10 Extend the quills.** Since the top of the head is concave, you will not be able to reach down into the dip with the edge of your knife. To reach this area, use the tip of your knife. Starting between two of the previous V-shaped cuts, incise farther toward the face and carve out a shallower channel.

# Painting Details



**11 Paint the base colors.** Apply the dark basecoat wash. Then, blend some burnt umber into the wash while the wood and your paintbrush are still wet. In other words, aim to not cover up the wood grain entirely by building up paint on top of it. Blend much more lightly toward the face and belly, as these will be painted white later.



**12 Continue with more base colors.** Rinse out your paintbrush, and then blend white paint into the face and belly. Dry your brush out on a paper towel or newspaper with white paint still loaded into it, and drybrush white lightly but vigorously all over the brown back and sides by holding onto the end of your paintbrush and whipping it back and forth. This will add variation and help further the appearance of quills.



**13 Finish the details.** Lightly brush beige onto the feet and around the nose and eyes. Use a toothpick to paint the nose and black circles for the eyes. Finally, add a tiny dot to the same corner of each eye to simulate a light reflection.

# Comfort Hedgehog



**Comfort critters are easy to make with basswood eggs and a simple template**

By Steven Kulp

**B**asswood eggs are easy to carry in your pocket or pack, and this hedgehog makes a fun trail project. If you don't have an egg, whittle a branch or piece of scrap into an egg, and start carving.

## Getting Started

Purchase a basswood or butternut egg made for carving. Use a marker to make a dot on the point of the egg (the nose). You will be using this reference point throughout the carving process, so be careful not to rub the mark off.

### MARKING THE BLANK

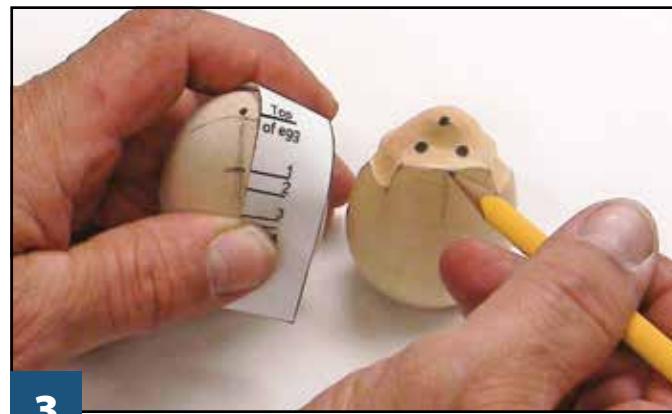


1

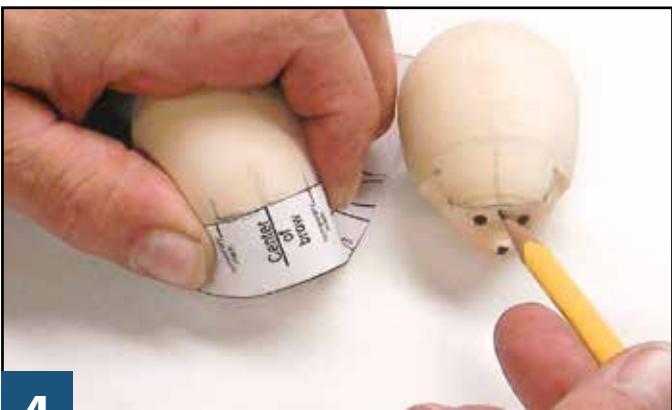
Draw a line from the point of the egg to the edge of the flat spot on the bottom. Use the edge of the template or a piece of tape as a flexible ruler. The line represents the bottom edge of the hedgehog's spiky coat.

**2**

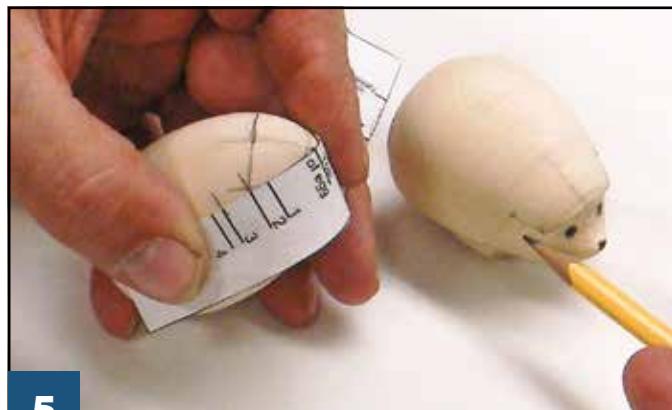
**Draw a centerline on the top of the egg from nose to tail.** Use this line to align the template on the egg.

**3**

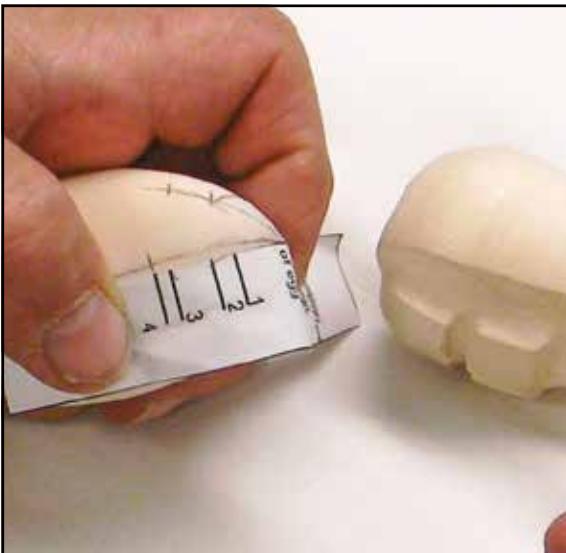
**Position the template's Top of Egg mark on the nose dot.** Align the template with the centerline and make a mark where Line 1 intersects with the centerline.

**4**

**Position the template's Center of Brow mark where the centerline and Line 1 meet.** Rotate the template 90°, draw the two Temporary Marks, and draw a line between them.

**5**

**Position the Top of Egg mark on the nose dot.** Align the edge of the template with one of the Temporary Marks (drawn in Step 4). Line 2 should align with the Temporary Mark. If not, check the other side; you might be a little off square. Adjust as needed, and draw a line along the edge of the template from Line 2 to Line 3 on both sides.

**6**

**Place the Top of Egg mark on the nose dot.** Align the template with the edge of the egg. Make a mark on Line 4 on both sides. Draw lines between the Line 3 and Line 4 marks to represent the back of the ears on both sides.



## CARVING THE PROJECT



7

**Carve down from the brow toward the nose dot.** Make a scooping cut to give the nose a hook shape. Do not carve off the dot; we will still be using it as a reference point.



8

**Carve from the ear line toward the nose dot on both sides.** Make a V-shaped groove on the line, and then taper toward the dot on both sides. Keep both sides symmetrical.



9

**Remove the wood below the spiky coat line.** This forms the outside of the legs. Remove the same amount of wood from both sides, or the hedgehog will lean to the side (which is hard to repair).



10

**Draw a centerline from the nose dot to the center of the bottom.** This marks the separation between the right and left legs. Draw a line for the front of the feet a little behind the back of the ears. Draw another line halfway between the front feet and the back feet to separate the front and back legs.



11

**Carve from the front of the front legs toward the front of the egg.** Carve grooves between the left and right legs and the front and back legs. *Note: I usually make the groove between the right and left legs wide enough to sign my carving.*



12

**Refine the wood in front of the front legs.** Follow the shape of the egg and create a curved shape. Clean up and round the rest of the carving around the face.



13

**Carve from the bottom curl to the point of the egg.**

Create an upward sweep that makes it look like the hedgehog is sniffing around. Round the flat spot on the bottom of the egg and clean up any remaining rough spots.



14

**Add the details.** Stab, paint, or burn the spines. Burn or paint the eyes; they are located halfway between the center of the face and the edge of the brow (a little above the nose). Blacken the tip of the nose with a woodburner or paint. I sometimes drill a small hole and use cyanoacrylate (CA) glue to attach tiny beads for the eyes. Apply a coat of boiled linseed oil to the completed carving.

## materials & tools

### MATERIALS

- Wooden egg, basswood or butternut: any size you are comfortable carving; I used a hen-size egg for this article
- Boiled linseed oil
- Paint: black (optional)
- Beads: 2 each black (optional)
- Cyanoacrylate (CA) glue (optional)
- Pencil
- Tape (optional)

*The author used these products for the project. Substitute your choice of brands, tools, and materials as desired.*

### TOOLS

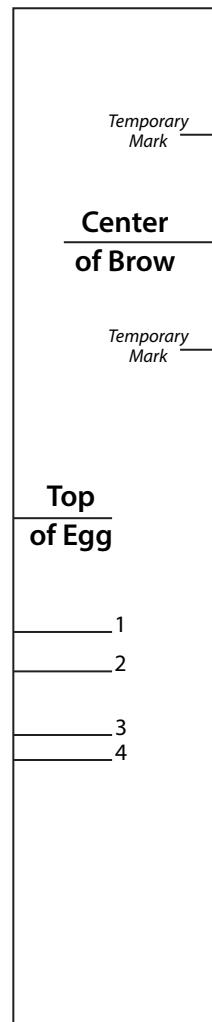
- Knife
- Marker, fine point: black
- Drill bit: small (optional)
- Woodburner (optional)

### SPECIAL SOURCES

Hen-sized basswood eggs are available from:

- The Woodcraft Shop, 800-397-2278, [TheWoodcraftShop.com](http://TheWoodcraftShop.com)
- Chipping Away, 888-682-9801, [ChippingAway.com](http://ChippingAway.com)

## Egg Marking Template



© 2020 Woodcarving Illustrated

### Using the Template

This template is for a hen-sized egg. However, due to variations in egg sizes, check that the distance from the bottom of the template to the "Top of Egg" mark matches the distance from the bottom of the egg to its tip when placed next to the egg (not wrapped). Adjust the template as needed.

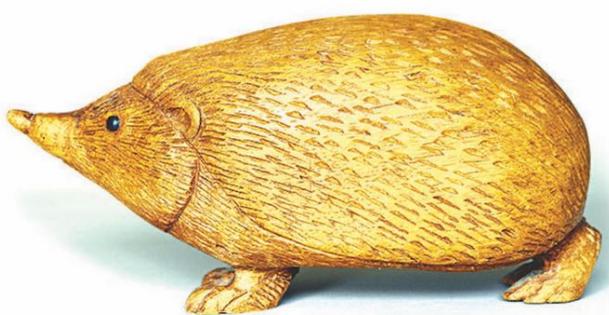
To size the template for other eggs, decrease it 76% for a pigeon egg 2" (5.1cm) tall or increase it 115% for a goose egg 3" (7.6cm) tall. Then check the template as described above and adjust as needed.

### The Advanced Hedge Hogs

Squat Hedgehog with Feet carved into the bottom



More realistic, longer hedgehog with legs



These 2 samples are courtesy of Bob Jubb of the Woodcarvers Institute.

<https://woodworkersinstitute.com/projects/2021/05/tips-for-carving-hedgehogs/>



The link to the painted hedgehog no longer works so I deleted it.

But the link to the Woodworkersinstitute above does still work.

Val

### Disney Hedge #2

1.5 x 1.5 x 2.5 rectangle or an egg shape



This has the same basic shaping as the more rustic hedgehog. Start by dividing the length into 4ths

1. Round the  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the back end
2. Carve a point on the  $\frac{1}{4}$  of front edge as a rudimentary nose (Note –the nose is a little higher than half the height)
3. Cut off the corners of the block and trim 2/3s around the block to make the body rounder
  - a) leave the bottom flat
  - b) or make it round all the way around like an egg would be

4. Refine the nose by creating a scoop for the top of the nose and the eyes
5. Give the hedgehog a haircut
  - a) Start by tracing a line around the forehead,
  - b) leave a little cut out for the ears,
  - c) define the lower edge of his "Hair" around the back and the side then give it another ear cut out back to the forehead
  - d) Carve away below the line to separate the hairline from the rest of the body

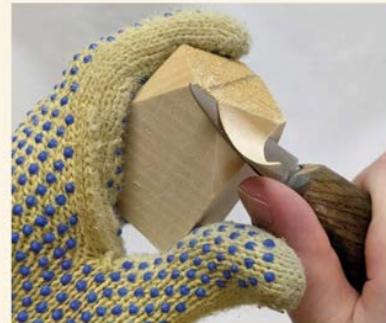


For the full three page instructions for carving the comfort hedgehog from an egg shape go to [FoxChapelPublishing.com](http://FoxChapelPublishing.com) And search on "Hedgehog"

<https://news.foxchapelpublishing.com/whittling/wood-carving-a-hedgehog-from-a-basswood-egg.html/#extras>



Hedge Hog 1



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