

Let's Carve a Tree-Hat Santa



Note: Scoring cuts can be dangerous. Use several light passes, if necessary.

Note: To avoid undercutting, make outlining cuts square with the back of the carving, not to the angled side.

1. Divide blank into $\sim 3\frac{1}{2}$ " for tree hat, 2" for face. Set bottom of nose $\sim \frac{3}{4}$ " below bottom of tree. Sketch in fat cone for tree hat. Sketch face.

2. Define bottom of hat. Make stop cuts and notches at three corners below hat. Score line between notches and make stop cuts along the edges.

3. Trim sides of tree to guide lines. Do not undercut. Then, taper the tree from the front to a rough point at the back of the top. Deepen the cut below the tree as needed.

4. Divide height of tree into quarters. Sketch in branches as shown. Top of branches are on the guide lines. Score the branch lines and undercut, blending into the tree cone.

5. Undercut the nose with a stop cut. Angle the nose wings with stop cuts. Begin shaping the bridge of the nose.

6. Cut sides of nose. Do not undercut. Remove wood on either side of nose, angling sides of nose toward bridge. Score outline of mustache. Remove a triangular chip where nose, cheek, and mustache meet for shadow detail.



7. Remove wood around mustache. Cut a deep triangular chip under mustache center. Optional: use chip cuts to define a lower lip. Shape the beard any way you like. I like to have it sticking forward.

8. Score line between hair and cheek. Cut triangular chips at top and bottom. Then slice away wood, leaving a round cheek. Clean up and shape the hair.

9. Shape the mustache and the nose. Cut away nose point and sharp bridge line. Options: add nostrils, thin upper nose, flare sides. Or just leave a pleasing lump!

10. Clean up the ragged cuts, get rid of fuzzies. If you have it, use fine mesh abrasive to soften edges and smooth the surface.

11. Recess a magnet into the back, or add a small screw eye at the top, so your carving can be displayed. Finish or paint as you wish.

