

2023 GMWC Club Project – Elephant

Starting the project- Layout lines

With most projects including those using a cutout, before starting, its a good idea to start with laying out a center line around the block to help maintain symmetry, as well the the location of major features, which will help to remove some more of the excess wood allowing you to begin to “see” the shape emerge from the block of wood. On the elephant block, this includes the rear of the ear, locations four legs and the bottoms of the feet, and tail.



Blocking In cuts:

After the major features have been blocked in, it is often a good idea to highlight those parts you want to remove to avoid “removing the wrong part”, especially when you have the legs separated like with the elephant. Once this is done remove the excess wood. This is often begins using the knife making stop cuts along the lines, a “V” works very well as well. With the stop cuts set, remove down to the base, in stages if the cut is deep.



Beginning to remove the “Blockyness”

At this stage, you have established the basic body shape, but it looks “blocky”. Time to begin rounding the corners a bit. There is still a lot of wood to remove, but make sure you don't cut away things like the tail... On parts like between the legs, a simple saw cut will at time make seperating the parts a bit easier, a coping saw works well here. The circles you drew for the bottoms of the feet come in handy use as a guide to establish the leg locations. At this point we are still blocking in things, not cutting down to the finished size. Check the photos of the finished carving as you work, notice the bottoms of the legs “flare” a bit, so don't take off to much at this point.