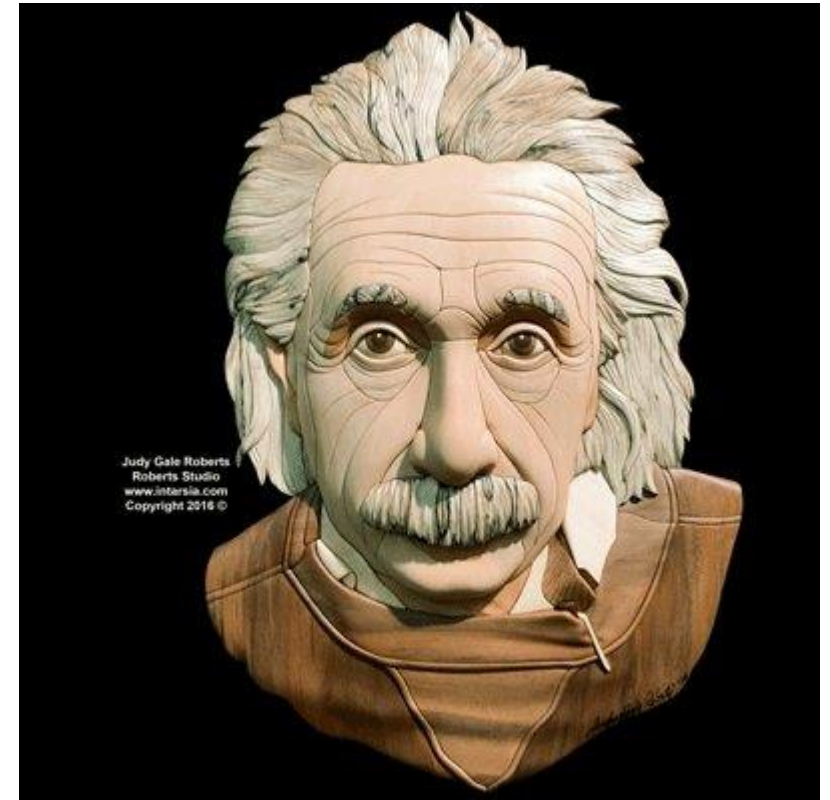


# Intarsia



By  
Sherry Kelsey

# What Is Intarsia?

- Intarsia woodworking is the art of creating a mosaic – like picture from pieces of wood.
- Different species of wood are selected for their color and cut to size using a scroll saw.
- The woodworker can create an illusion of depth by carefully selecting the grain pattern and direction of each individual piece.
- Before gluing together the final assembly, the woodworker will sand and shape each piece.
- Some areas of the pattern might even be raised to create more depth.

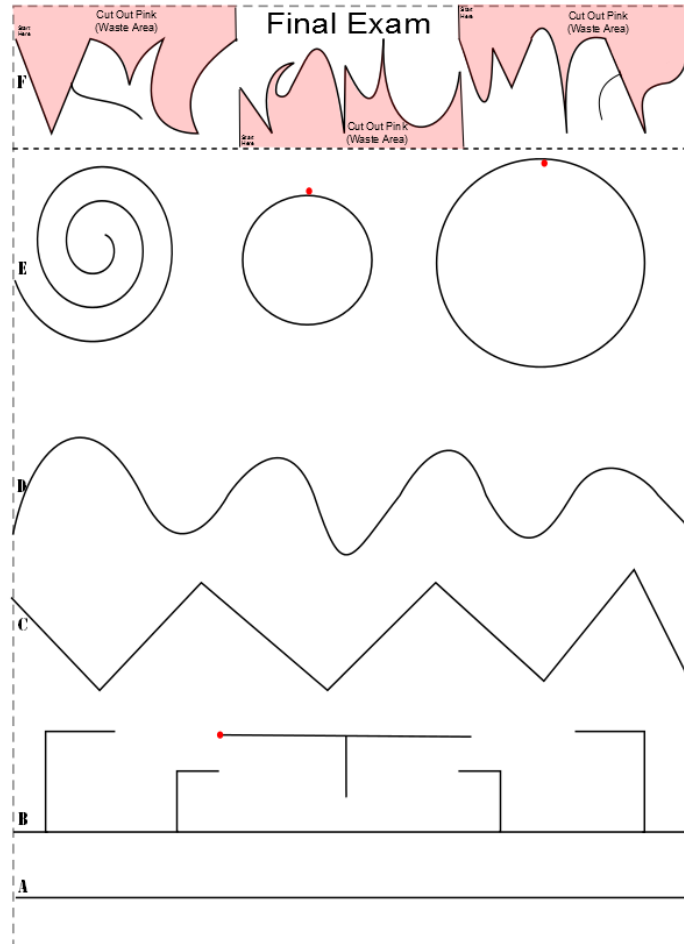
# Cutting For Intarsia

The most important tip for scroll sawing accurately for Intarsia is ***CHANGE YOUR BLADES OFTEN.***

## PRACTICE TEMPLATE

PRINT AS NEEDED, CUT OUT DASHED LINE  
APPLY TO SCRAP WOOD  
PRE DRILL HOLES ON RED DOTS

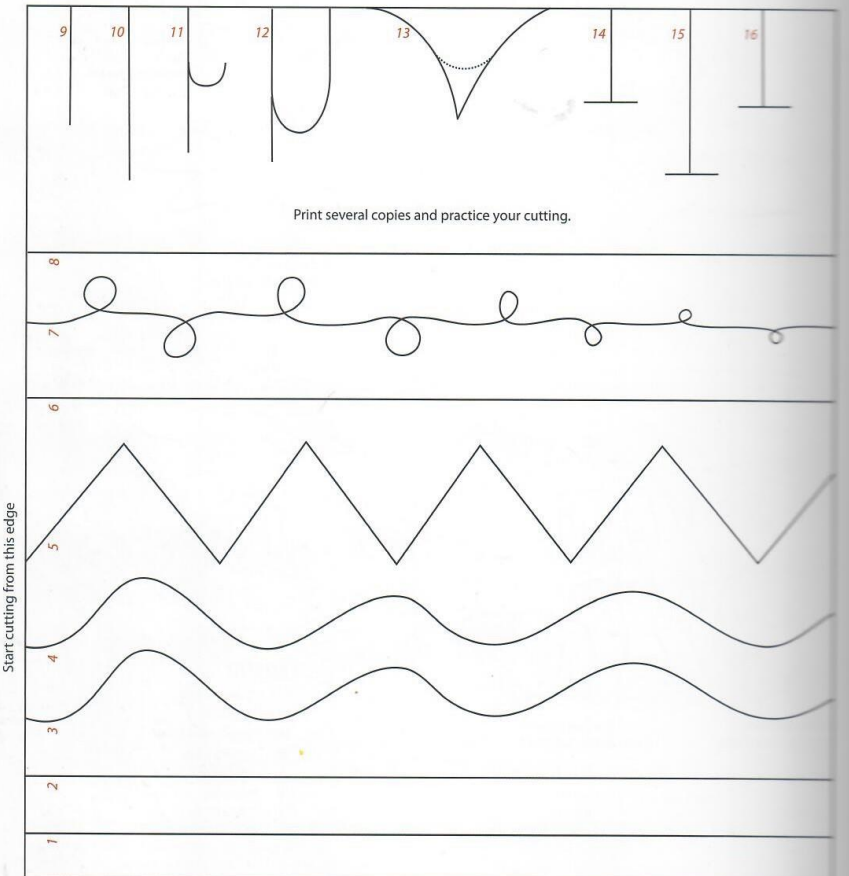
A



B

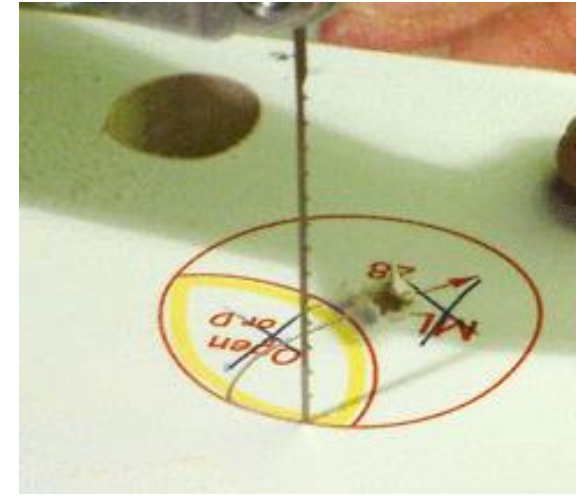
## Cutting Simple Lines and Curves

This exercise will help you to practice the cutting skills necessary for creating beautiful intarsia pieces. If you are just starting out using your scroll saw you can use this practice lesson to develop your cutting expertise.

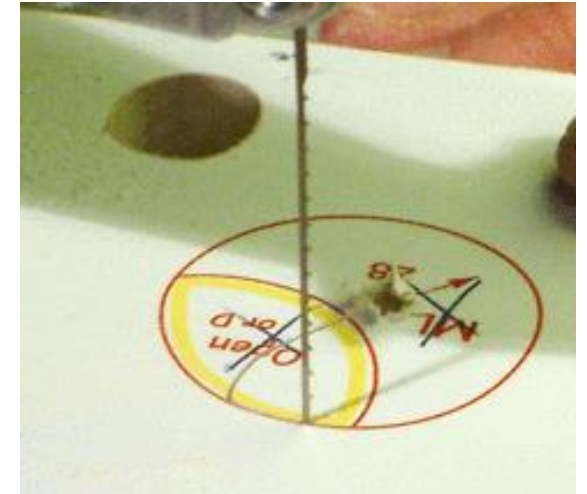


Start cutting from this edge

- The best place to start is sawing right down the middle of the pattern line.
- This will vary depending on the size of blade you are using.
- When using anything over a #5 you should try to be a little to the outer edge of the pattern line.
- With more practice you can learn to cut and leave half of the pattern line.



- You never cut parts over the line with the intention of sanding to the line after it is cut out.
- This can lead to a host of problems; the main problem is keeping your parts square.
- Check your saw table to make sure it is square with the blade. Also use a square to check your parts often.

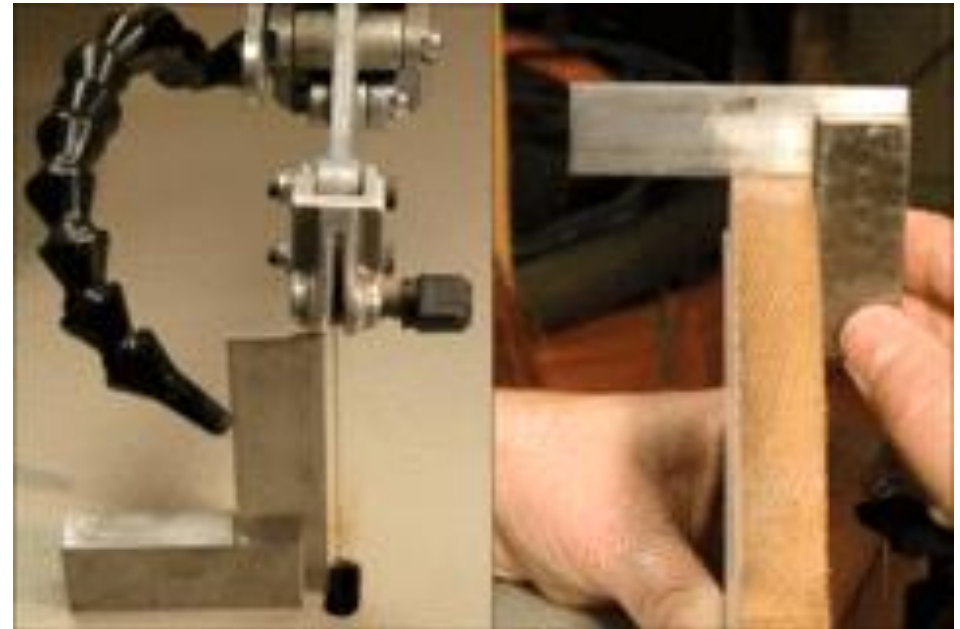




**Tension:** high "C" note

**Sawing:** **Make sure your blade is cutting square.**

Check the table/blade to make sure it is square. Make a test cut, cut a curve then check it with a square. The curve makes it easier to see any light between the square and the cut part.

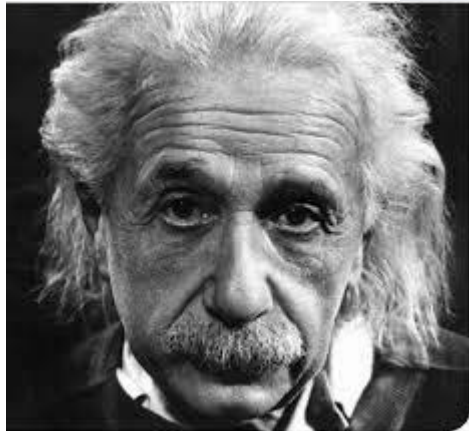
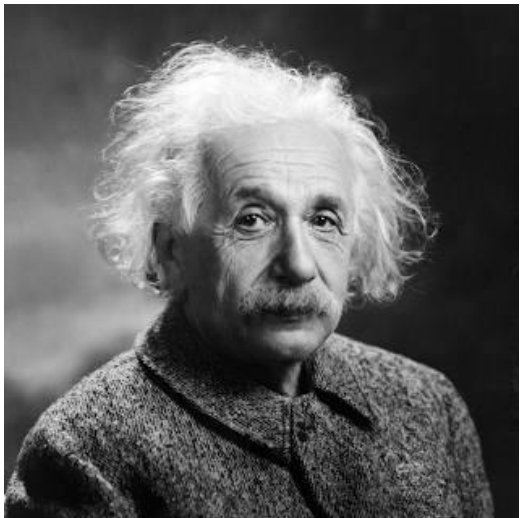
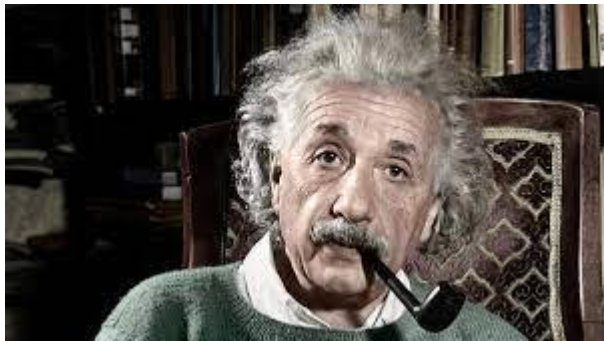
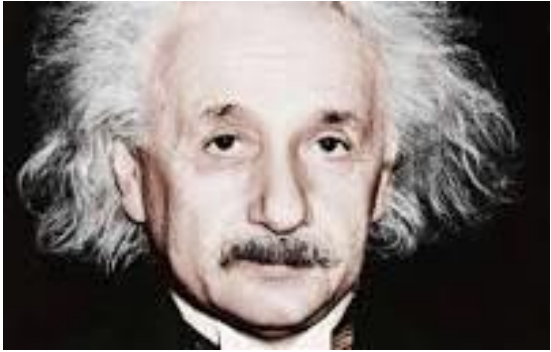


# Blade Chart

[illegible]



# Pattern Pictures





## Intarsia Pattern Copyright Release

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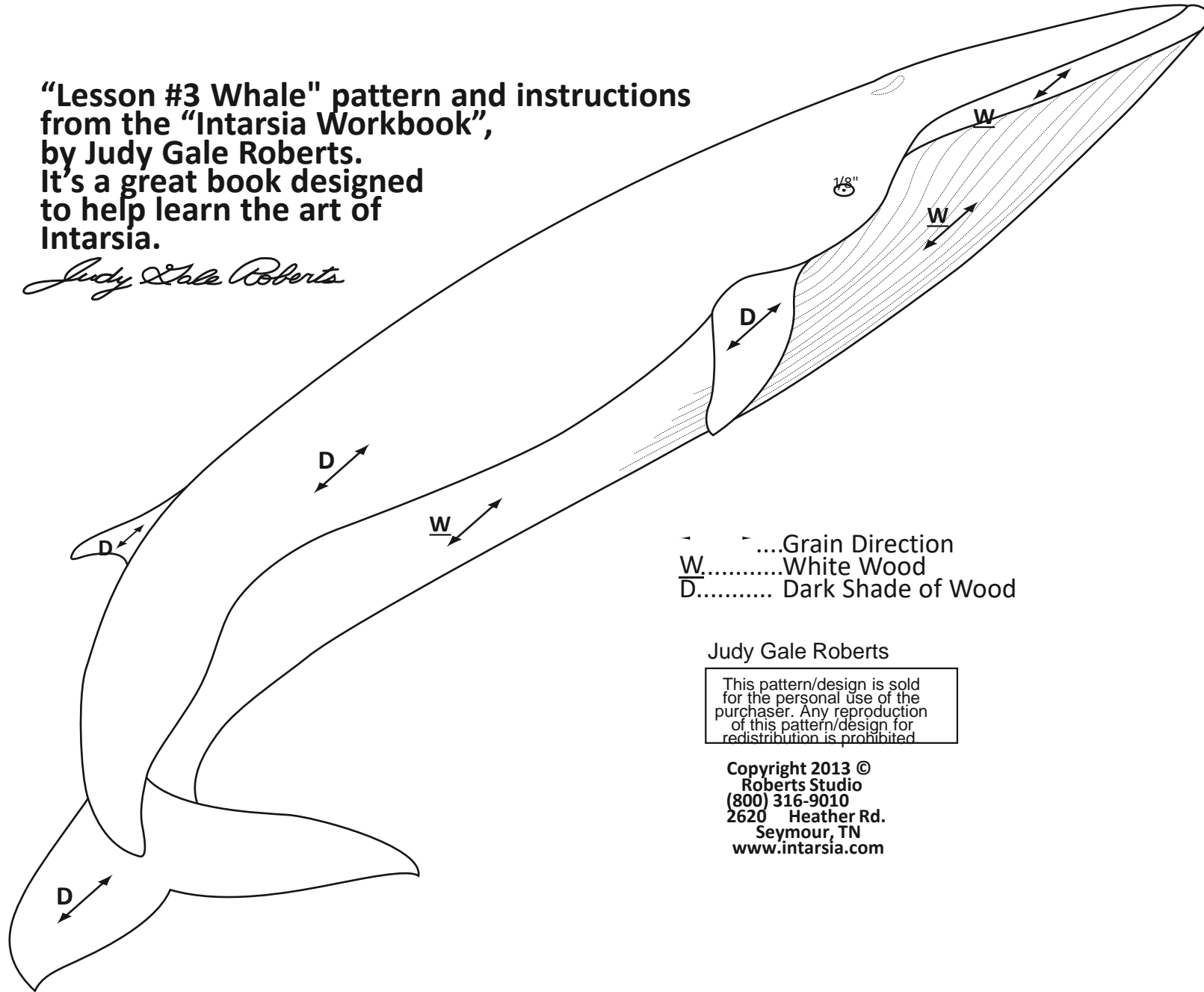
If you should have any questions regarding the authenticity of this document or the terms herewith, please contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Gale Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned above a solid horizontal line that spans the width of the signature.

Judy Gale Roberts Studio  
865-428-8875 • 865-428-7870 fax

**"Lesson #3 Whale" pattern and instructions  
from the "Intarsia Workbook",  
by Judy Gale Roberts.  
It's a great book designed  
to help learn the art of  
Intarsia.**

*Judy Gale Roberts*



.....Grain Direction  
W.....White Wood  
D..... Dark Shade of Wood

Judy Gale Roberts

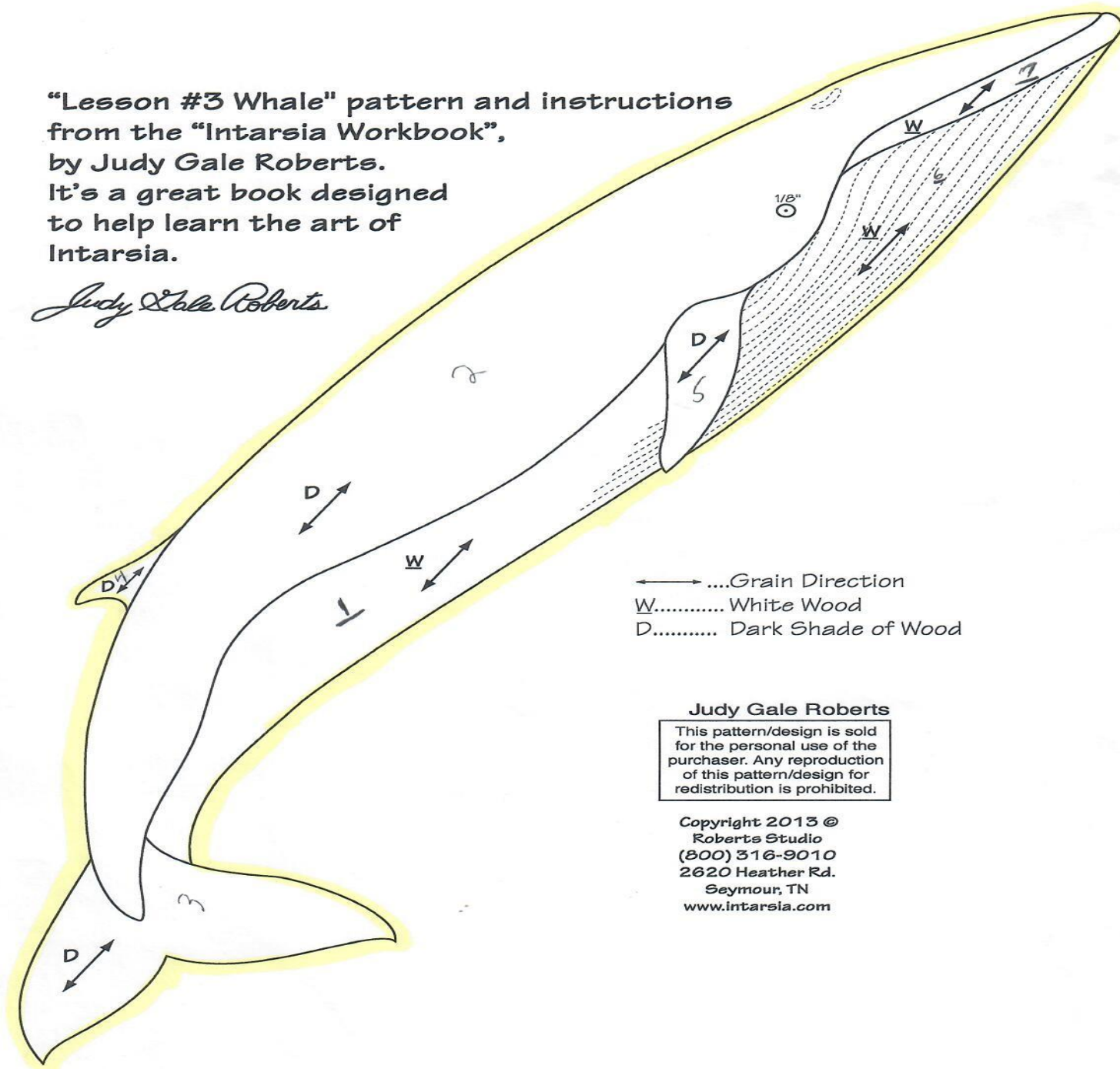
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2620 Heather Rd.  
Seymour, TN  
[www.intarsia.com](http://www.intarsia.com)

For the whale you  
will need 6 copies  
of this pattern.  
One master for  
keeping. One to  
lay out your cut  
pieces on. 3 for  
cutting to place  
on your wood.  
One for cutting  
sanding shims.

"Lesson #3 Whale" pattern and instructions  
from the "Intarsia Workbook",  
by Judy Gale Roberts.  
It's a great book designed  
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Highlight the edger  
that do not have  
connecting pieces.  
Number each piece.



For the whale you will need a dark wood and a white wood.



# Choosing Your Wood



# Wood Colors

You will find a very nice wood selection chart at this site.

<https://scrollsawer.com/2017/09/22/selecting-intarsia-wood/>

Hardwoods came in a variety of natural colors, and beautiful intarsia art can be created without using paint or stain.

## Red Hardwoods

- Bloodwood
- Bubinga
- Sycamore (Heartwood)
- Mahogany
- Lacewood

## Orange Hardwoods

- Padouk
- Canarywood

## Green Hardwoods

- Poplar (Heartwood)



## **Yellow Hardwoods**

- Yellowheart
- Canarywood

## **Light Brown Hardwoods**

- Mahogany
- Red Oak
- Butternut
- Cherry
- Beech
- Alder
- Ash (Heartwood)

## **Dark Brown Hardwoods**

- Walnut
- Lacewood
- Monkeypod
- White Oak

## **Black/Dark Hardwoods**

- Wenge
- Walnut

## **Blue/Purple Hardwoods**

- Purpleheart

## White Hardwoods

- Aspen
- Basswood
- Hard Maple
- Curly Maple
- Poplar (Sapwood)
- Sycamore (Sapwood)
- Ash (Sapwood)

## Pink Hardwoods

- Cherry
- Alder
- Beech
- Mahogany
- Lacewood

Western Red Cedar was many shades from dark to light brown.  
Blue Pine works well for grays to blues.

# Grain Direction

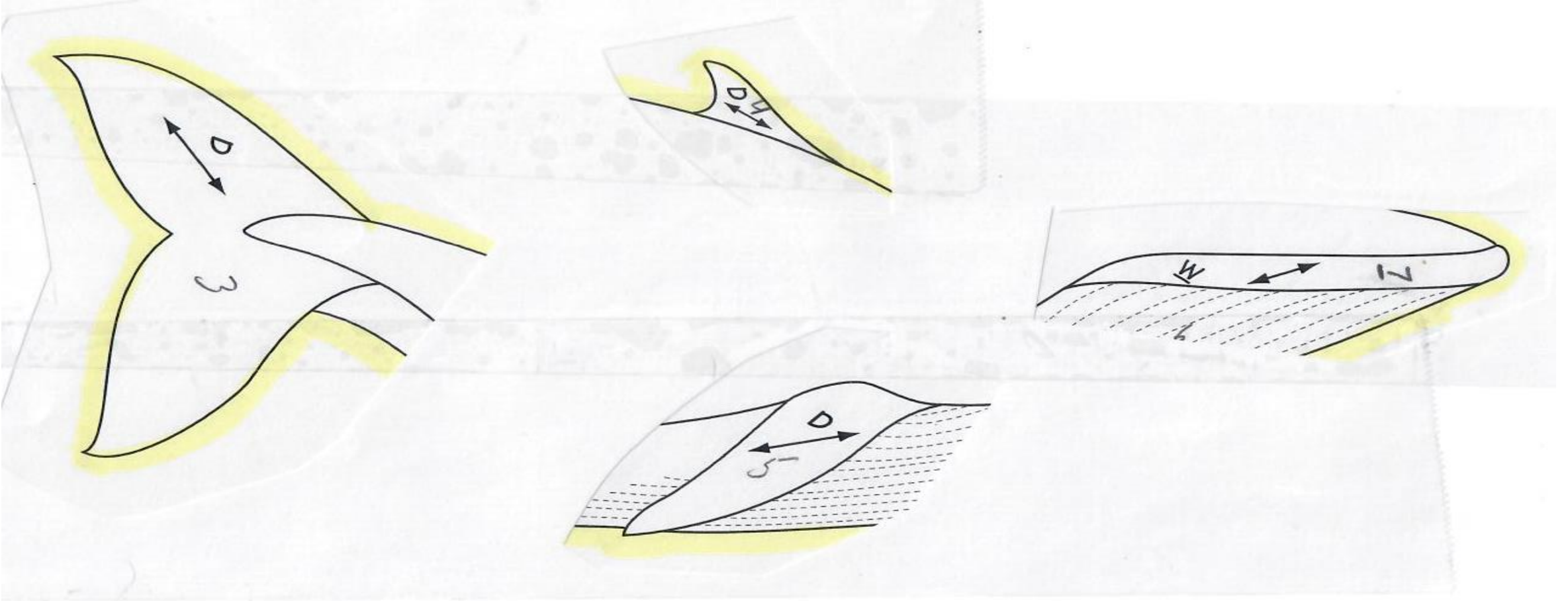




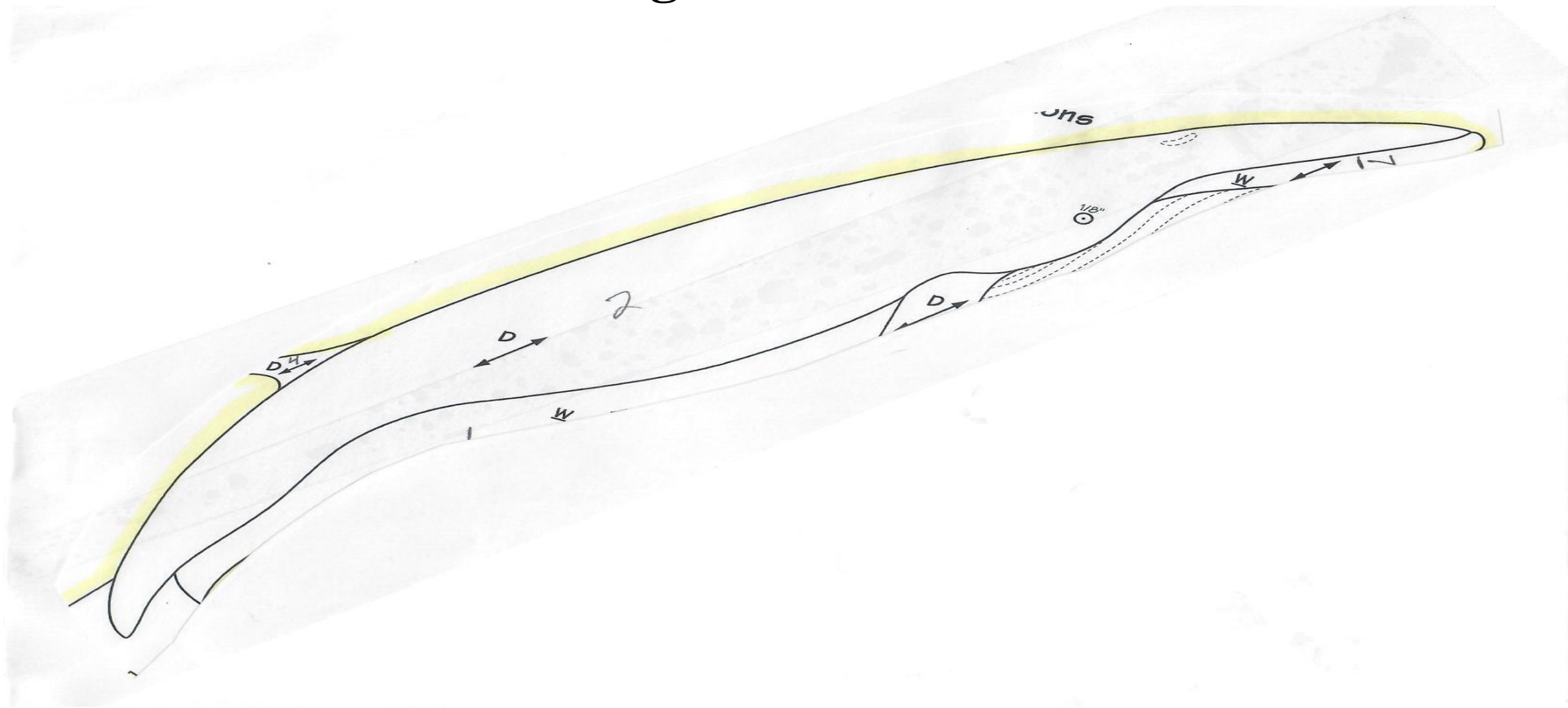
# Figure in the Wood



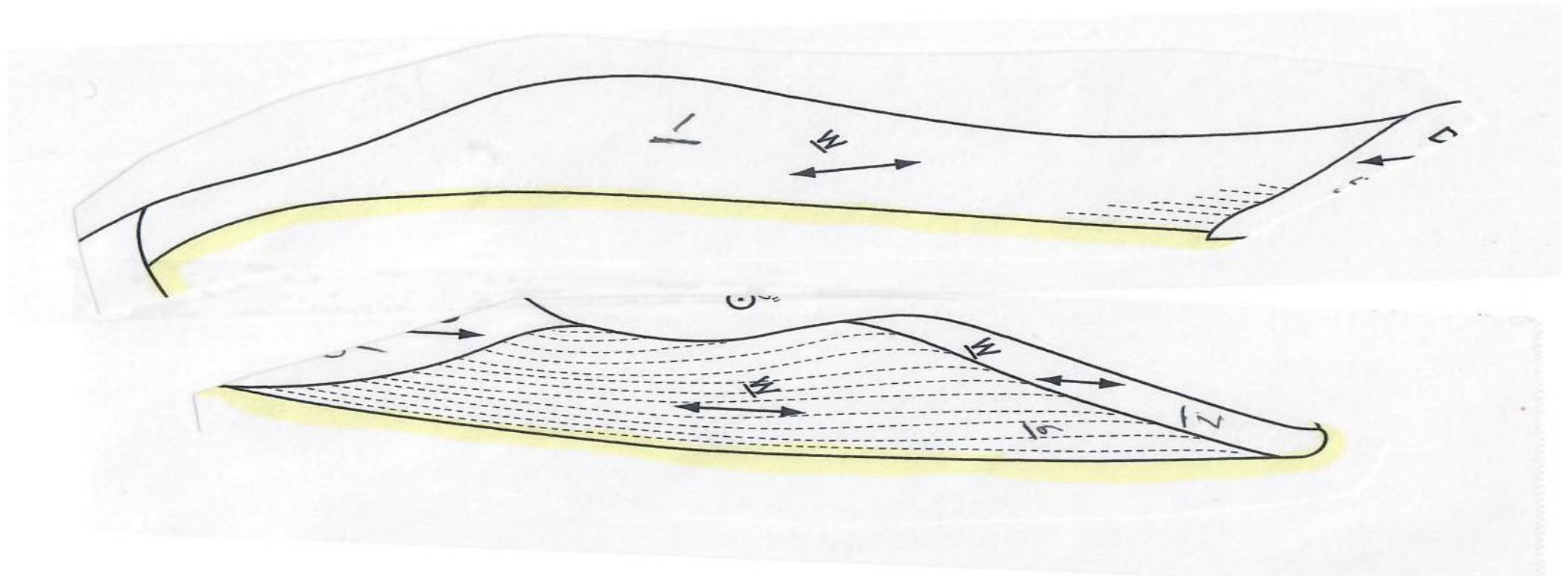
# Cutting For Pattern #1



# Cutting For Pattern #2



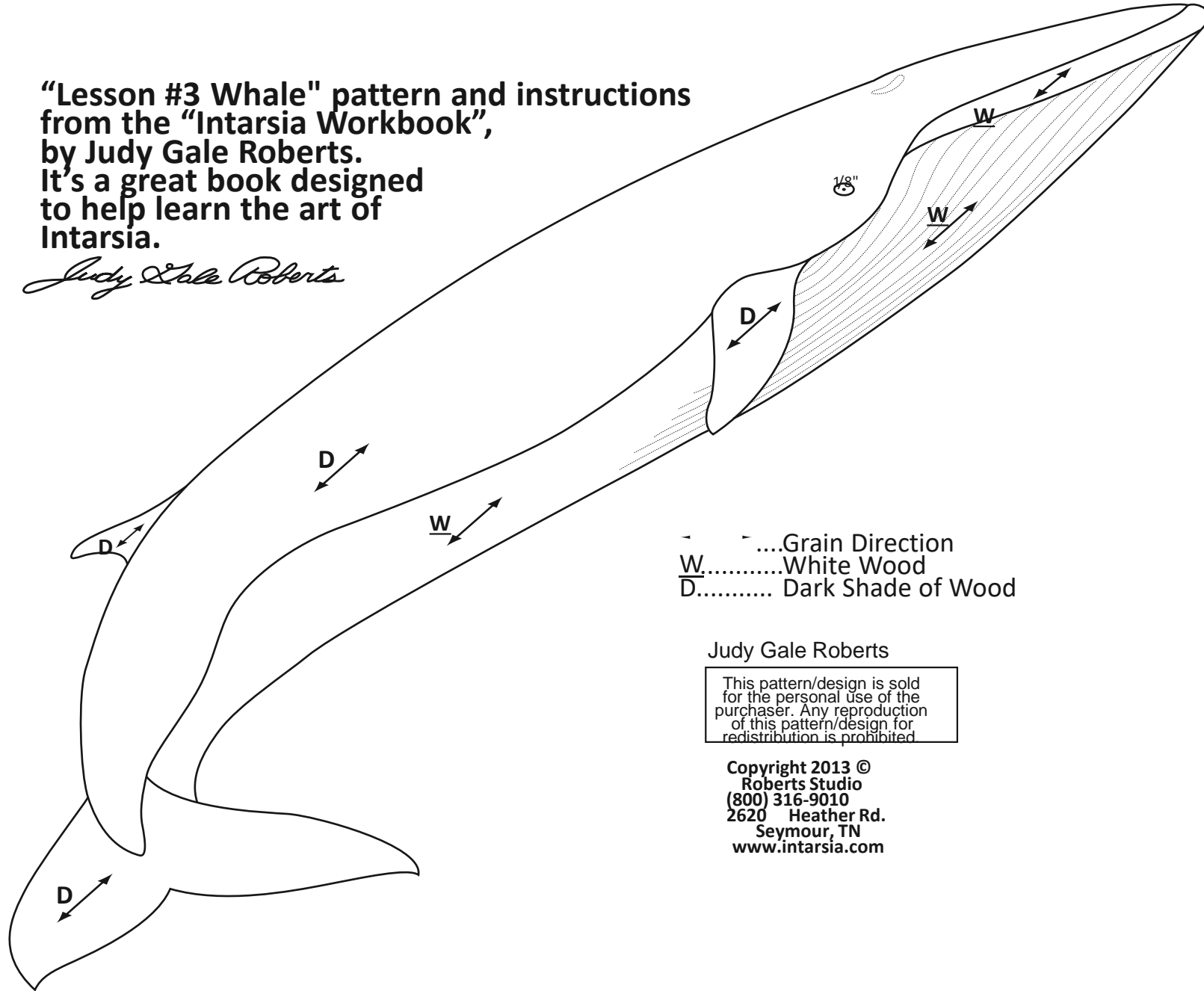
# Cutting For Pattern #3





**"Lesson #3 Whale" pattern and instructions  
from the "Intarsia Workbook",  
by Judy Gale Roberts.  
It's a great book designed  
to help learn the art of  
Intarsia.**

*Judy Gale Roberts*



.....Grain Direction  
W.....White Wood  
D..... Dark Shade of Wood

Judy Gale Roberts

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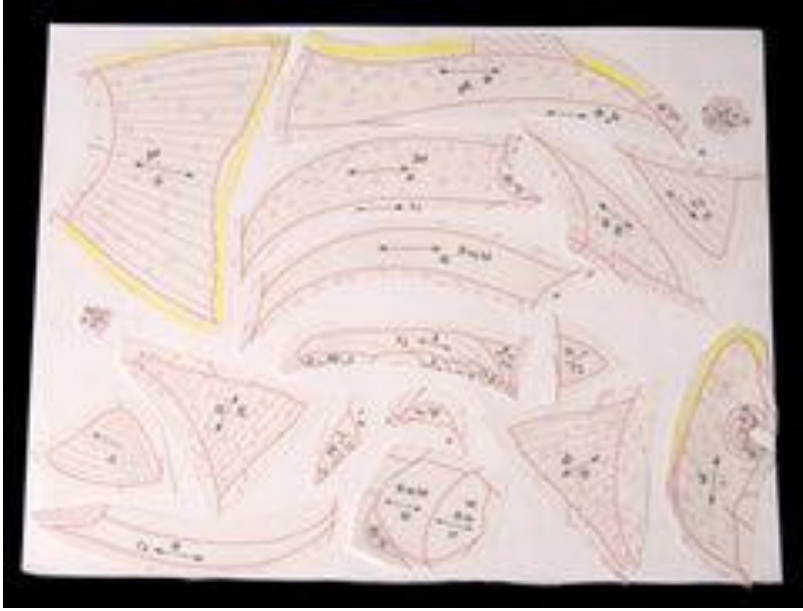
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Seymour, TN  
[www.intarsia.com](http://www.intarsia.com)

**This pattern  
will be your  
sanding shim.**

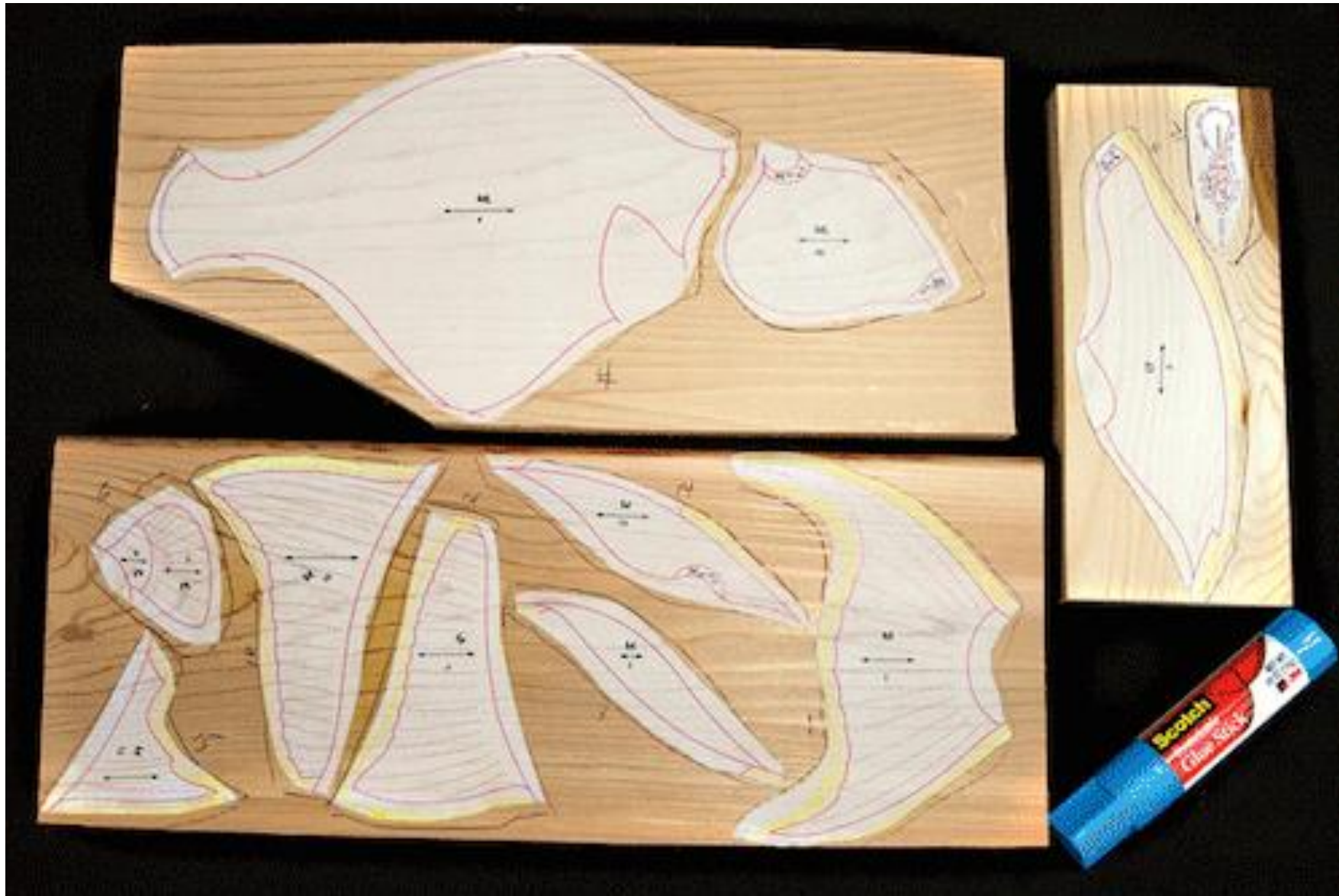
# Repositionable Adhesive



# Zyron Creative Station With **Repositionable** Adhesive



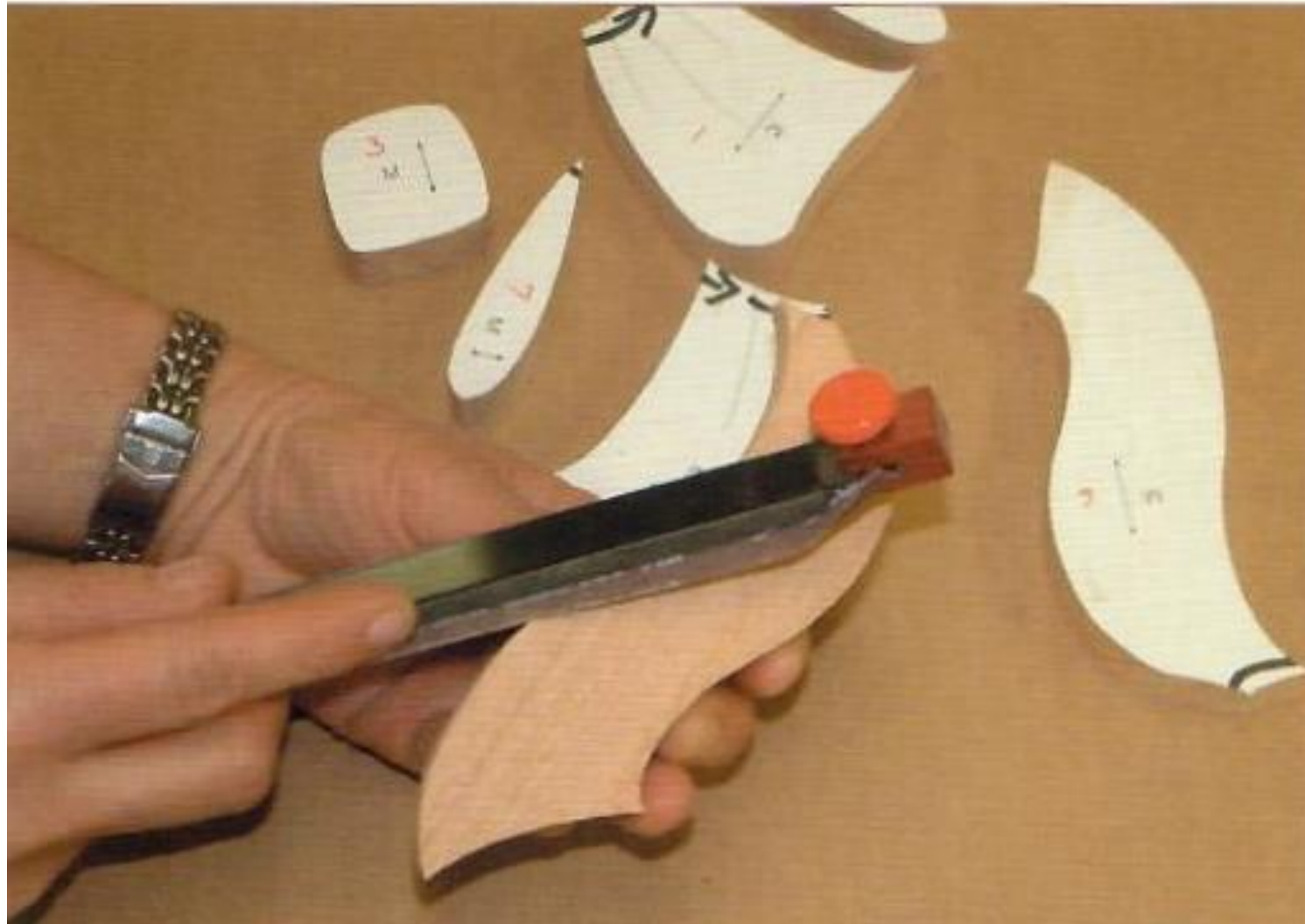
# Placing Pattern Pieces On Wood



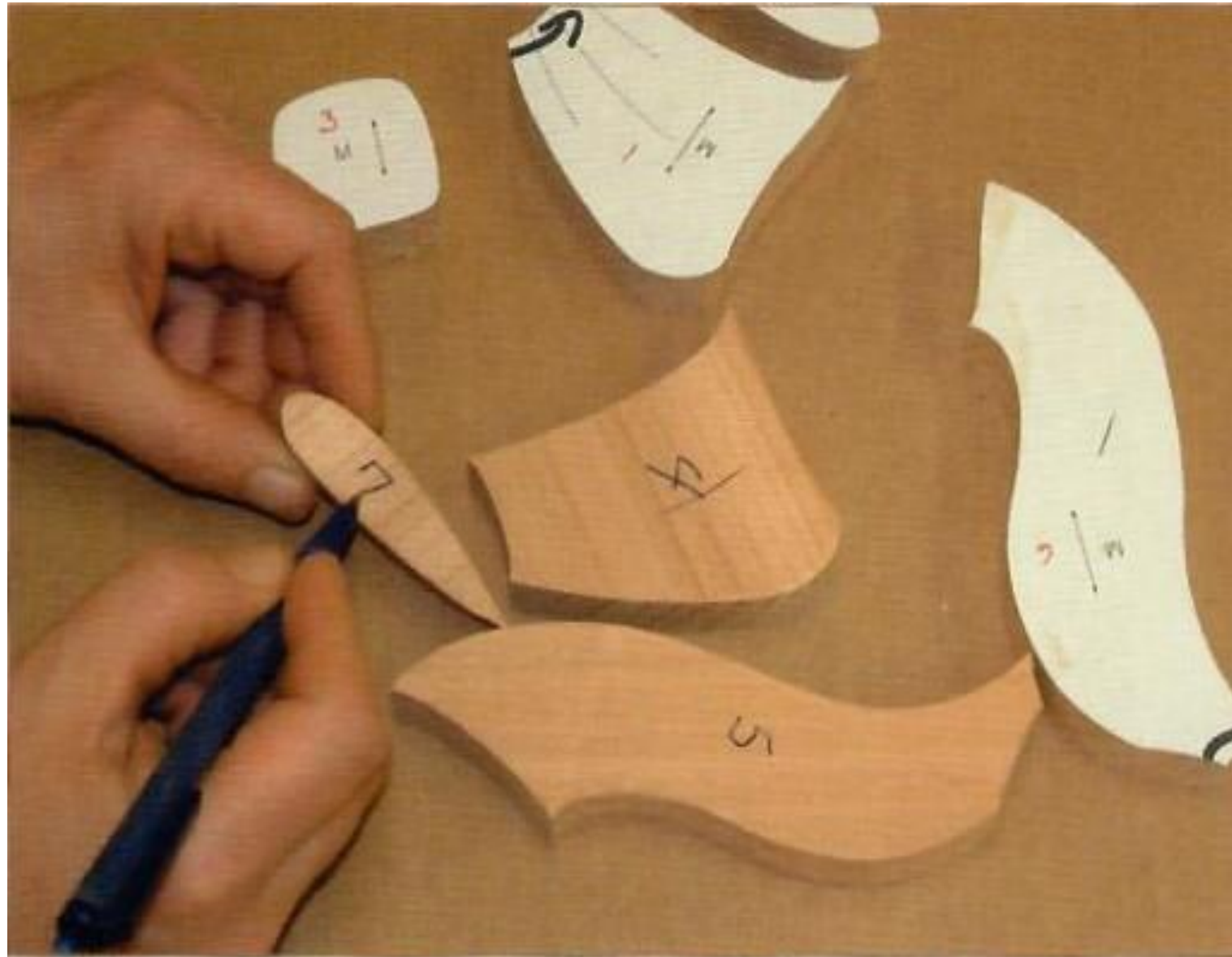


**Change Your  
Blade Often**

# Sanding the Backs of the Pieces & your Board



# Number the Pieces

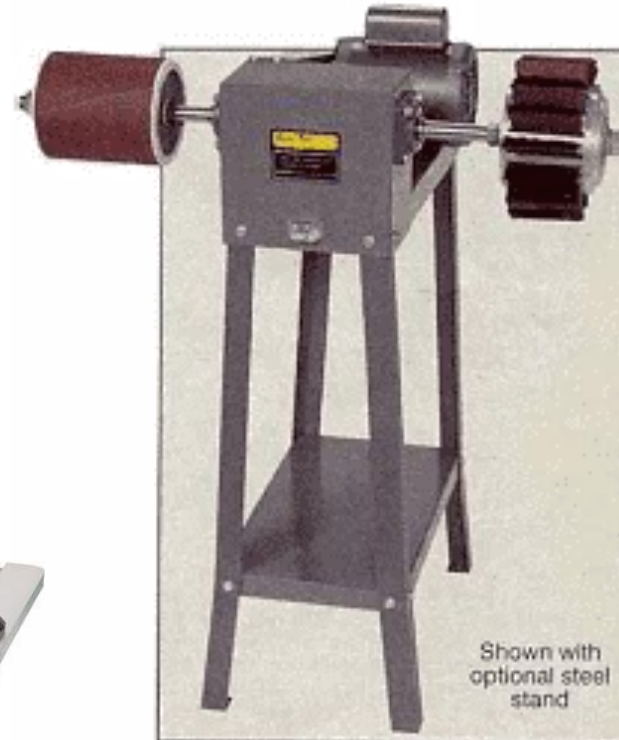
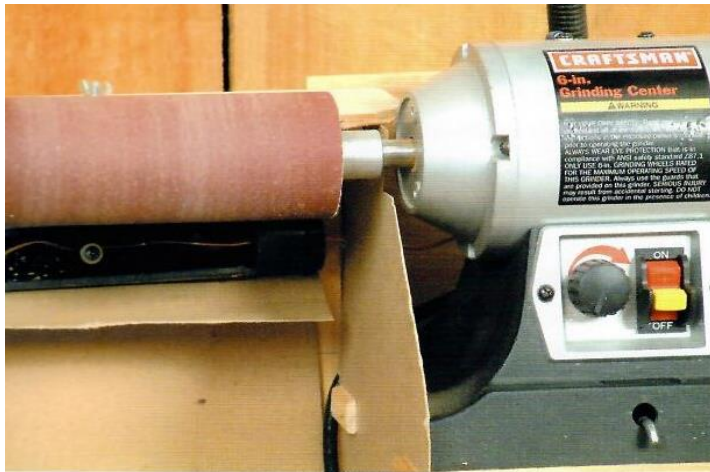


# Check Your Fit

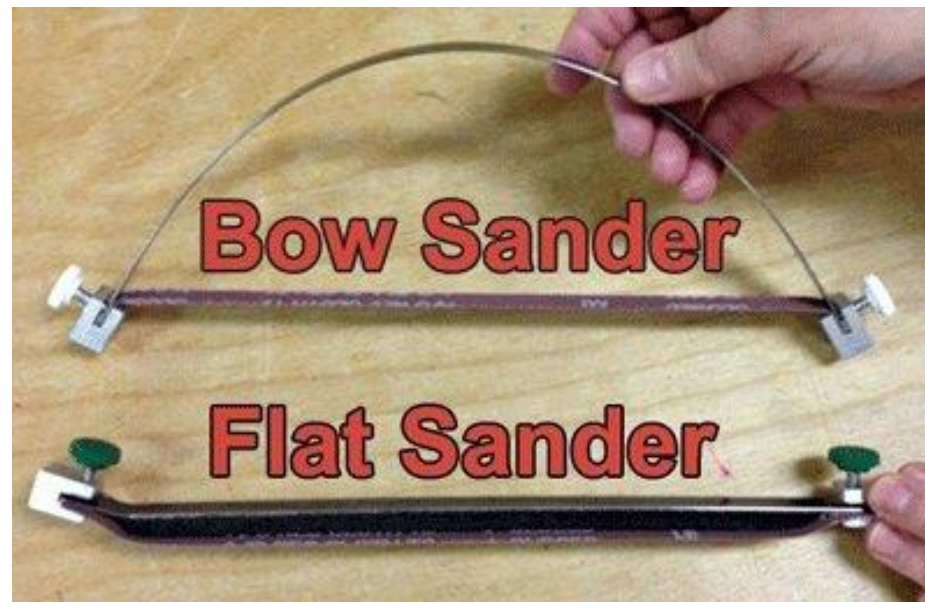




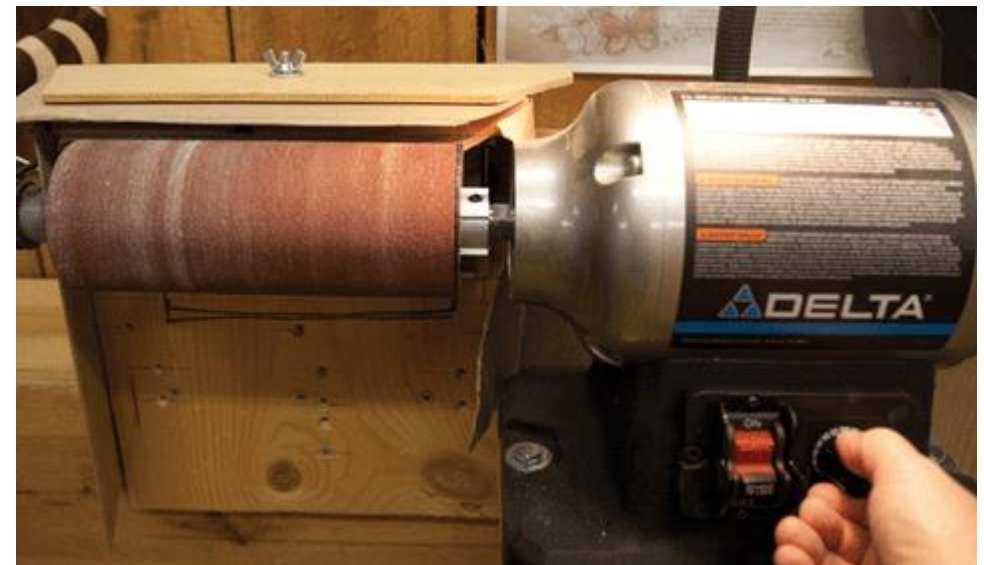
# Sanders



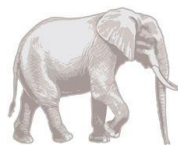
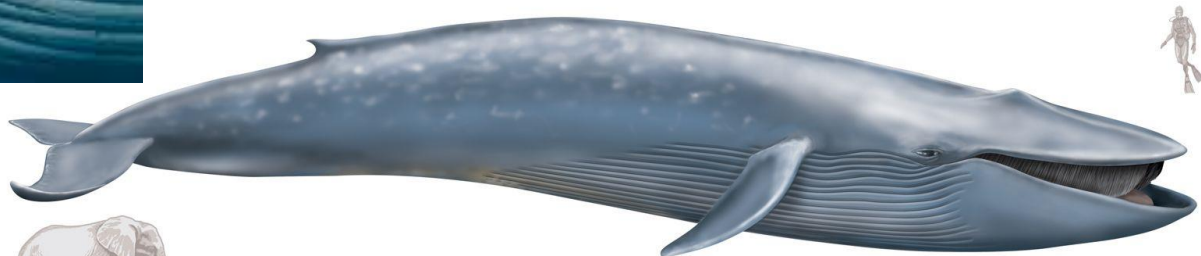




Flex Drum Sander







3 metres  
9 feet

**blue whale**  
(*Balaenoptera musculus*)  
length 29.5 m (97 ft)

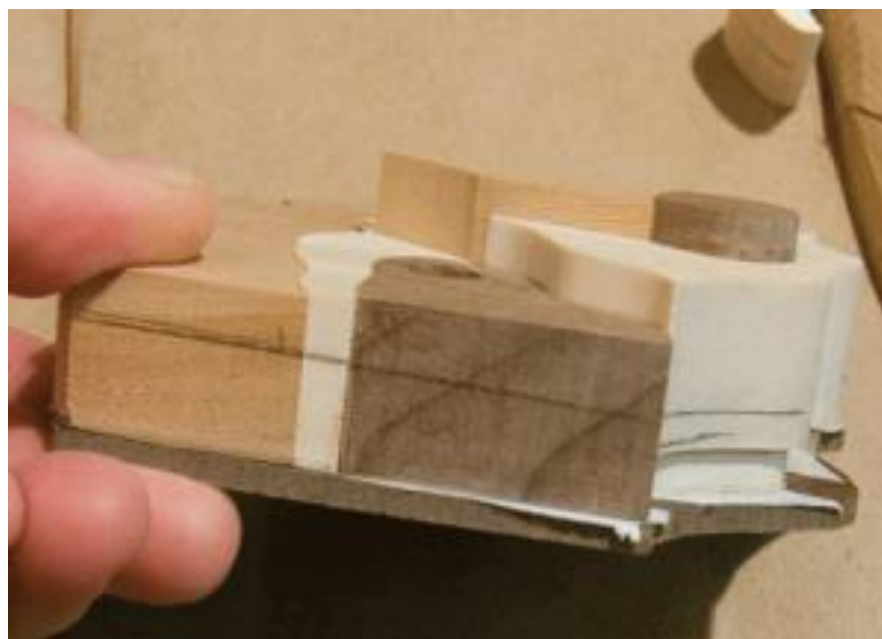


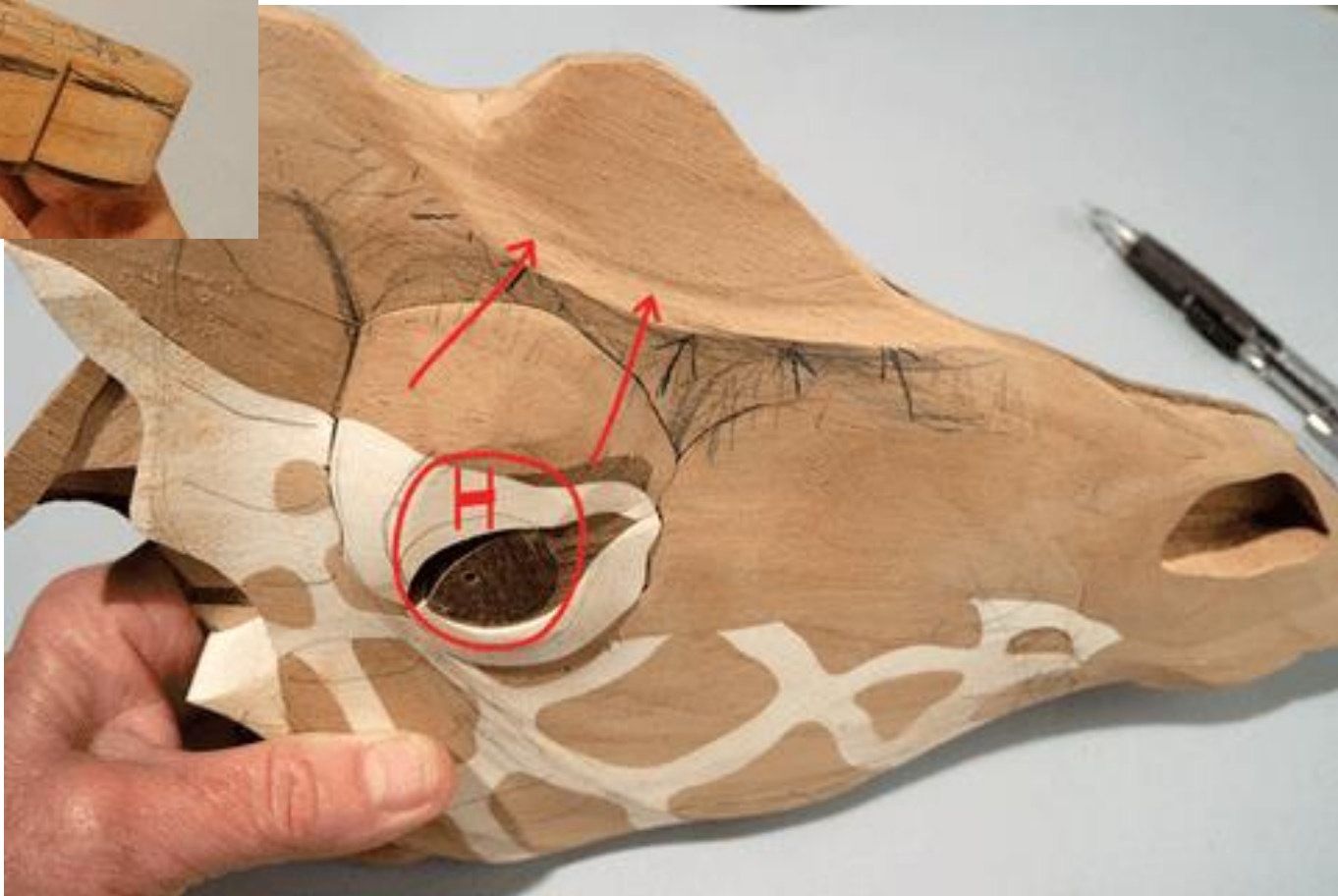
# Sanding Shims

**Double-sided carpet tape, light duty or low traffic plastic carpet tape: *Duck Band light traffic carpet tape #DT-75***













I-09  
Big Foot  
Clown



# Sanding Shims





# Raising Shims



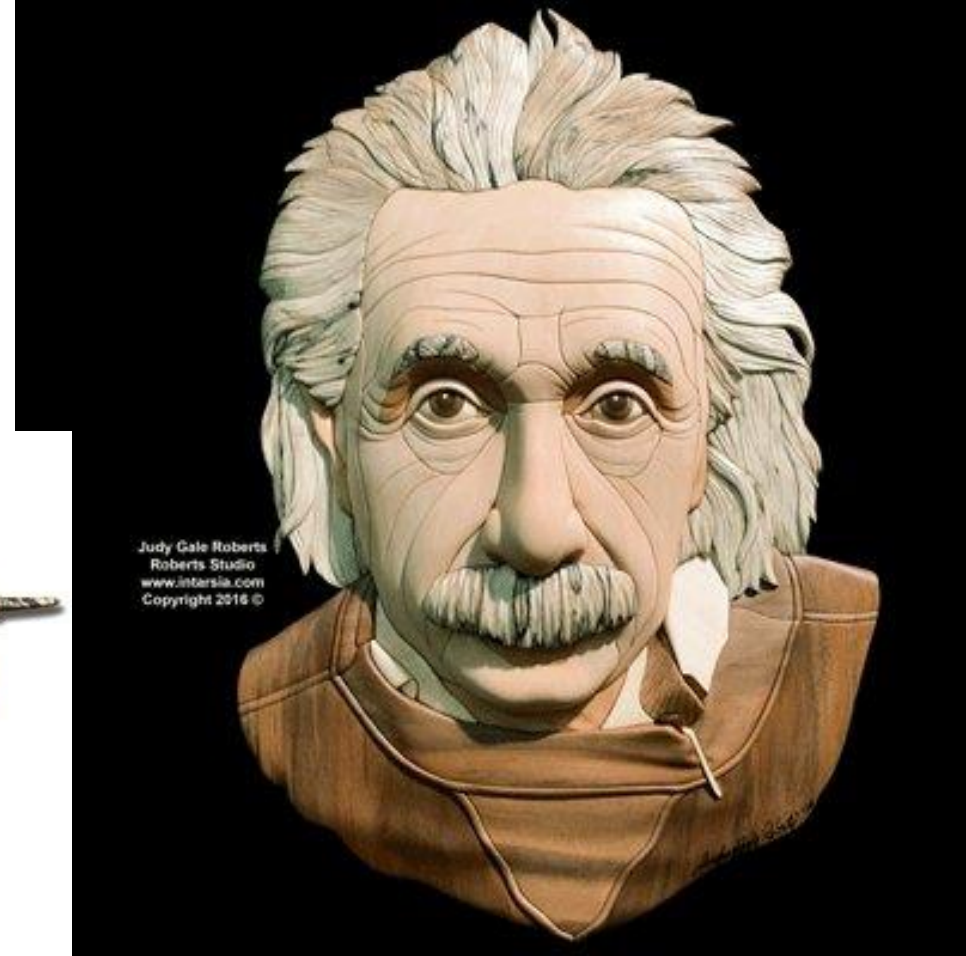
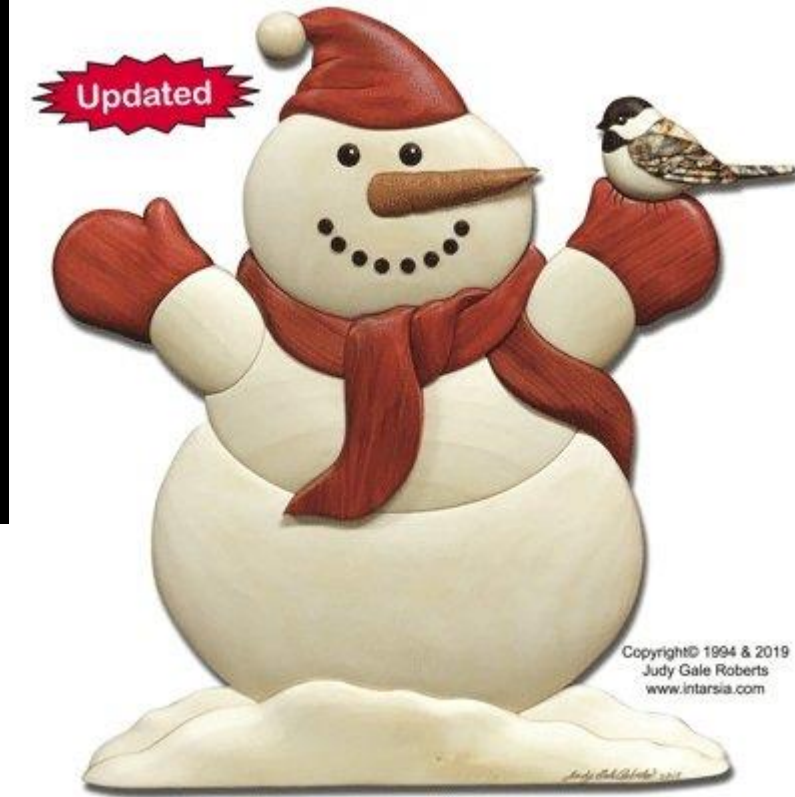
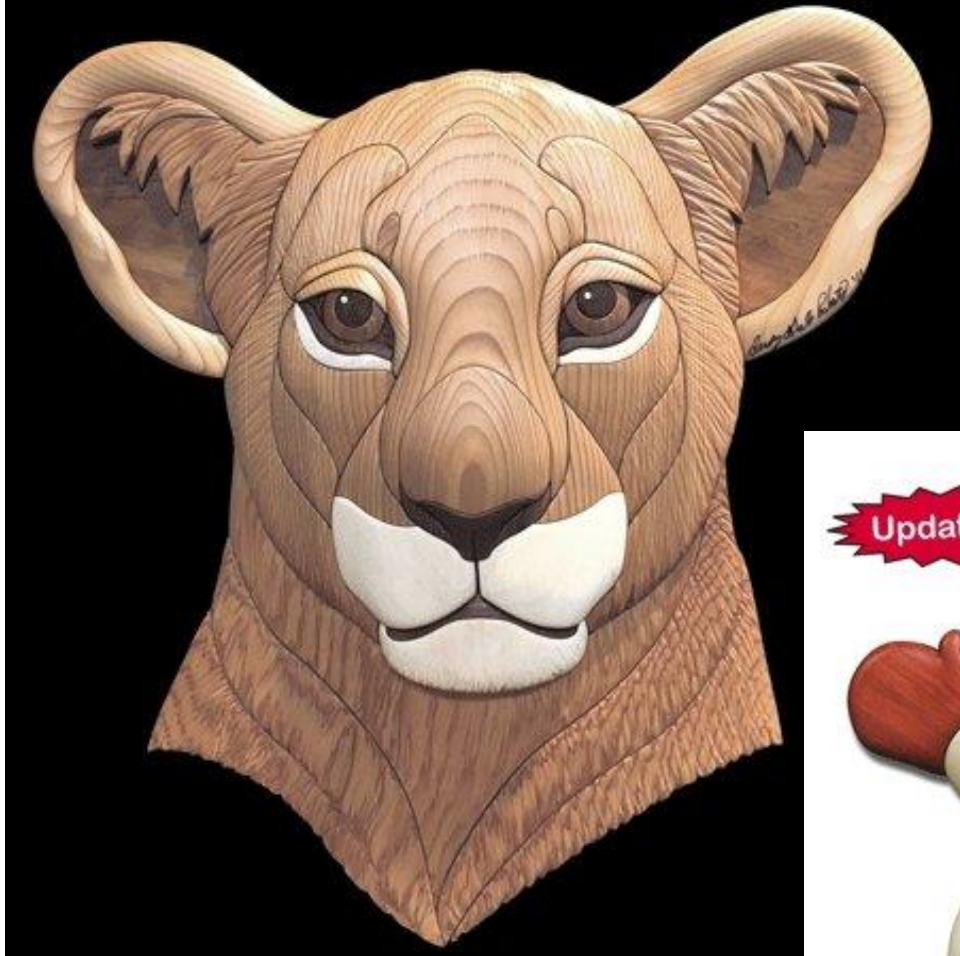


# Sanding As One Piece

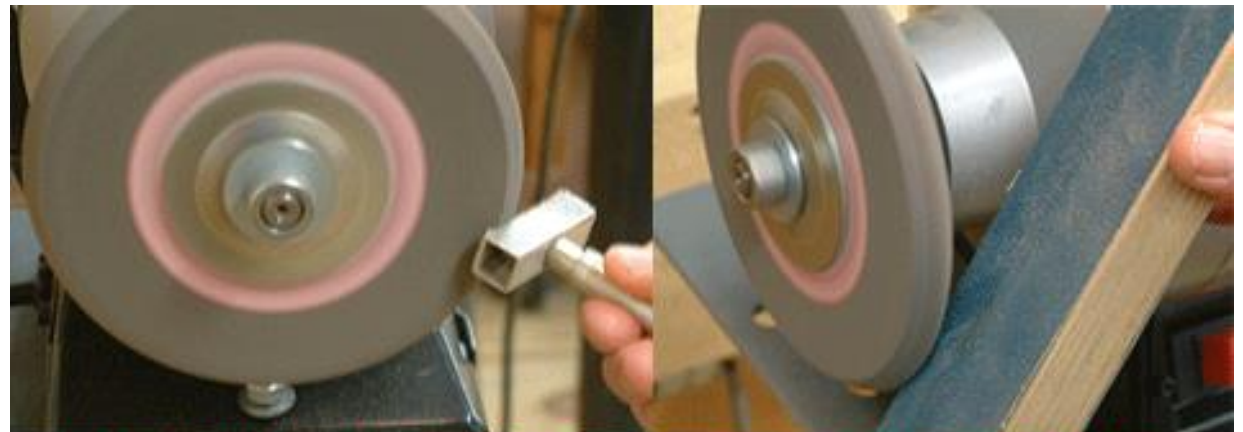




# Eye Highlight

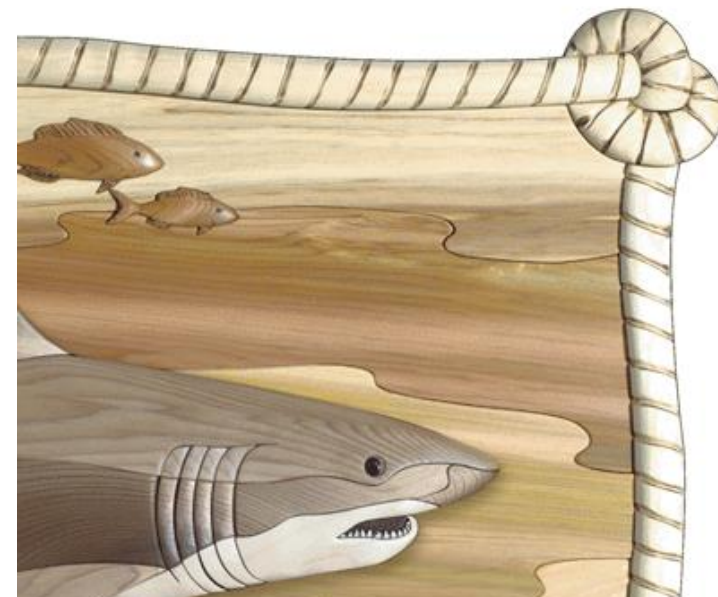


# Wonder Wheel



Use a wheel dresser or a rough grit sandpaper stapled to a flat piece of wood to dress the wheel to a point.





# Texture Tools



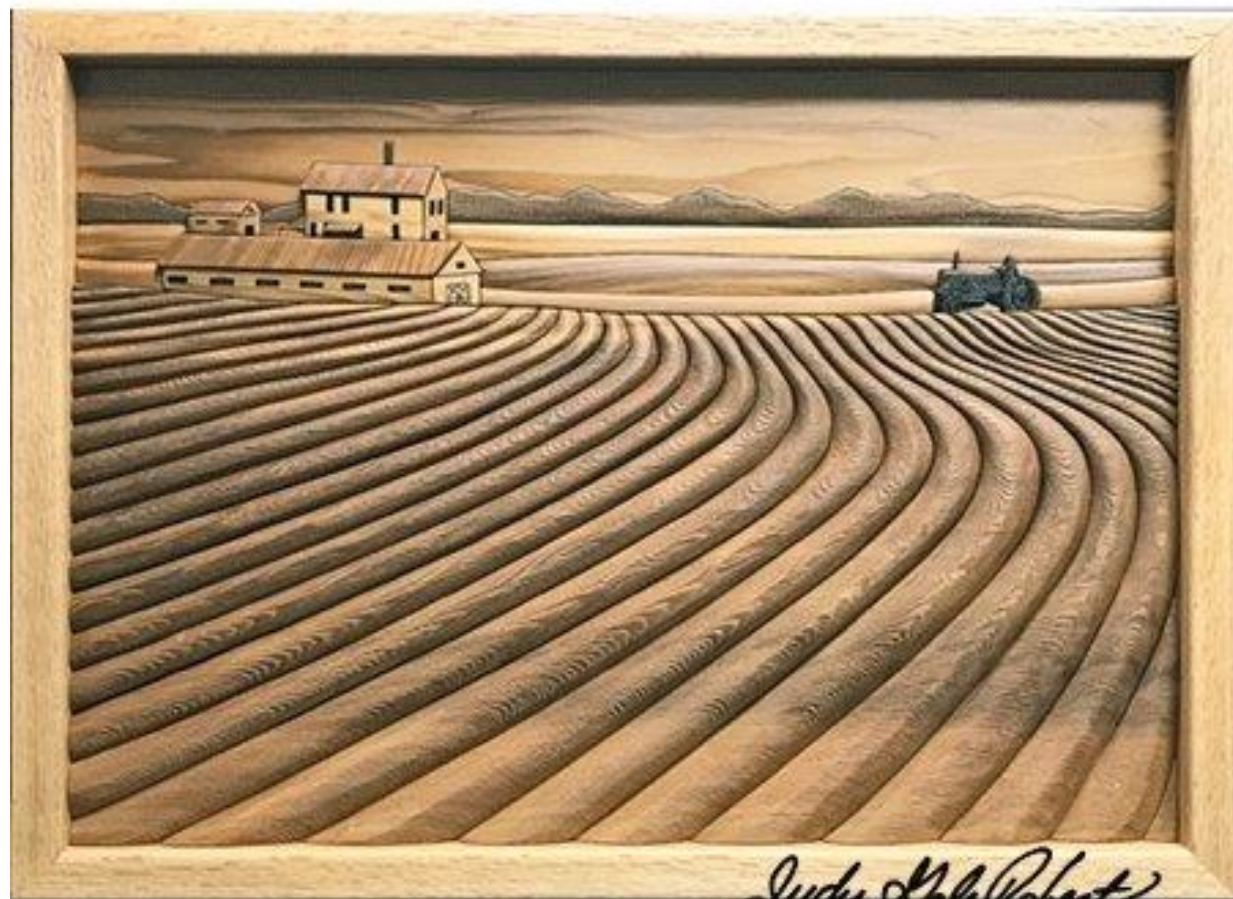


For more detail, a 6-inch wire brush can be mounted to a bench grinder and used to add texture to the plowed rows.



6-inch  
wire brush

A wire brush can also add texture to other projects for ground and for trees.



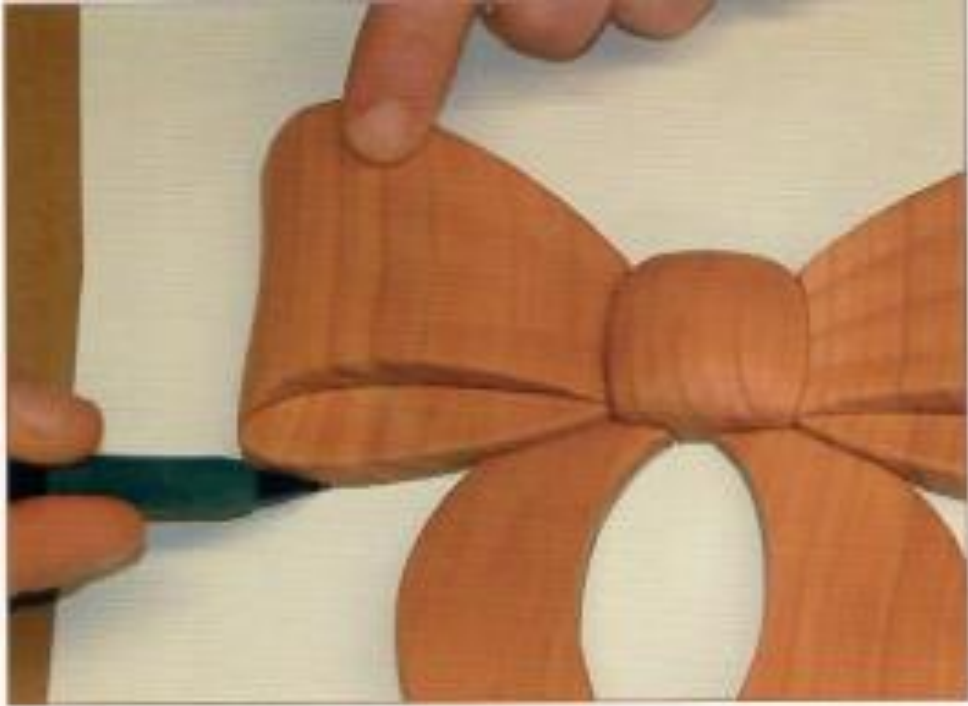


# Under Cutting Edges





# Cutting Backer

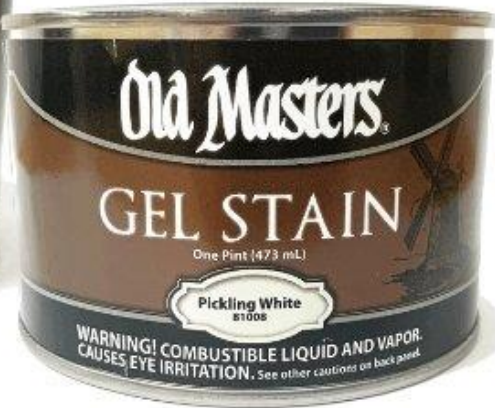
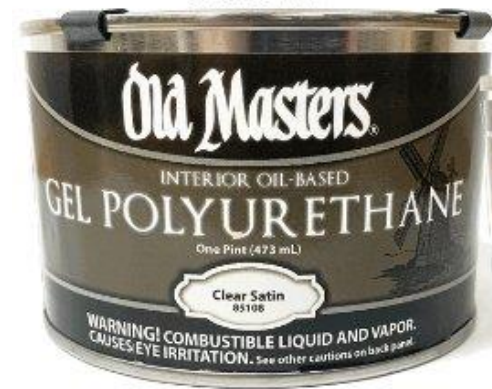


# Old Master's Poly Gel

## Old Masters Polyurethane Wiping Gel

Clear  
Satin

Pickling  
White



# Finishing



Using Old Master's Poly Gel





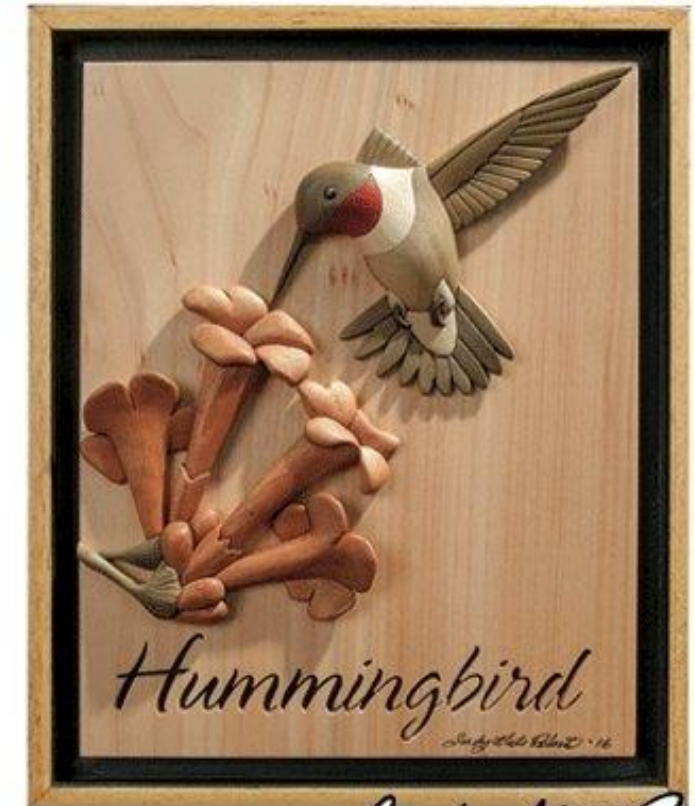
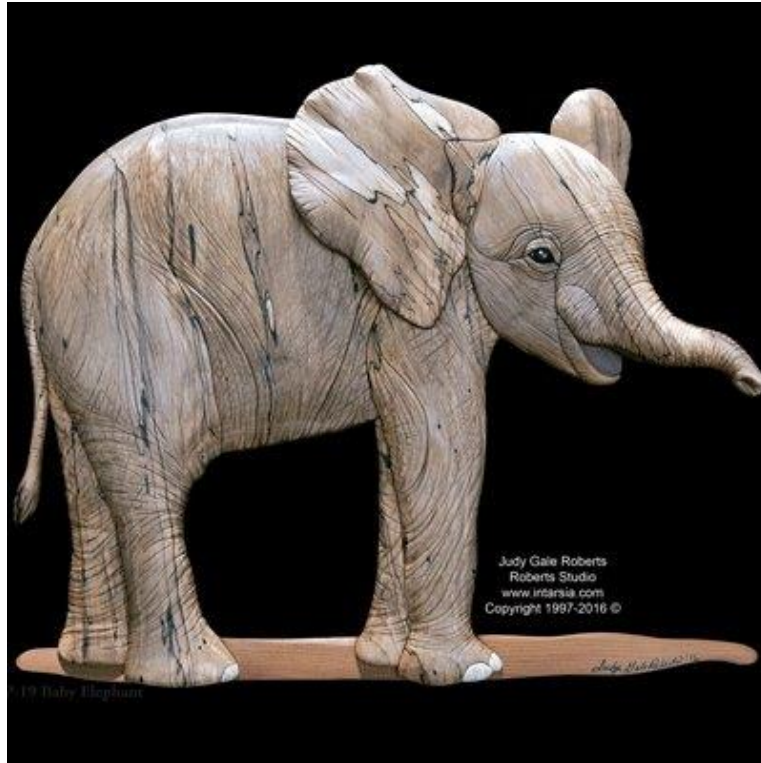
# Gluing







# Sign & Date Your Work

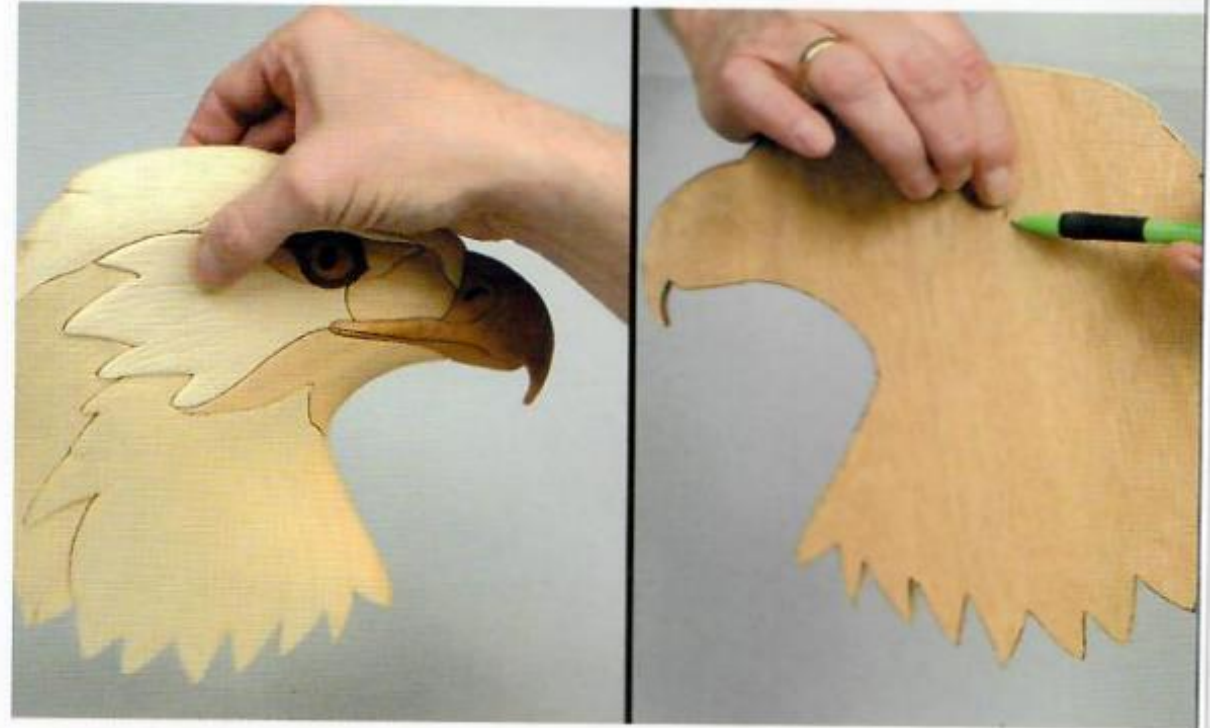


*Judy Gale Roberts*

# Installing A Hanger



**PHOTO 1.27** We use a mirror hanger instead of a saw tooth hanger because it is strong, reliable, and adjustable.



**PHOTO 1.28** Hold the project with two fingers to find the balance point. Then, mark the back to show where to drill the hole.





# Resources For Patterns

Judy Gale Roberts

Kathy Wise

Janette Square

Bruce Worthington

Steve Good

Garnet Hall

*Links to These & Others are on the Club Website Under  
Resources - Scrolling*