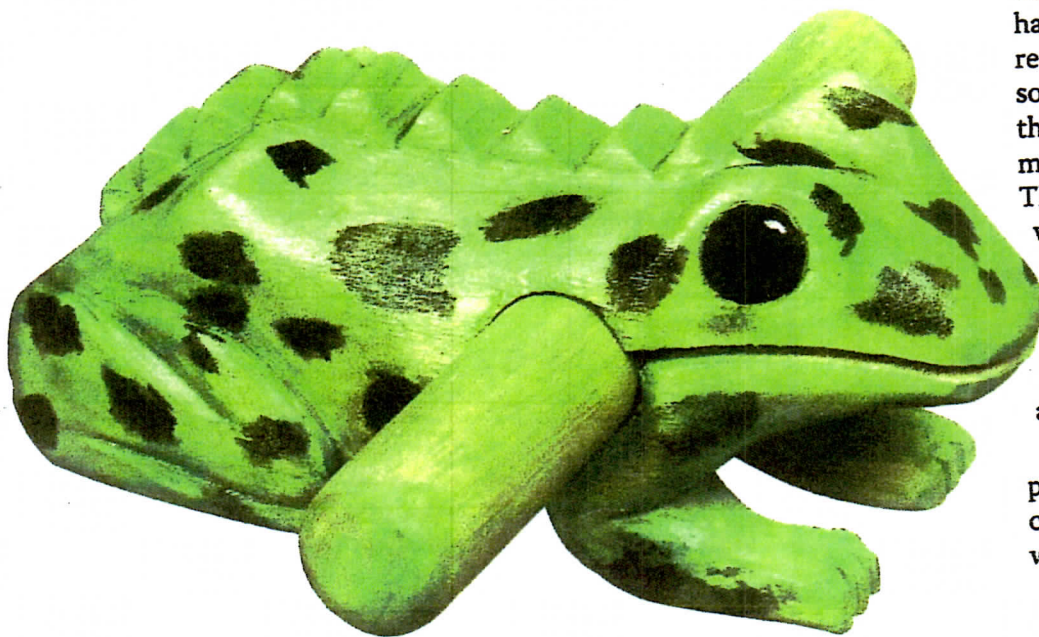
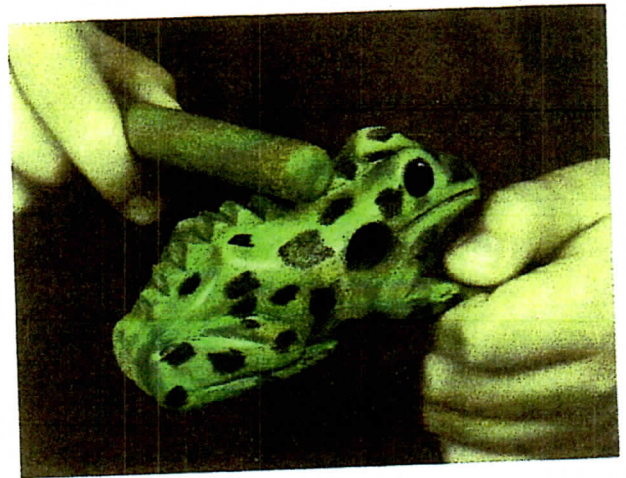


Make a Musical Frog

Fast and fun project is a unique musical instrument

By Everett Ellenwood



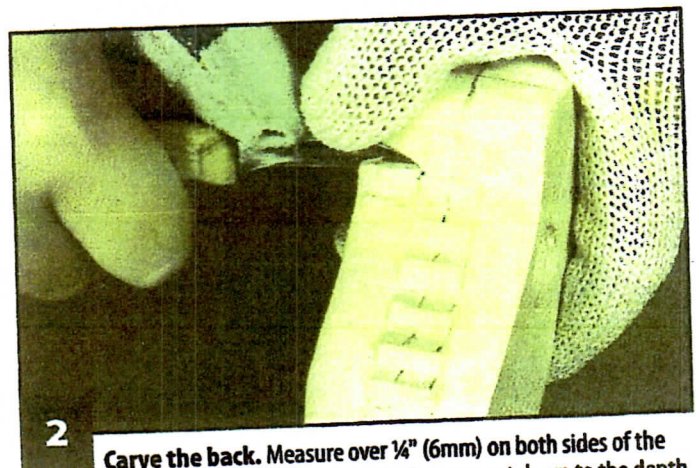
This carving is meant to be handled. People won't be able to resist picking it up to see what sound it makes. When you rub the stick along the frog's back, it makes a delightful croaking sound. The sound varies depending on which direction you rub the stick.

The musical frog is a great project to introduce kids to woodcarving. The simple design can be carved quickly, and kids love the sound it makes.

To get started, transfer the pattern to the block of wood and cut the blank on a band saw or with a coping saw.

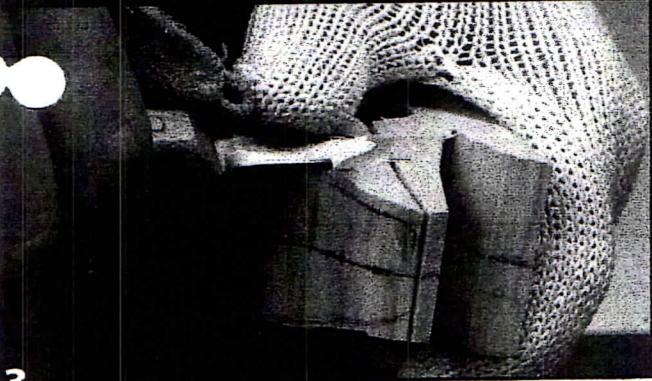


1 Prepare the blank. Mark the location of the hole and draw the mouth. Drill the hole with a $\frac{5}{8}$ " (16mm)-diameter spade bit. Cut along the mouth line back to the hole with a band saw or coping saw. Measure and make several marks halfway across the thickness of the blank. Connect the marks to draw a centerline the entire way around the frog.



2 Carve the back. Measure over $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) on both sides of the centerline in the ribbed area. Use a backsaw to cut down to the depth of the ribs on both sides of the centerline. Remove the wood from both sides with a carving knife, leaving the ribs $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) wide.

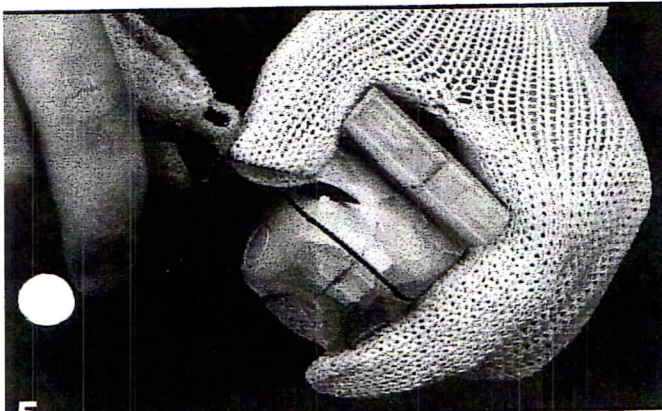
MUSICAL FROG: SHAPING THE PROJECT



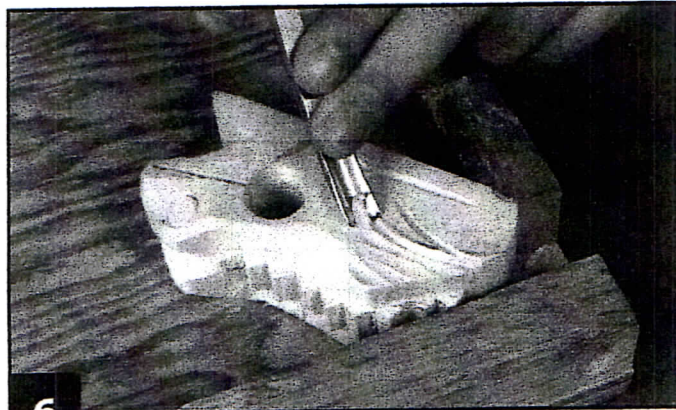
3 **Carve the head.** Draw the shape of the head onto the blank. Use the centerline to make sure it is balanced on both sides. Round the head and top of the face with a knife.



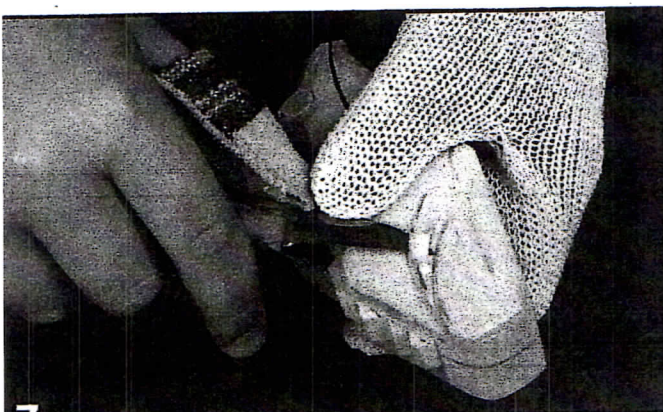
4 **Carve the eyes.** Remove the wood on the top of the head between the protruding eyes with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " (10mm) #9 gouge. Plunge the same gouge into the wood and work it around in a circle to form the eyes.



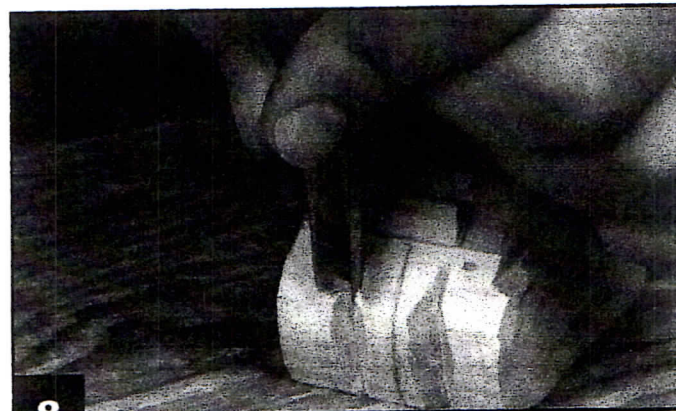
5 **Shape the jaw and body.** Round the edges of the frog's jaw with a carving knife. Then, round the edges of the body.



6 **Define the back legs.** Trace the outline of the back legs with a V-tool. Use a gouge to lower the body around the legs.

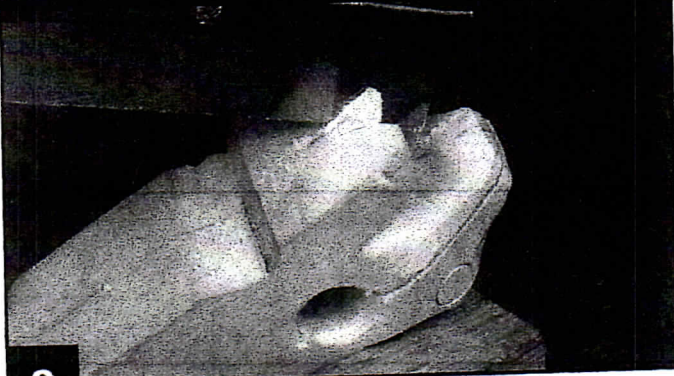


7 **Round the legs.** Round and shape the legs with a knife. Compare the two legs to each other to keep the frog symmetrical.



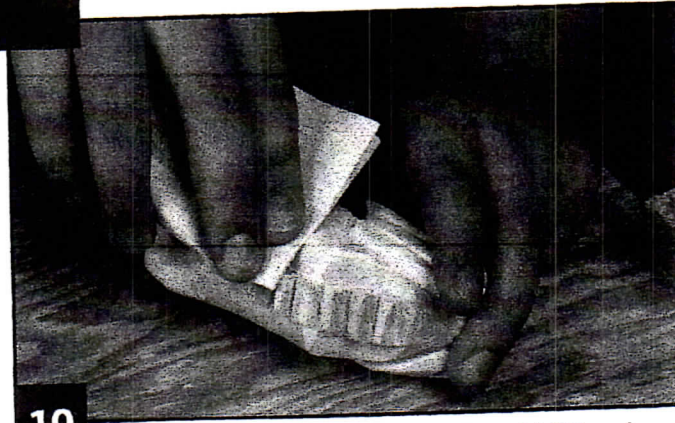
8 **Carve the back of the legs.** Make stop cuts with a knife or backsaw and use a V-tool to shape the back of the legs.

MUSICAL FROG: FINISHING THE PROJECT



9

Carve the front legs. Use a backsaw to separate the front legs, and then round and shape the legs with a knife.



10

Sand the frog. Sand the surface of the frog with 220- and then 320-grit sandpaper. Remove the sanding dust.



11

Paint the frog and dowel. Use acrylic paint. After the paint dries, spray the surface with gloss varnish for a wet look.

material & tool

MATERIALS:

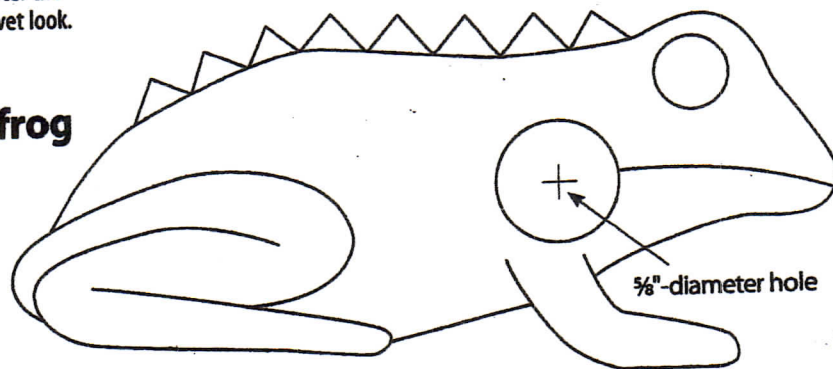
- 1½" x 2" x 4½" (38mm x 51mm x 114mm) basswood
- ⅝"-diameter x 5"-long (16mm x 127mm) dowel
- 220- and 320-grit sandpaper
- Acrylic paints: green, black, and white
- Gloss spray varnish

TOOLS:

- Band saw or coping saw
- ⅜" (10mm) #9 gouge
- V-tool
- Backsaw
- Carving knife
- Ruler
- Drill with ⅝" (16mm)-diameter spade bit

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

Musical frog pattern



further reading

Kid Crafts: Woodcarving

by Everett Ellenwood

Carving things out of wood is easy and lots of fun. All it takes are a few simple tools, a piece of wood, some imagination—and the skills you'll learn with this book! With step-by-step photographs and easy-to-follow instructions to guide you through each project, you'll be amazed how easy and exciting it is to carve.



Available for \$14.95 plus \$3.99 S&H from Fox Chapel Publishing, 1970 Broad St., East Petersburg, Pa., 17520, 800-457-9112, www.foxchapelpublishing.com, or check your local retailer.



About the Author
Everett Ellenwood is a well-known carving instructor and author. He is the author of *The Complete Book of Woodcarving* (also

published by Fox Chapel) and has produced DVDs on carving and sharpening. For more of his work, visit www.ellenwoodarts.com