

# Pattern & Instructions for the Pelican w/babies by Sally & David Nye



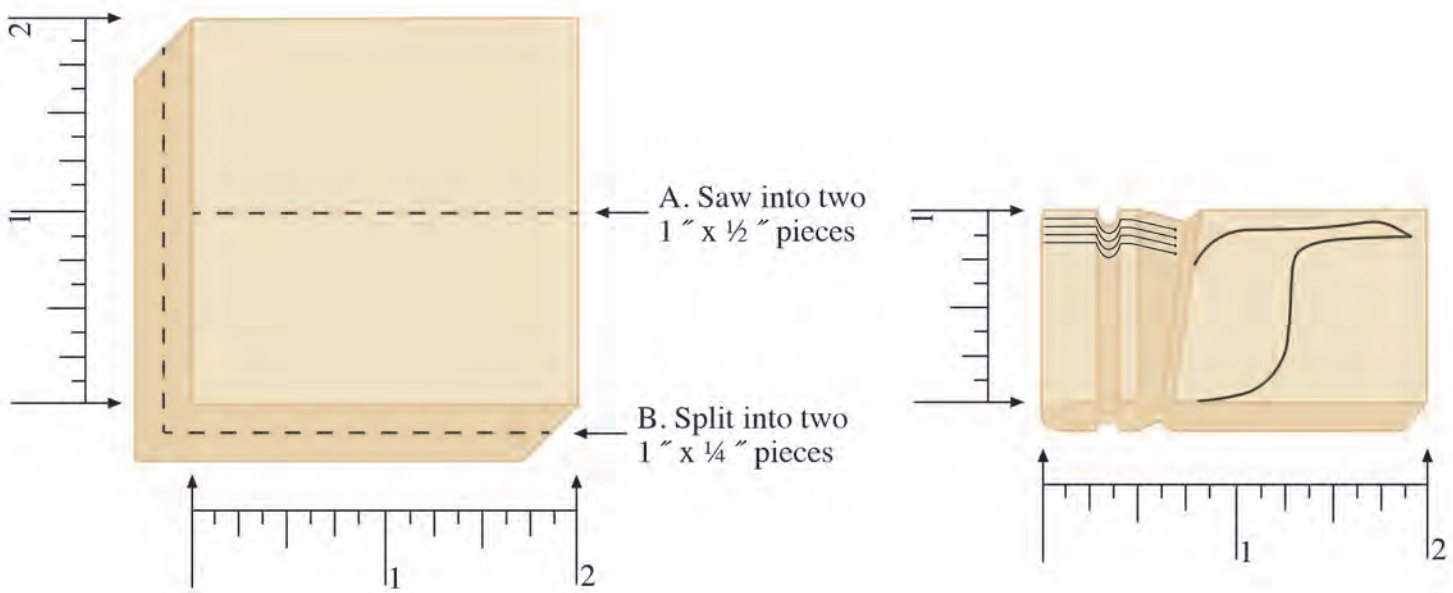
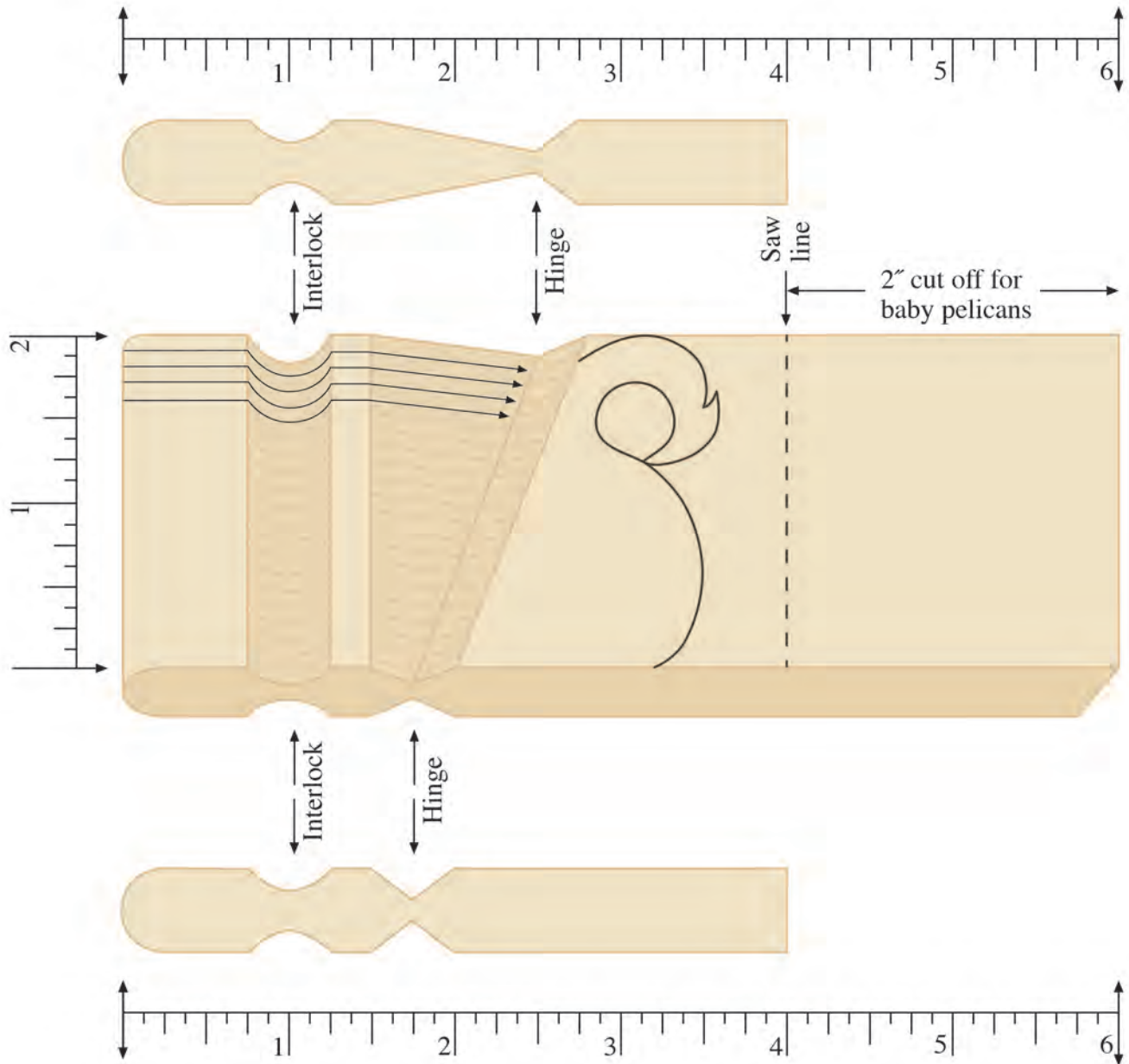
After the dove, the pelican is the most common bird seen in Christian symbolism. During the late medieval and early Renaissance period, the motif of the pelican piercing its breast to feed its young with its blood became a popular symbol of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Over time, variations of the legend occurred, but they are similar: *"The baby pelicans die and after three days of mourning, the parent pelican pecks its own breast until there is a stream of blood. The babies take the blood and are revived."* In some legends the parent will die to save its young. Despite the variations of the legends, all symbolize Christ, who shed His blood for mankind, showing His self-sacrificing love.

**Note:** The blank for the Pelican w/babies: 2-inches x 1/2-inch x 6-inches

All of the cuts can be accomplished with a bench knife. To understand these steps more clearly, we recommend watching our videos:

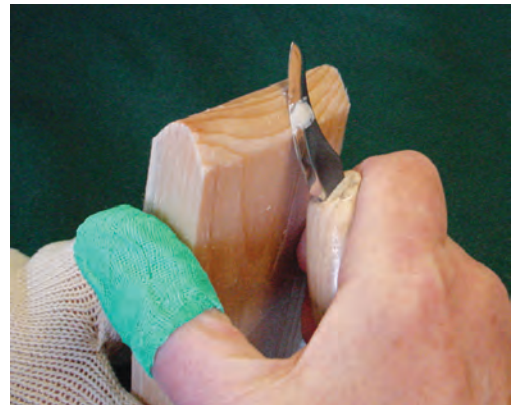
<https://www.fancarversworld.com/carving-techniques/>



## Pattern & Instructions for the Pelican



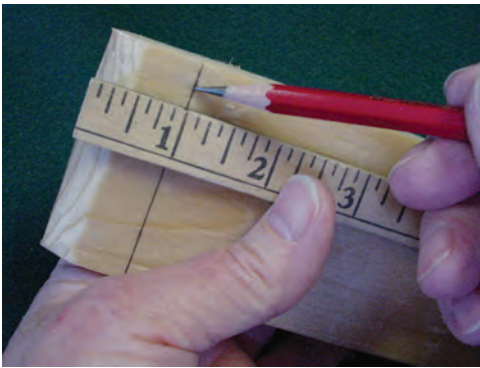
1. The dimensions of the blank are 2-inches x 1/2-inch x 6-inches. Once it has been adequately prepared for moisture content, it is ready to begin carving the adult Pelican.



2. Start the process by shaping one end of the blank so that it is rounded. This will become the tip of the feathers. The rough end must be smooth for a successful riving/splitting action, otherwise the raggedness might cause it to split lengthwise.

3.





3. Measure 1-inch from the rounded end. Draw a line across the 2-inch dimension on both sides of the blank. This will be the interlock where the feathers “interlock” and are held in place.



4. Use a bench pelican knife or a 12mm Stubai™ veiner gouge to carve the 1/2-inch wide C-shaped interlock on each side of the blank. Leave 1/3 for the center.



5. In other words, cut away 1/3 from each side, leaving 1/3 for the center.



6. Draw two lines on both sides of the blank. The first: a straight line 1/8-inch below the interlock. This is the ‘buffer zone’ which keeps the interlock cut and the hinge cut separate from each other. The second line is a diagonal line 2 1/2-inches from the rounded top on one edge (head side) and 1 3/4-inches on the other (tail side). This will be the hinge cut, where the feathers will turn so they can interlock with each other.



7. With a Flexcut™ 70-degree v-scorp, remove the diagonal line from both sides of the blank. This begins the hinge.



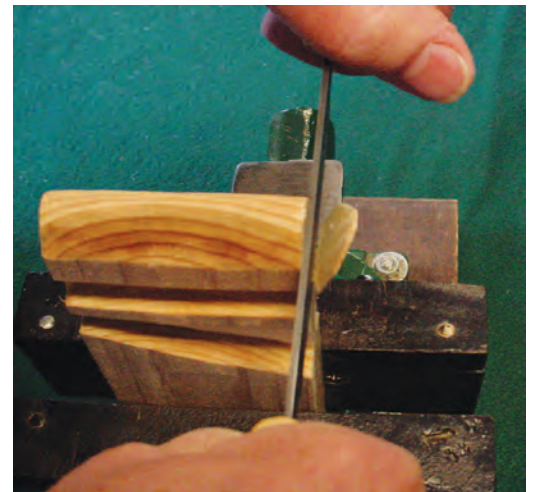
8. Use a bench knife or a 25mm 2.5 sweep Stubai™ chisel (shown) to make a v-cut along the hinge line on both sides of the blank. It is a long taper from the 'buffer line' to the diagonal hinge. In short, it's like a v-cut with a long side and a short side. Work both sides, checking often to insure both sides are aligned.



9. The cuts must line up on both sides and equal portions have been removed from each side so you leave a base of 1/8-inch. This is the hinge where the feathers turn.



10. To rive the feathers, secure the blank in a vice with the longer tapered side away from you. Begin riving on that side and work toward yourself. The Flexcut™ 3-inch drawknife is ideal. Hold it with the flat-back side facing you. To determine the thickness of the feather, tilt the drawknife so you can see the cutting edge.

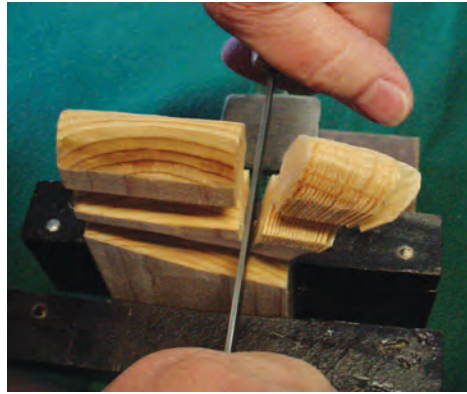


11. Stand the knife straight up and just push down. Keep the flat back of the drawknife "snug" to the solid piece being rived. To insure you achieve a uniform feather, do not allow a gap to come between the knife and the wood. The hinge will serve as a stop cut.

To better understand the technique of riving, visit our video: 'Riving Demo for Fan Carving' at

<https://www.fancarversworld.com/carving-techniques/>





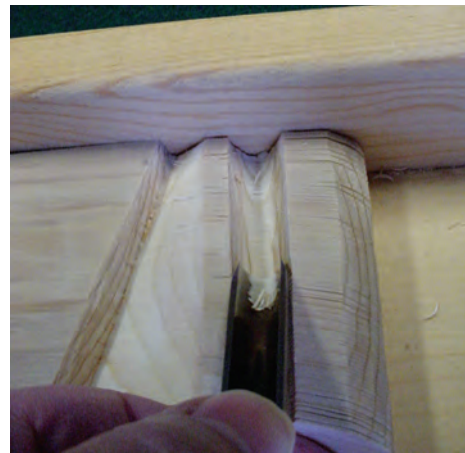
12. Always strive for thin feathers, even if some fall off. They will hardly be noticed after the feathers are interlocked, so do not worry. The first few rived feathers are sacrificial (at the back of the bird's head) and will be cut off later in the process. It's a perfect place to get the 'feel' of the rive line with the knife.



13. Make the feathers at the "tail" end of the blank a bit thicker as they are the tail feathers of the bird and will lay flatter as a result of it.



14. Trying to rive the last feather can be difficult. If it "feels" a bit dangerous, just cut it off with a knife. This is often done and no "slip-of-the-knife" occurs.



15. After the feathers are rived, use a bench knife or 10mm Stubai™ veiner gouge to trim the interlock so the center is more narrow. It was left wider during the riving process for structural integrity, so the wood would not wobble. The interlock center should now be about 1/8-inch.



16. Spread the feathers apart to check the cuts for alignment ...see if the interlock is the same size on all the feathers. If not, use a knife or gouge to make corrections.



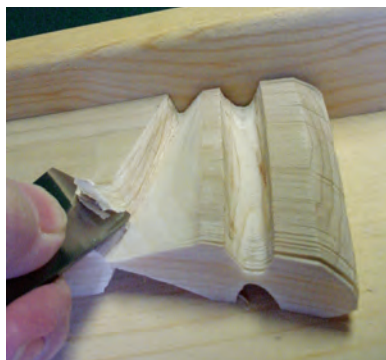
17. Trim the hinge to make it more narrow. It should now be about 1/16-inch. The extra width was necessary during the slicing process to maintain structural integrity while riving.



18. Check to insure an even amount of wood was removed from each side and the base of the hinge is centered. It is at the base that the feather will pivot to be interlocked.



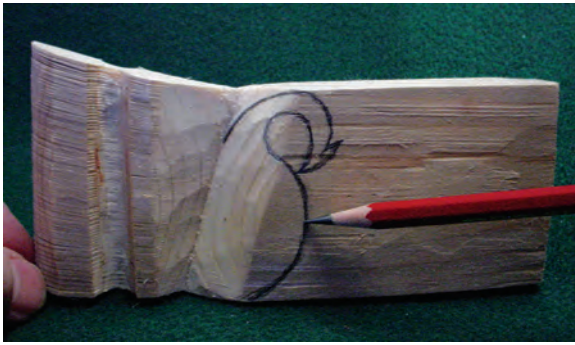
19. Spread the feathers apart and peek at the base to see if the hinge cuts are aligned. If not, correct with a knife or gouge. At this point, the hinge should be the size of a fat toothpick.



20. Trim the lower part of the short taper. Make a nice flat plane. This area needs to be open so the feathers can turn freely and interlock without butting up against the bird's body. Do this on both sides of the blank.



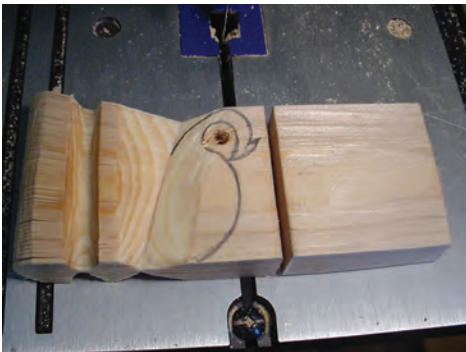




21. Draw the Pelican onto the blank.



22. Drill a hole in the space between the curved-neck and the breast.



23. Saw off the 2-inch unused portion of the blank. It is from this piece of wood that the babies will be made. Store it in a plastic bag with some moisture until ready to use.



24. Carve the wood between the curved-neck and breast. The Flexcut™ large pelican knife works well for this as well as to carve the rest of the body.



25. Shape the Pelican's body by removing the wood up to the top-knot of the Pelican's head.



26. Shape the top-knot of the Pelican bird ...and, yes, the pelican did have a topknot back in the second century. That bird no longer exists today.



27. Shape the roundness of the body. Check often to insure the head of the Pelican is centered upon its breast.



28. Shape the neck so it has a nice curvature.





29. Remove a number of 'sacrificial' feathers behind the neck to give the Pelican a respectful appearance.



30. Make a v-cut with a Flexcut™ 70-degree v-scorp just under the buffer zone. Once fanned out, the decorative detail will be revealed.



31. Flex the feathers to loosen the fibers at the hinge so they will turn more easily when interlocking them.



32. Secure the Pelican in the Third-Hand. This allows both hands to be free when interlocking the feathers.



33. Start interlocking the feathers on the 'tail' end of the Pelican (opposite the head). The last feather will serve as the center/anchor feather.



34. Interlock the second feather to one side of the anchor feather.



35. Interlock the third feather to the other side of the anchor feather.



36. Continue interlocking every other feather to its appropriate side.



37. Continue alternating and interlocking the feathers until all are used. If one is left over, cut it off.



38. After the bird has dried for a few days, paint a spot of blood/red paint where the bird's beak meets the breast. To finish, spray the Pelican with a preservative such as Rust-Oleum Specialty Lacquer.



## Baby Pelican ...How-to

The baby pelican will differ from the parent because they have two wings and a tail.



See pattern for the babies on Page 2



1. The cut-off piece from the original blank is 2-inches x 1/2-inch x 2-inches. The three babies will come from this with one piece as a spare.

Saw the 2-inch piece, across the grain to insure an even cut as shown on the blueprint.

Split both of the pieces with the grain, to acquire four uniformly, individual pieces.

2. Round off one end of the blank. Insure all of the rough edge is smooth. This rounded end will be the tip of the feathers.





3. Measure 3/8-inch from the rounded end and draw a line for the interlock. Cut in a C-shaped interlock with a Pelican Flexcut™ knife or a 4mm Stubai™ veiner gouge.



4. Carve out 1/3 on each side for the interlock. Leave 1/3 for the center. Insure both sides are aligned.



5. Draw a buffer line 1/16-inch below the interlock. Beneath it, draw a diagonal line (measuring from the rounded end) ...3/4-inch on the head side ...5/8-inch on the tail side. This will be the hinge.



6. Cut in the hinge with a bench knife or a Flexcut™ 70-degree v-scorp.



7. Taper from the buffer line to the hinge. Insure the hinge has a clean/crisp line aligned with the other side. This line will serve as a 'stop-cut' when riving the feathers.





8. Carve the hinge ...1/3 on each side ...leaving 1/3 for the center.



9. Rive the feathers, starting at the head side. Because of the small size, a single-handed Flexcut™ riving knife works well.



10. After all the feathers are rived, trim off the lower side of the hinge. Make it a flat plane.

Also, narrow the interlock and hinge so the hinge can turn freely and the feathers can interlock securely.

The hinge should be the size of a fat toothpick.



11. Draw the baby pelican onto the blank.



12. Begin to carve the baby's body, always cutting with the wood grain.



13. Cut off a few feathers behind the head/shoulders so the baby's shape will be more attractive.



14. Finish carving the body.



15. A third-hand is a useful holder when interlocking small items.



16. Secure the baby in the third-hand.



17. Time to interlock the feathers and create the baby birds with two wings and a tail. With the beak facing you ...grasp the first feather and move to one side of the babies head.



18. Grasp the second feather and move it to the other side of the head.





19. Then grasp the third feather ...move it to the first feather ...and interlock it with the first feather.



20. Continue interlocking alternately to build the two wings. Leave an uneven number of feathers for the tail ...usually 7 or 9. Because we are going to make a 'sitting' bird, 9 feathers will serve as a better base, both visually and structurally.



21. To make the tail, grasp the next feather in line with the wings. That will serve as the anchor feather.



22. Grasp the next feather and interlock it to one side of the anchor feather.



23. Grasp the next feather and interlock it to the other side of the anchor feather. Continue to build the tail by interlocking alternately to the appropriate side.



24. Adjust the wings and tail so they are aligned with the body.



25. Make 3 baby pelicans. Let dry for a couple of days.



26. Paint the tip of the beaks with blood/red paint.



27. Position the babies to the parent bird so the beaks are touching the blood/red spot on the breast. Glue them in place on a base. Enjoy your Pelican family.