

Pattern & Instructions for 2 small doves from one 6-inch blank by Sally and David Nye

This blank is 2-inches x 1/2-inch x 6-inches

All of these cuts can be accomplished with a bench knife.

Work on the pattern from both ends of the blank simultaneously.

To understand these steps more clearly, we recommend watching our videos:

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



1. Draw the pattern onto the 6-inch blank of long-fibered, straight-grained wet wood. (I prefer white cedar/American Arbor Vitae/Thuja occidentalis).
2. Round off both ends of the blank. This is the tip of the wing feathers. The rough end must be smooth for a successful riving/splitting action, otherwise the raggedness might cause it to split lengthwise.
3. Cut in the interlock so it is a 5/16-inch C cut ...take out 1/3 on each side so that 1/3 is left for the center. It's important for structural integrity when riving and it will be trimmed down later, after the riving is complete. Both sides need to be aligned ... (I prefer a 8mm Veiner Stubai™ gouge).
4. Mark in a small buffer zone about 1/8-inch. This will serve as a guide to keep the two cuts separate ...the interlock and the hinge. It also creates a crisper design once the feathers are interlocked.
5. Carve in the hinge. This is a long slanted taper beginning at the buffer line and stopping at the hinge line ...with a short taper meeting it. In short, it's like a V cut with a long side and a short side. Cut 1/3 in from each side ...leaving 1/3 for the center (about 1/8-inch is good). Like the interlock, it's important for structural integrity when riving ...don't make the center too narrow. It will be trimmed down later, after the riving is complete. Both sides need to be aligned and the hinge should be a good straight line because it's going to serve as a 'stop-cut' when riving ... (I prefer a 2 1/2 sweep x 25mm Stubai™ gouge).
6. Rive the feathers! Place the blank in a vise with the head of the bird furthest from you. Begin the rive at the head ...we recommend the Flexcut™ 3-inch drawknife. With the knife's blade held perfectly straight-up ...the flat back of the knife facing you ...and the single-bevel is on the other side (out of your view) ...now just push down. Let the knife find the fiber line. You will 'feel' the rive with the wood ...you don't see it. It's like peeling or shaving a piece of wood. It's best to watch our video on riving.
7. Once the riving is completed, go back into the interlock and the hinge and trim both of them so they are more narrow. Now that you have individual feathers, you can open them and peak down through to the hinge ...check for proper alignment of the interlock as well as the hinge. Corrective cutting can be made at this point. How narrow to make the interlock will depend on the number of feathers you

have. If a lot, the interlock will have to be more narrow so there is room for all of the feathers to fit snugly together ...if fewer, leave the interlock wider. The hinge can be narrowed to the size of a fat toothpick.

8. Plane off the short side of the hinge cut ...both sides of each bird's body. It has to be taken down so the feathers don't butt up against it during the interlocking process.
9. With both ends of the blank completed at this point, it is time to cut the blank into two individual birds. Pay attention to the bird's beaks when doing this.
10. Carve the bird bodies. Cut off some feathers right behind the head so the bird will have a nicely shaped head/body.
11. Time to interlock the feathers and create the bird with two wings and a tail. With the bird's beak facing you ...grasp the first feather and move to one side of the bird's head. Grasp the second feather and move it to the other side of the head. Then grasp the third feather ...move it to the first feather ...and interlock it with the first feather. Continue interlocking alternately to build the two wings. Leave an uneven number of feathers for the tail ...usually 7 or 9. To make a tail, grasp the last feather on the body. That will serve as the anchor feather. Grasp the next feather and interlock it to one side of the anchor feather. 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.
12. Adjust the wings and tail so they are aligned with the body.
13. Make a eyehook with a 1/4-inch needle-nose plier and 25-gauge wire. Thread the eyelet with black thread. While the wood is still wet, insert the threaded eyelet behind the head ...where the wings begin. This will help to secure the feathers and also conceal the eyelet.
14. Your bird is ready to hang until it dries.
15. Spray your bird with sealant of your choice. I prefer Rust-oleum Specialty Lacquer. It's fast drying and has a nice subtle shine.
16. Hang your bird in a place of honor ...may the dove of peace protect your family and bring health and happiness to your home.

NOTE: Recommended videos to watch: <http://www.fancarversworld.com/howtovideos.html>

