A free copy of

**Whittling is fun**

By Leroy Pynn, Jr.

A small booklet made by X-Acto Crescent Products Co 1940’s
WHITTILING
IS FUN

EIGHT
EASY
PROJECTS
WHITTLING WITH X-ACTO KNIVES
by LEROY PYNN, Jr.

The author of this booklet is an outstanding commercial artist in the Middle West who has brought the craft of whittling to a fine art. He has developed a series of whittling kits that are widely sold in many cities throughout the country.

For whittling you need pieces of smooth, straight-grained soft white pine, basswood or cedar. Your first attempts might be made on balsa wood because it is so soft and easily worked. With practice you will come to know the special properties of each wood and what each is best suited for.

The main tool in whittling is your knife and it is important to have one with a smooth, sharp edge. The softer the wood you use the sharper the knife edge must be, otherwise your work will be ragged. For different types of cutting it is good to have different types and shapes of blades. X-acto is the ideal whittling knife with its firm grip and high carbon steel
surgical edge blades coming in a variety of eight shapes. See back cover for the blade shapes available.

To start, place the pattern (pages 12, 13 and 14) over the wood with a piece of carbon paper between. Be sure to have the grain of the wood running in the direction shown in the detailed instructions. Using a hard pencil trace the pattern onto the wood through the carbon paper. Following this outline, cut the shape out with a band saw or coping saw.

Now to the whittling — the best way to describe the process would be: "carve on the wood just the way you would peel potatoes." The direction of the cut should be along the grain of the wood.

For painting the figures use oil colors or wood stain. To get a high gloss finish sand the figure to a smooth surface before painting. After the paint is dry, rub in floor wax with felt or similar cloth. If you use stain finish with several coats of shellac or varnish.

That's all there is to it except to stick at it and try to make each piece better than the one before.
YELLOW HOUND

PLACE PATTERN ON THE BLOCK SO GRAIN RUNS VERTICAL WITH TAIL, THEN CUT AROUND WITH JIG OR COPING SAW.

ROUGH OUT THE BLOCK AS SHOWN ABOVE

FINISH - YELLOW WITH BLACK SPOTS

The yellow hound can be finished rough if you prefer.
FLYING DUCK

GRAIN SHOULD RUN WITH THE NECK

ROUGH-OUT AS SHOWN HERE

FLAT PLANE

PAINT WITH OIL OR WATER COLORS

ORANGE  WHITE  GREEN

The flying duck can be made into a pin.
RABBIT

REMOVE THIS PART WITH SAW

ROUGH-OUT BLOCK TO GENERAL SHAPE

PLACE ON BLOCK WITH GRAIN AS SHOWN

NOTE - POSITION OF FRONT AND BACK LEGS

FINISHED BUNNY

BACK VIEW
CAT

PLACE PATTERN SO GRAIN RUNS WITH THE TAIL

BLOCK BOTH SIDES

MOUNT ON BLOCK WITH A BALL

FINISH BROWN, BLACK OR YELLOW UNMOUNTED

BACK VIEW

DETAIL OF HEAD

The cat can be mounted on a block of wood with a ball by his right paw.
ELEPHANT

PLACE ON BLOCK AS SHOWN

ROUGH BOTH SIDES TO GENERAL SHAPE

CURVE TAIL

SMOOTH WITH SANDPAPER AND FINISH WITH WAX

NOTE - EARS STAND AWAY FROM BODY

Make the elephant's skin appear baggy and loose.
The fawn should be carefully and delicately whittled.
Ball-in-Cage

The ball-in-cage looks complicated, but it is really simple once you have mastered the principle.

Select a soft block 4" high and 1 1/4" square. Mark the block, see step 2 and drill four holes, see step 3.

Break thru the block and work down as in steps 4 and 5. Round out the inside block and finish by sandpapering smooth.
IDEAL KNIFE CHEST

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