

## **Laying Down Bear**



These instructions are offered as a simple guideline only. Each carver has their own style and preferences and these instructions are not meant to change that individuality. Each bear should reflect the carver's imagination and each one should be unique. Use a pencil to outline each area before you begin carving.

### **Step 1**

Mark out the position of the head and shoulders and remove excess wood. The distance from the top of the shoulders to the top of the head is generally about 1/2".

### **Step 2**

Shape head to your liking. Head is usually about 1/2" narrower than the shoulders. Position the ears to fit the character of your bear.

### **Step 3**

Shape the snout. The top lip is the widest point of the snout with the lower lip being narrower. The snout should look somewhat like an inverted "V" from the widest part to the top of the nose.

### **Step 4**

Layout and shape the front and rear legs. The legs should taper about 1/2"-3/4" from the body out to the elbows. Mark out the bottoms of the feet (usually about 3/4" up from the bottom of the carving) and taper the legs from the elbows out to the ankles. Shape the feet as desired.

### **Step 5**

Round off the entire body as well as the front and rear legs. There are no square corners on a bear so round and shape the entire carving.

### **Step 6**

Use a small diamond wheel (part #133-2220) to detail the claws, mouth, inside of the ears and texture the hair in areas that cannot be reached with the larger carbide wheel. Use a pencil to mark out the tail and carve the tail by relieving the wood around it as desired.

### **Step 7**

Texture the hair using a carbide shaping wheel (part #122-0542) in a Duraflex, Dremel or similar rotary tool. Use the side of the wheel at a 45 degree angle to touch and lift repeatedly to duplicate strands of hair. Practice this technique on a scrap of wood until the desired results are obtained. Texture the entire bear as desired. The bear can be finished with any type of finish desired. A spray lacquer can be used for a glossy finish or an oil finish can be used for a satin finish.