

MR. FROGGIE PIN/MAGNET

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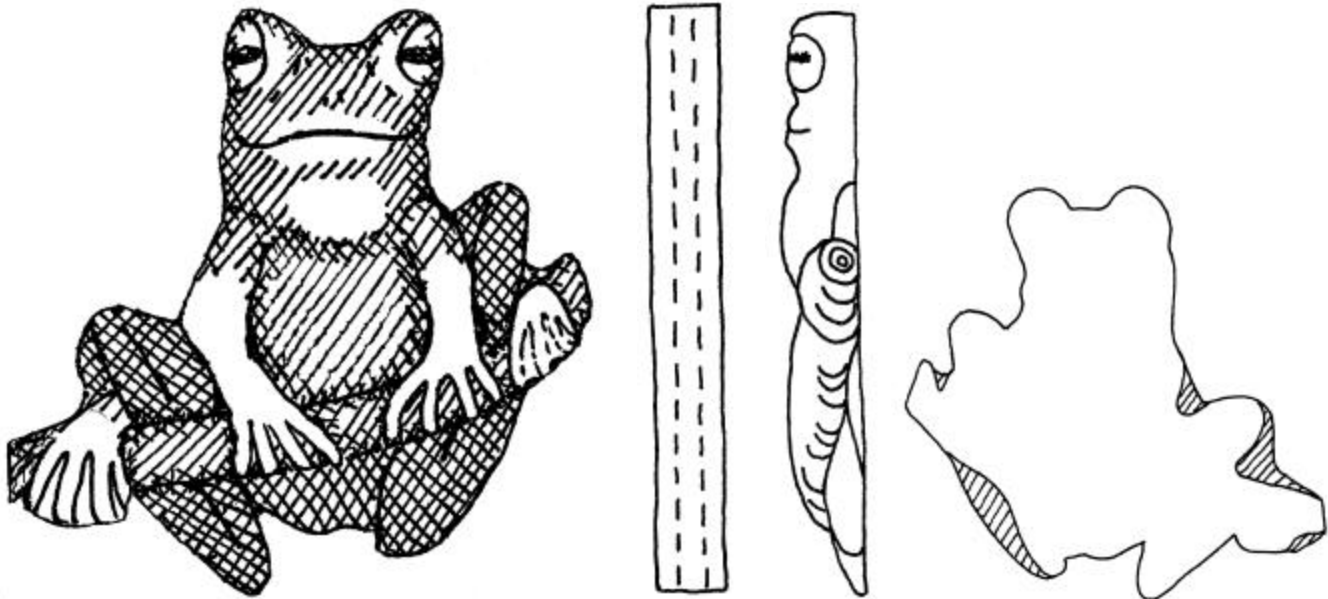
BLANK:

Start with your blank cut from 3/8" basswood, using illus.1. Aspen and poplar work well too; and you can even make a naturally green frog if you find a nice green piece of poplar.

Draw 2 lines around the perimeter of the blank, as in illus.2.

Draw in the branch and neck line to help you to locate the hands and face on the front of the blank.

Draw lines on the front of the blank that are the white areas on the pattern.



1. Pattern and plan

2. Divisions 3. Side view

4. Back view

CARVING:

Stage 1- Outline the white area markings (there are 8 of them) with a small deep gouge like a 1/8" #11 veiner. Remove all the wood outside these grooves with something like a 1/2" #3 gouge. Repeat this process until all the area that is not white has been reduced to the first side perimeter division line.

Stage 2- Outline the areas on the pattern that are just hatched in one direction, mostly face, belly, and center of branch. Leave these areas and the white areas untouched, and reduce the cross-hatched areas down to the second side perimeter division line.

Stage 3- Using a knife, round all the edges over, including the outside edges to remove all saw blade marks. When you are done it should look like a very blurry frog on a branch.

Stage 4- Make stop cuts wherever you see solid lines on the plan except for the hands, feet, and eyes. Carve into these stop cuts using a knife. This should bring your frog into better focus.

Stage 5- The eyes should be on both the side and front of the blank. See illus. 3. Side view. Make a very slight stop cut around the visible eyeball. Carve from the center of the eyeball into this stop-cut, in order to round the eye. They will be very shallow slicing cuts, leaving the center at the original height.

Stage 6- Carve between the fingers and toes with a 1/16" #11 gouge. Make the digits go around the branch. Be careful of the grain direction or he won't have any fingers to hold onto the branch, and may fall off!

Stage 7- Look critically at your carving and round or sharpen as necessary to bring him into focus. Compare your carving to the plan and adjust as necessary.

Stage 8- Turn the carving over and make some slight angled cuts as indicated in Illus. 4 to push some of the more forward parts of the frog to the foreground. Also, make grooves to hold the pin or magnet on the back. Sand lightly. He looks better with some tooling marks showing that he is a carving- and not made of plastic.

WOODBURNING:

Mr. Froggie does not need much wood burning, but a few details will add to the realism of the piece. You can use your writing or ball tip for all these jobs.

- Seal the eyeballs and the area where the eyeball meets the head.
- Reinforce the line for the mouth.
- Put in the nostrils.
- Burn out any fuzzies you may have in the grooves.
- Make firm lines on the branch in the direction of the branch, to simulate bark.
- Make concentric circles on the ends of the branch to look like annual rings.
- Sign the piece on the reverse.

ATTACHMENTS:

This is a good time to epoxy the pin back or magnet to the back of your carving. I fill the groove with 5-minute epoxy and then set the pin-back or magnet into the epoxy. Be careful to keep the adhesive out of the pin locking mechanism- or you will have made a nice froggy wall hanging.

PAINTING:

A lot depends on a good paint job on this frog.

You will need good quality acrylic paint in these colors:

- Burnt sienna
- Green gold or sap green
- Unbleached titanium or other beige color
- Black
- White
- Clear varnish sealer
- Optional- gold paint

You also need a good quality round #5 synthetic brush, or something similar.

Branch:

Paint the branch first so that if you slop a little on the frog's body you can cover it up later with paint. Use a thinned wash of burnt sienna all over the branch, including the ends and back. Wipe some off the highest spots if it seems too dark there.

Eyes:

Paint the eyes with the same burnt sienna, but not as thinned. Be sure to paint the groove between the eyeball and the head so that none of the basswood color shows.

When the paint has dried draw a black line on the eye for the pupil. I've seen photos of frogs with either horizontal or vertical pupils, so I guess the direction is up to the discretion of the artist. Sometimes they even look round, but it is definitely more 'froggy' to have them as slits.

You may add some dots of gold paint to the brown parts of the eye for a glisteny effect. Looks good.

A tiny dot of pure white on the top edges of each of the pupils will read as a nice light reflection.

Body:

The top parts of his body should be green, and the under parts whitish. Paint the entire body green, and while the paint is still damp smear some of the off-white color on the belly, chin, and lips. Also cover his bottom and the outer sections of his legs. The legs are a little confusing, so just leave half of them green and make half the whitish color. Nobody will know the difference.

Finish:

I like to emphasize the slick appearance of the frog by applying iridescent paints in colors to match the underlying colors.

The final coat should be a clear satin or semi-gloss finish.

Congratulations, you have made a cute as a button Mr. Froggie carving!