CARVING A TURTLE IN IVORY SOAP

For this project we will be carving a turtle in Ivory soap using wooden tools. The wooden tools are intended to look and feel similar to standard metal carving tools.



Please, try to carve over the supplied cookie sheet to better contain the soap chips. The soap is scented, if the scent bothers you, please stop and let one of the instructors know.

Prep

- Start off by taking the paper wrapper off the bar of Ivory soap. You will notice "Ivory" embossed in the bar of soap we will remove this in the next step.
- Take the Scraping tool and scrape both sides of the bar of soap until the word "Ivory" is removed.



Layout

Place the paper pattern on the bar of soap. Use a Marking tool to mark in the soap around the outside of the pattern.





Roughing out

■ Use the V Tool to carve away the areas of soap outside of the pattern lines.



■ Use the Knife to start rounding the sides of the Turtle shell between the legs, tail and head.



Use the Marking tool to mark the edge of the shell at the front and back of the Turtle, then use the V Tool to make these marks deeper.



■ Use the Knife to start lowering each of the feet so they are about ½ the soap bar thickness.



■ Use the Knife to lower the top of the Turtle's neck & back of the head, leaving the tip of its nose where it is. This step and the next works to angle the head so the Turtle seems to be looking up.



Use the Knife to remove soap from the bottom of the Turtle's head. Angle this cut down to the neck at the bottom of the shell. The angles, at the top and bottom of the head, should match.





Round over the top of the shell.

■ Use the Marking tool to place lines about ¼ inch in from the outer edge of the top of the shell and about ¼ inch down from the top edge of the shell.



■ Use the Knife to remove the material between these two layout lines.







■ Use the Knife to finish rounding over the top of the shell by removing all remaining sharp edges.



Round over the feet, tail and head and adding detail.

Use the Knife to take off the sharp edges and round the top of the feet, all around the tail and all around the head.



- Use the V Tool to place a groove down the center of each foot to start separating the toes.
- Use the V Tool to place a groove on each side of the center groove on each foot to finish separating the toes.



- Use the V Tool to show a mouth line.
- Use the Marking Tool or the Knife tip to mark each eye and each nostril.



- Use the Marking tool to layout a pattern on the top of the shell.
- Lightly use the V Tool to further define the pattern on the top of the shell.



■ Use the V Tool to show the separation between the upper and lower shell plates.



Optionally, use the V Tool to place a pattern on the bottom of the shell and separate the bottom plate from the feet, tail and head.



Similar to using sandpaper on wood you can use your fingers to smooth over any rough edges to finish your carving.

We hope you found this carving project to be fun. Thank you for carving with us.

Tri-State Woodcarvers