

# Flat-plane Santa

## Tree-bearing Santa makes a quick and easy gift

By Mike Shipley

This carving features large deliberate cuts that produce flat planes. It can take a bit of practice to get used to this style of carving. Once you are comfortable with the technique, you'll find the carving process moves quickly, producing consistently carved pieces in very little time.

After carving the piece, drill a  $\frac{1}{8}$ "-diameter hole through the hand. Glue a  $\frac{1}{8}$ "-diameter by 3"-long dowel in the hole. Allow the glue to dry. Then gently shape the dowel to give it a carved look.

This carving is painted with acrylic paints thinned with water to the consistency of skim milk. The coat and hat are painted with barn red. The shoes are painted black, and the mittens are painted burnt umber. I use thicket green for the tree and white for the hair. The staff and the coat trim are stained with natural-colored stain.

Apply a coat of thinned white paint for the eyes. When dry, add a dot of coffee bean brown. Allow the brown to dry, then add a small highlight dot of undiluted white.



## materials & tools

### MATERIALS:

- 2½" x 2½" x 5" basswood (Santa)
- ⅛"-diameter by 3"-long dowel (staff)
- DecoArt Americana acrylic paints: white (hair, eyes, eye highlight), flesh (skin)
- FolkArt acrylic paint: thicket green (tree), coffee bean brown (eyes), black (shoes), burnt umber (mittens)
- Apple Barrel acrylic paints: barn red (coat and hat)
- Natural color stain (coat trim and staff)

### TOOLS:

- Detail knife
- Bench knife
- 4mm V-tool
- 4mm deep veiner
- Drill with ⅛"-diameter drill bit (hole for staff)

### SPECIAL SOURCES:

Rough outs are available for \$12 + s&h from Mike Shipley's business, Ozark Country Characters, visit his Website or call 417-284-3416



Use thinned acrylic paint to let the wood grain show through on this charming carved Santa.



### About the Author

Professional carver Mike Shipley lives in Dora, Mo., with his wife, Sherry. He is the author of *Woodcarving Country Folk*, *Woodcarving the Country Bear*, and *Hand Carving Snowmen & Santas in Wood*, all available from Fox Chapel Publishing, [www.foxchapelublishing.com](http://www.foxchapelublishing.com). He is also the author of *Carving Ozark Country Characters*. For more of Mike's work, visit his Website at [www.ozarkcountycharacters.com](http://www.ozarkcountycharacters.com).

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Can be scaled down to 3 or 4" tall

