

Lazing Around with the Laid-Back Frog

Carve the frog and base pieces separately and add all the accessories you want

By Jack Proseilo

What better way to dream about summer than to carve a frog sunning himself on a lily pad? The inspiration for this carving came when a friend posted and shared this image from *Boiling Mad Frog*. Thanks to Froggy for permission to use his image for this carving. For more sayings and poses, check out *Boiling Mad Frog* on Facebook.

Getting Started

Transfer the side view pattern to the blank and cut around the perimeter with a band saw. Mark the orientation of the right foot, and draw a centerline around the blank. Then, mark the orientation of the right leg, which will be crossed under the left leg. Mark the location of the nose.

FROG: ROUGHING OUT THE CARVING



1

Rough out the nose and shoulders. Use a detail knife. Carve along the arms and legs with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) 60° V-tool to create stop cuts. Do not begin shaping yet; leave everything square until you have the general shapes blocked in.



2

Remove the excess wood around the arms and legs. Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " (or 12mm) #7 gouge to remove most of the waste. Switch to a rough-out knife to remove the wood on top of the right leg. This will start to create the illusion that it is crossed under the left leg. Flip the gouge upside down to start rounding the legs.





So So
Much to do...
Little desire to do it...



3

Mark the general landmarks on the rough-out. Use a set of calipers. The upper leg is 40mm long, the lower leg to the foot is 48mm long. The upper arm is 35mm long, and the arm from the elbow to the hand is 20mm. From the centerline on the nose/upper lip, measure 36mm on each side to mark the locations of the eyes.



4

Carve under the chin. Use a 1/4" (6mm) #7 gouge. Remove the wood in the V above the crossed arms with the same tool.



5

Carve grooves along both sides of the eyes. Use a 3/8" (10mm) #9 gouge. This separates the bulging eyes from the small hump in the center of the head. Round and shape the head with the carving knife.

FROG: ADDING THE DETAILS



6

Shape the mouth and throat area. Use the 3/8" (10mm) #9 gouge. Leave a mound on the throat. Then, carve the separation between the lips with a 1/16" (2mm) 60° V-tool. Use the detail knife to shave down the lower lip. Use the rough-out knife to shape the upper lip and nostrils. Do not remove wood from the eye area.



7

Mark the eyes. Use a 1/2" (13mm)-diameter hollow punch or stab in the eyes with the 1/4" (6mm) #7 gouge. Use the same gouge to remove about 1/16" (2mm) of wood around each eye.



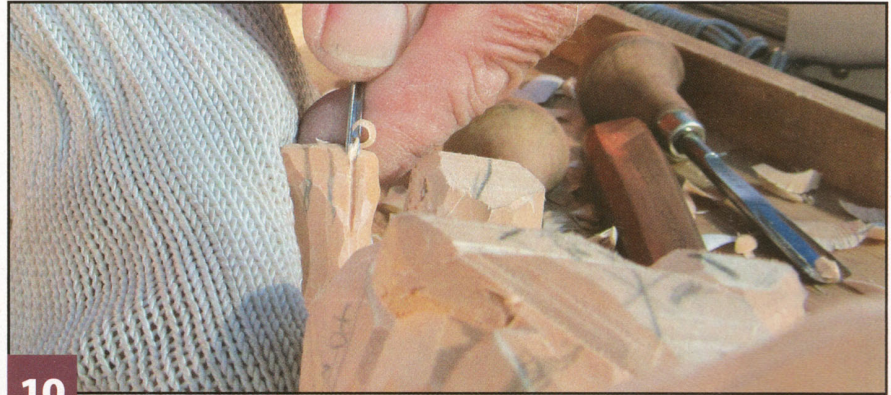
8

Round and shape the eyeballs. Use the detail knife. Use the rough-out knife to shape the rest of the head and to smooth the rough spots.



9

Shape the feet. Use the rough-out knife. Shape the bottoms of the feet so it looks like the toes are curled.



10

Draw four toes on each foot. Carve between the toes with the $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm) 60° V-tool. Then, use the $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) #7 gouge to carve the balls on the end of each toe. Refine the foot and clean up the cuts with the detail knife. Repeat the process for the other foot. Finish shaping the arms and legs. Sand the carving with 80-grit Abranet sandpaper and finish sanding with 320-grit Abranet.



11

Add texture to the throat, belly, and fronts of the upper legs. Use a rotary tool with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm)-diameter ball-shaped diamond bit.

FROG: CARVING THE LILY PADS



12

Cut the perimeter of the lily pad. Remove wood from the center of the pads with the $\frac{1}{2}$ " (or 12mm) #7 gouge. Work from the outside in to reduce the center by $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm). Remember, the grain is going to change as you carve toward the center, so make a curved pushing cut with the lily pad supported on a bench. Repeat the process for the smaller lily pad.



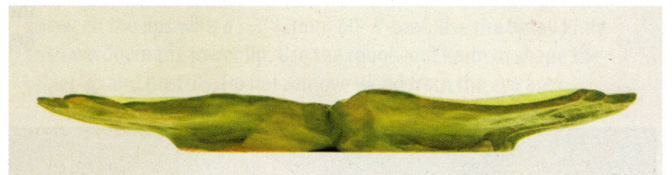
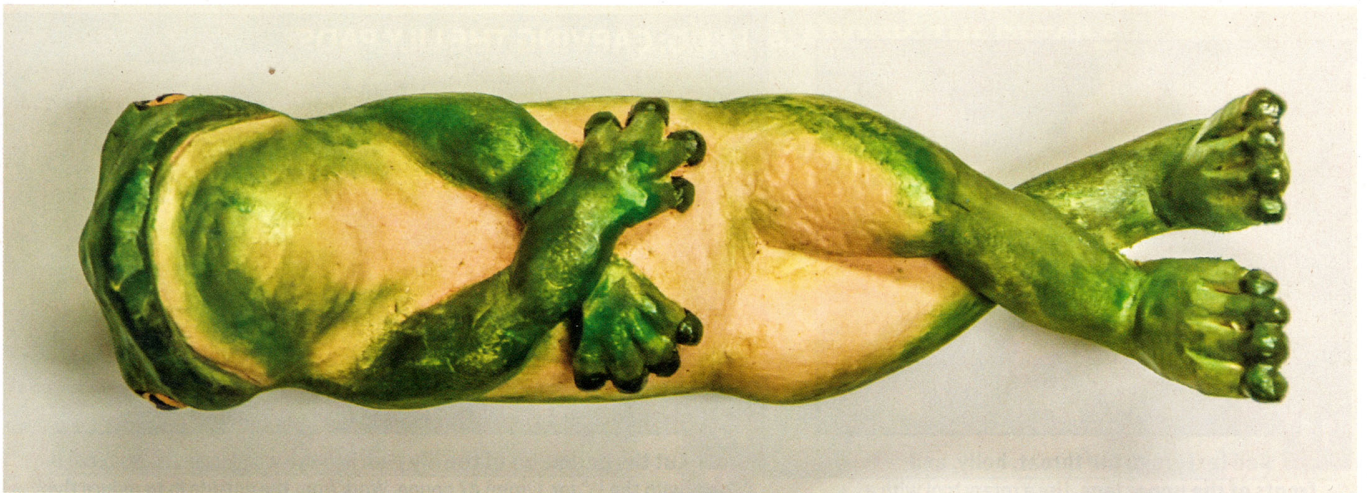
13

Mark the round bases in the centers of the lily pad. Use the plastic top from a spray can. Use the $\frac{3}{8}$ " (10mm) #9 gouge to remove wood from around the line. Switch to the $\frac{1}{2}$ " (or 12mm) #7 gouge and carve from the base area to the edge. Remove enough wood to taper the edge to the thickness of a disposable plastic plate. Repeat the process for the other lily pad. Burn the saying on the small lily pad, if desired.

Finishing the Frog Scene

When the lily pads are ready for painting, mount the frog to the large pad. Cut off the head of a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (38mm)-long finishing nail and push it into the frog. Flip it around and push it into the lily pad. Drill a hole at the marks and use the nail to attach the frog to the lily pad.

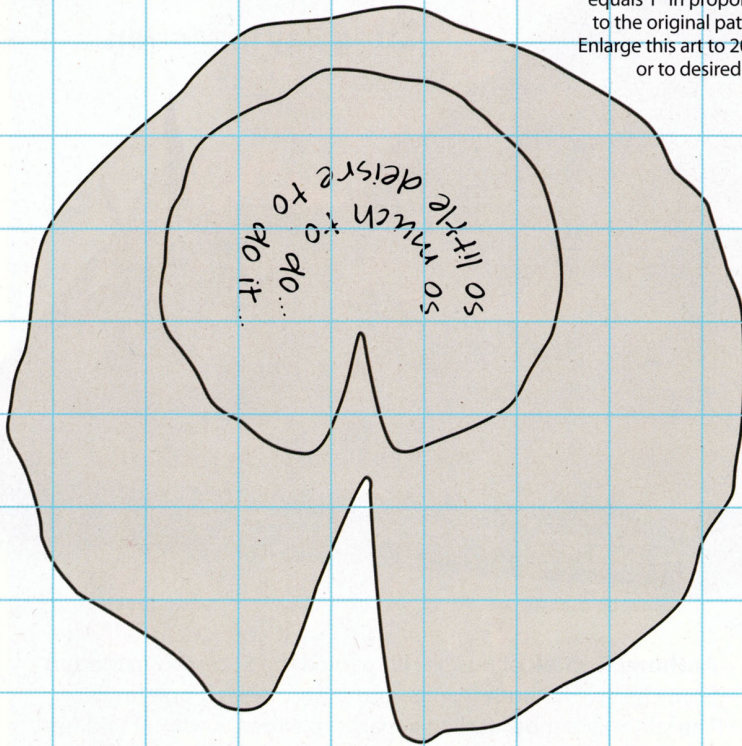
Remove all of the fuzzies. Apply a coat of Minwax natural stain to the entire project and wipe off the excess. Start painting the frog and lily pads with washes of acrylic paint. I thin 1 drop of paint with 20 drops of water. Use only slightly thinned paint for the eyes. Allow the paint to dry for two days, and then buff it with a crumpled brown paper bag. Seal the carving with two coats of Deft satin finish, buffing between coats. Then, create and attach whatever add-ons you prefer, such as a lily blossom, an umbrella, or a tall, cool drink.



Jack Proseilo and his wife, Elaine, are retired and live in West Kelowna, B.C., Canada, but winter in Mesa, Ariz. They are both active members of the Arizona Wood Carvers and the Grand Canyon Carvers. In August each year they cohost the Okanagan Carvers Retreat.

Laid-back frog patterns

Each block of this grid equals 1" in proportion to the original pattern. Enlarge this art to 200%, or to desired size.



MATERIALS:

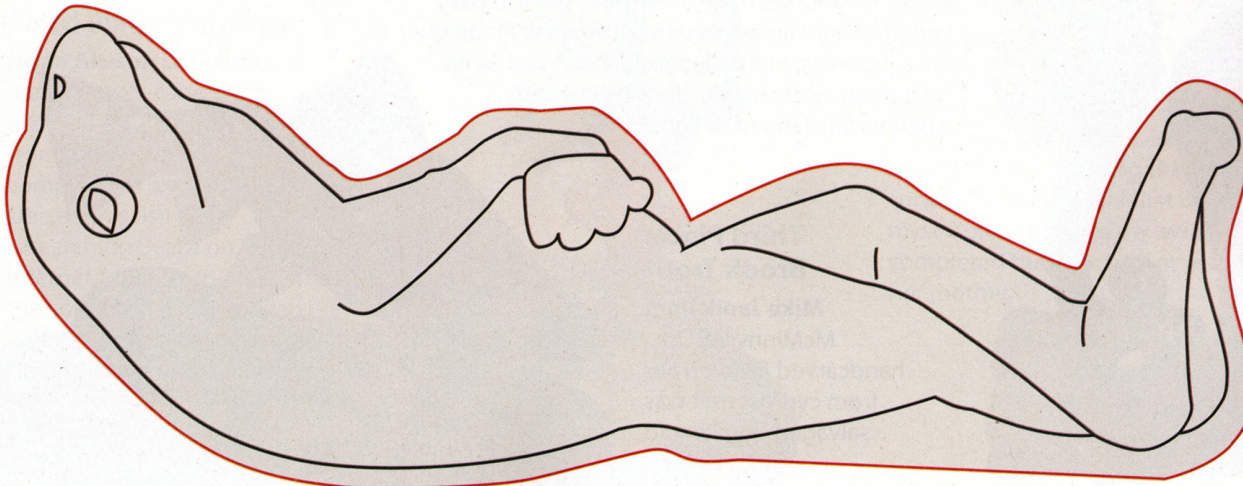
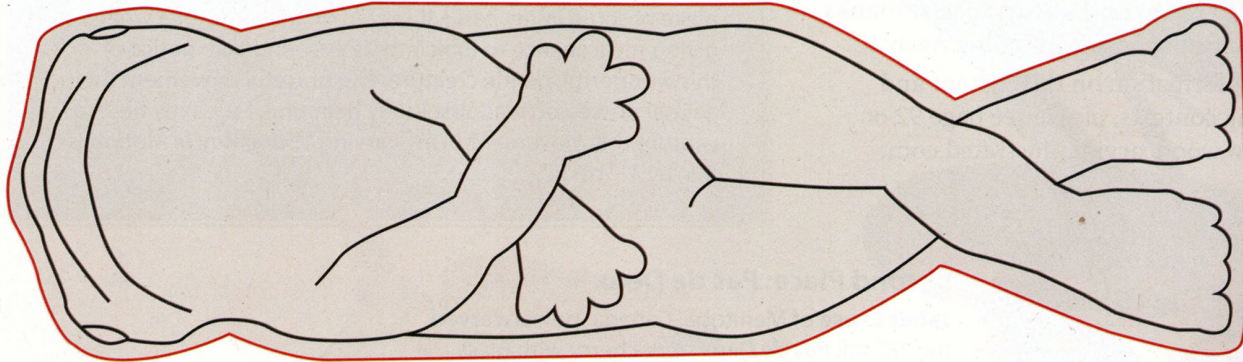
- Basswood, 2" (51mm) thick: frog, 3" x 7¼" (76mm x 184mm)
- Basswood, 1" (25mm) thick: small lily pad, 4½" (114mm) square; large lily pad, 8" (203mm) square
- Finishing nail: 1½" (38mm) long
- Sandpaper, such as Abranet: 80, 320 grits
- Stain, such as Minwax natural #209
- Acrylic paint, such as Jo Sonja: warm white, flesh, black, yellow, green, pine green, sap green, titanium white; such as Chroma: golden glow

- Brown paper bag
- Finish, such as Deft satin spray

TOOLS:

- Knives: rough-out, detail
- #7 gouge: ¼" (6mm), ½" (or 12mm)
- #9 gouge: ⅜" (10mm)
- V-tool, 60°: ¼" (6mm)
- Punch: ½" (13mm) dia.
- Calipers
- Pliers
- Paintbrushes
- Rotary tool with bit: ⅛" (3mm) ball-shaped diamond

The author used these products for the project. Substitute your choice of brands, tools, and materials as desired.



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