Shelf Mouse

William Earl Gray wrote an article for the Carving Magazine (Issue #16) on carving "Shelf Sitter Critters". Below are some the basic steps that will be used to carve the Shelf Mouse during JRWC workshop.

The blank will be provided during the Thursday meeting and Saturday workshop. In addition, the club may have some blanks available for purchase if you are doing this on your own.
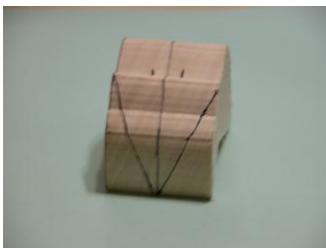
Recommended tools needed for the workshop. If you don't have all these tools, I'm sure one of the club members will let you share their tools.

- Carving Glove

- Thumb Guard

- Rough out or detail Knife

- #7 8mm gouge

To make these on your own, you will also need the following supplies:

- Mouse block (pattern on last sheet)

- Two round headed black quilting pins for the eyes

- Six white bristles from an old bristle brush

- Gray acrylic paint

Draw a centerline from head to tail on the topside of the mouse. As you carve, redraw your centerline.

Draw a small line behind each ear to mark the inside of the ear (about a ¼" from the centerline).

Draw a line on each side of the head from the tip of the upper ear to the tip of the nose (center line).

Draw in a rough sketch of where the tail will be.

Make a stop cup behind the ears and begin rounding the body. Use the marks on the back of the ears as a point of reference to carve toward.   Continue rounding the body and head.

Remove the wood between the ears and shape the ears. Using your #7 gouge, carve out the inside of the ears.

Draw in the side view of the legs and tail. Outline the leg with a veiner or knife.

Shape the legs.

Continue detailing the mouse.

Gently hollow out the area between the tail. Be careful not to break the tail.

After you complete the details, paint the mouse with watered down acrylic paint (gray).

Snip the quilting pin to about ¼" to insert for the eyes. Glue the eyes into drilled eye sockets.

Mark and create three very small holes (use straight pin) on each side of the mouse's face for the whiskers. Super glue each whisker into place.

1 ½" Thick
3 ¼" Long
2 ⅛" Tall