

# Caricature Ornaments

**This year,  
make ornaments  
with attitude**

*By Bob Yancey*



This year, I had a lot of fun adding faces to traditional Christmas objects, like stockings and candles. I made sure to give these caricatures some attitude! With a little pen work, it's easy to customize these pieces with names, dates, or funny sayings.

### Carving the Ornaments

These ornaments are easy to carve. As you carve the nose, thin it from bottom to top. Carve the eyes with a 1/32" (1mm) #11 gouge and a V-tool. To make the bags under the eyes, lay the V-tool on its side and carve along the bottom. To add texture to the toe and heel of the stocking, I use a power-engraving tool (the vibrating type used to mark metal and plastic).

To carve the candle ornament, round the sides of the candle from top to bottom. Taper the bottom of the base from the under side of the rim, and drill a hole in the handle with a Forstner bit. Carve a circle around the hole and the rim with the V-tool.

### Painting the Ornaments

Dampen the face with an atomizer filled with water. Apply flesh-tone paint to the face. While it is still wet, apply red to the nose and cheeks; blend the red into the flesh tone. Paint the top of the stocking white, and then paint the rest of the stocking any color. Paint the candle flame yellow, and blend the candle color with the flesh tone. Paint the iris and pupil; use a cut-off toothpick to add a white highlight dot. Add decorative dots and star bursts using a 1/8" (3mm)-diameter dowel. Use a pen, like Hunt's extra-fine round point, to add a message.

After the paint dries, spray on a coat of Deft satin finish. Attach a small screw eye to the top. Sign and date the back of the carving.

### materials & tools

#### MATERIALS:

- Basswood, 1/2" (13mm) thick: assorted sizes
- Sandpaper: Abradenet 80, 120 grits; automotive wet/dry 220 grit
- Acrylic paint: flesh tone, red, white, gold, black (and other colors based on carving)
- Pen: Hunt's extra-fine round point #22 or Pigma Micron .05 archival ink
- Toothpicks
- Finish, such as Deft: satin
- Screw eye, small: 1 per ornament

#### TOOLS:

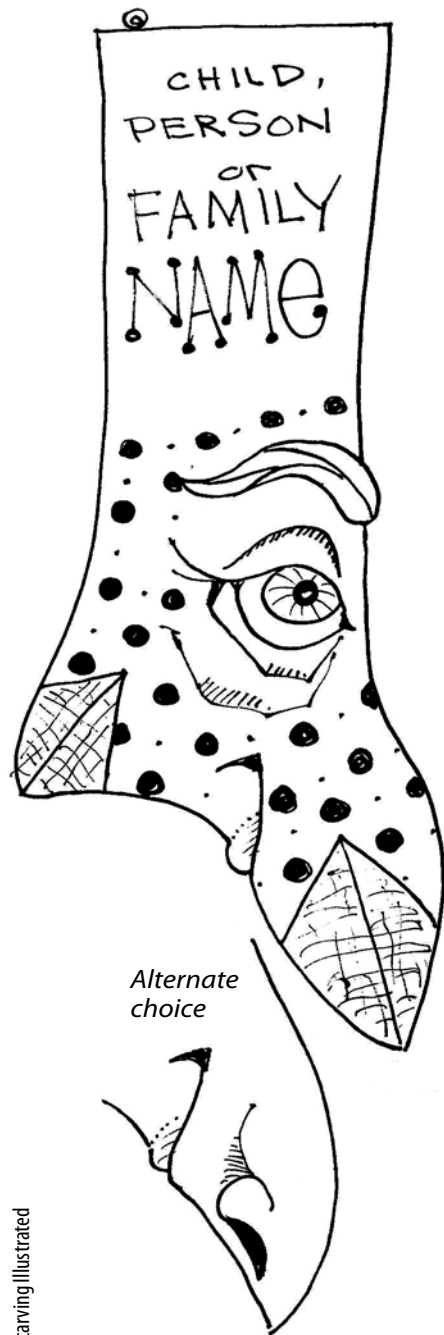
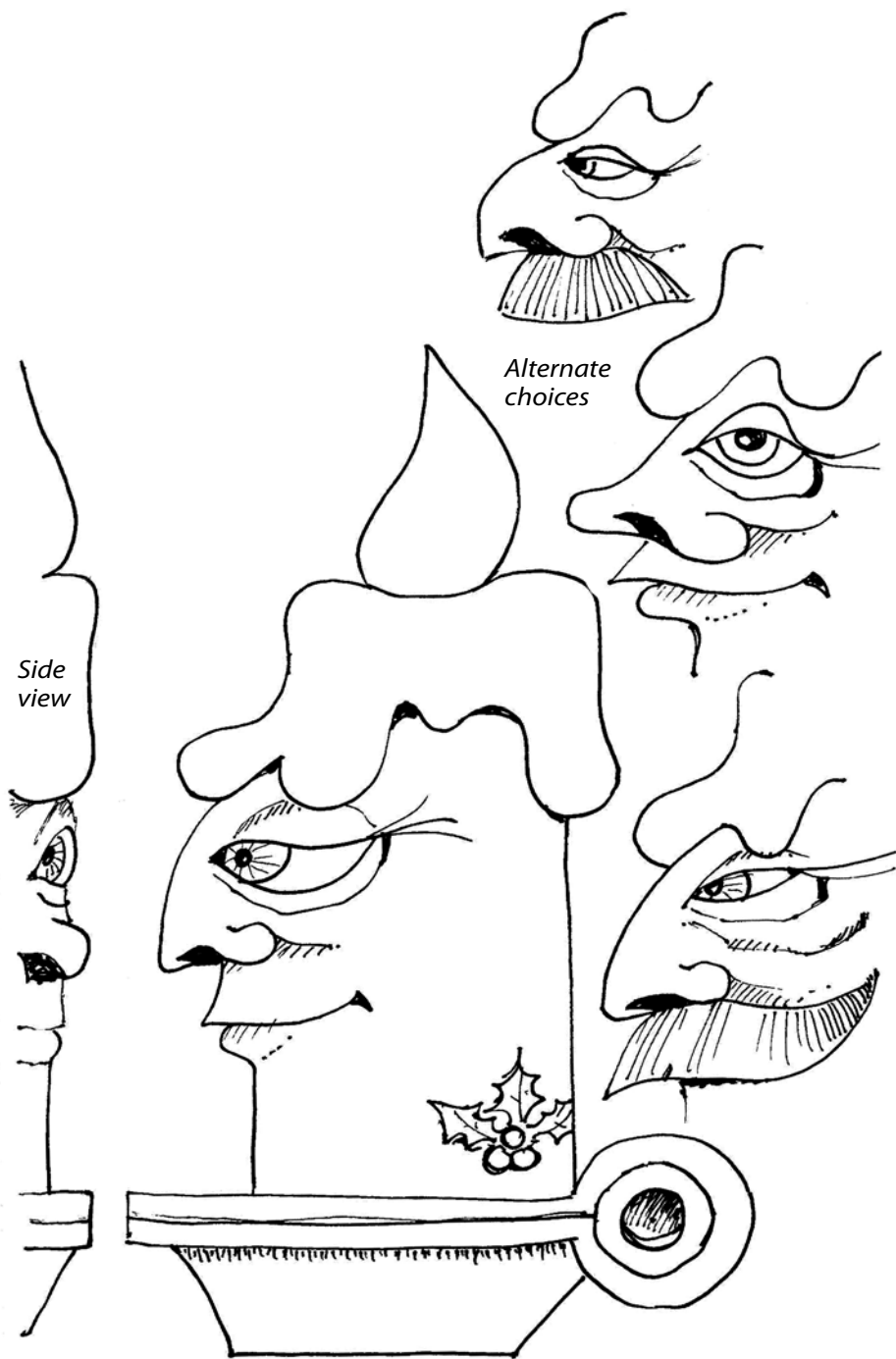
- Knife
- #9 gouges: 3/16" (5mm), 1/32" (7mm)
- #11 gouge: 1/32" (1mm)
- V-tool: small
- Paintbrushes
- Power-engraving tool
- Atomizer bottle filled with water
- Dowel: 1/8" (3mm) diameter (to make paint dots)

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

### Caricature ornament patterns



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Bob Yancey of Luxemburg, Wis., has been carving for 30 years. He has participated in shows and taught classes over the years. Bob is a self-taught caricature carver and belongs to the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild and the Kettle Karvers Klub of Sheboygan.