

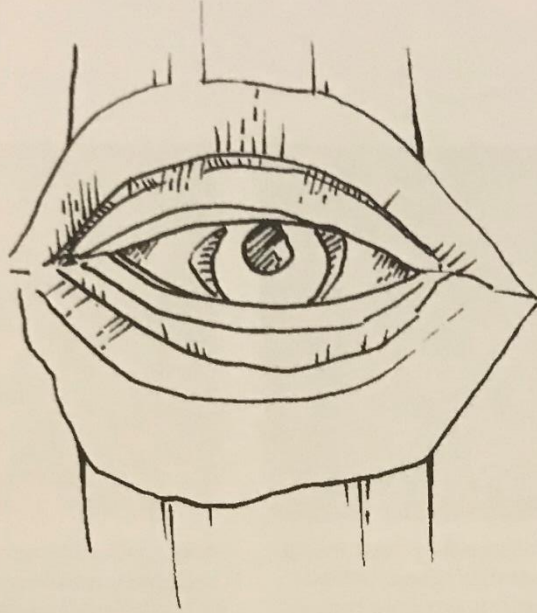
## Eyes

They say the eyes are the windows of the soul, and instead of taking the risk and carving an eye, many carvers paint in eyes. But this usually requires a carver to paint his entire carving.

The basic technique to carve an eye is the same for every eye; four V-tool cuts give the basic shape to the eye. You can tailor the shape to the carving based on how deep you make these cuts and how far apart the cuts are. The shape of the iris and pupil affect the mood of the carving.



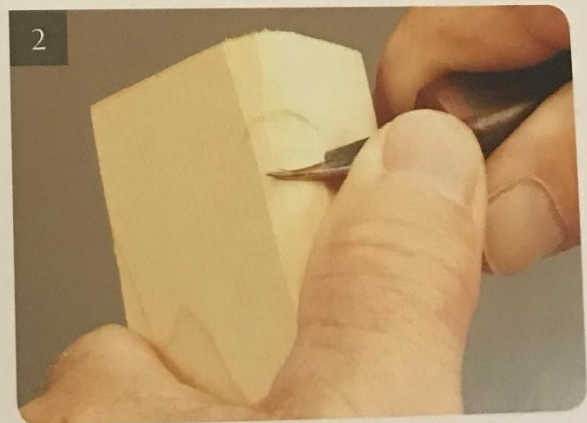
## Basic Open Eye



17



**1** Prepare the blank. Round the corner because eyes are rounded, not flat. Use a carving knife.



**2** Create the brow line. Make a rounded stop cut, cutting deeper at the rounded corner and shallower as you approach the sides with a carving knife. Carve up to the stop cut to create the brow line and eye socket. Repeat the process until you have a fairly deep eye socket.



**Rough in the eyeball.** Remove a triangular chip of wood from the inside and outside corners of the eye with a carving knife. This helps you begin to round the eyeball.



**Make the first V-tool cut.** Carve the upper eyelid. Carve along the inside crease of the top eyelid with a sharp  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V-tool. This separates the upper eyelid from the eye socket.

**Tip: Eyebrows decide the mood.**  
When carving the eye, you often rough in the shape of the eyebrow. The shape of the face can change based on the eyebrows.



**Make the second V-tool cut.** Carve the lower eyelid. Carve along the inside crease of the bottom eyelid with a sharp  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V-tool. This separates the lower eyelid from the eyeball.

## Carving the Eye



**6** **Make the third V-tool cut.** Refine the upper eyelid. Carve along the bottom edge of the top eyelid with the wing of the V-tool perpendicular to the eyeball. This separates the upper eyelid from the eyeball.



**7** **Make the fourth V-tool cut.** Refine the lower eyelid. Carve along the top edge of the lower eyelid with the wing of the V-tool perpendicular to the eyeball. This separates the lower eyelid from the eyeball.



**8** **Finish the eyelids.** Use a carving knife to thin the lower eyelid slightly so the upper eyelid overlaps the lower lid at the outside corner.



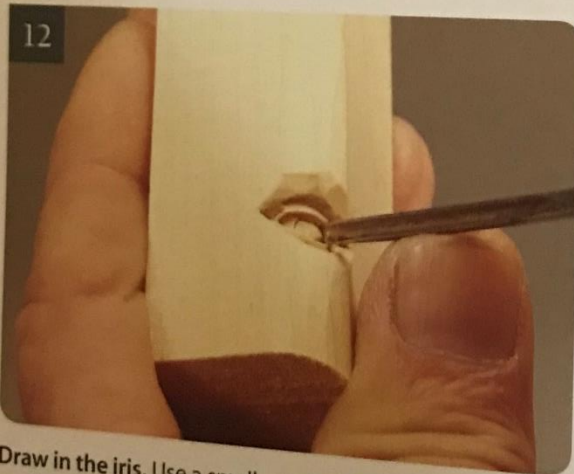
**9** **Begin rounding the eyeball.** Stop-cut along the edge of the upper eyelid where it meets the eyeball with a detail knife. Cut up to the stop cut and round the eyeball up to the upper eyelid.



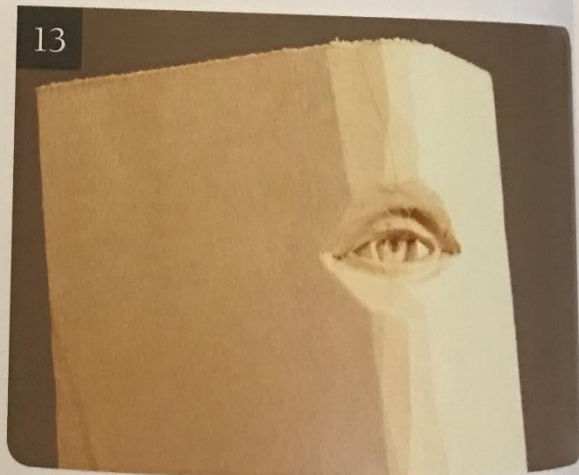
**10**  
**Finish rounding the eyeball.** Stop-cut along the edge of the lower eyelid, where it meets the eyeball, with a detail knife. Cut up to the stop cut and round the eyeball down to the lower eyelid. Make sure the upper eyelid sticks out more than the lower eyelid.



**11**  
**Decide how to finish the eye.** If you plan to paint the eye, you are done. If you plan to apply a natural finish, carve the iris and pupil.

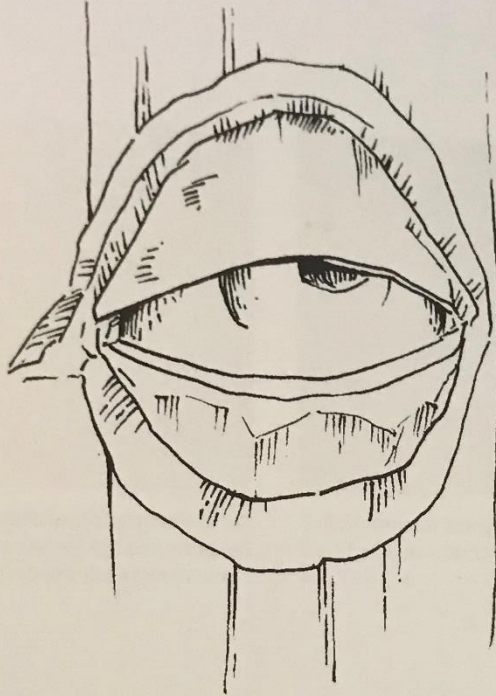


**12**  
**Draw in the iris.** Use a small gouge (which fits the curve you've drawn on the eyeball) to outline the iris. This cut will create a shadow, making the iris more distinct.



**13**  
**Carve the pupil.** Stab in the pupil with a micro veiner. The whole pupil shows under the upper eyelid. Carve out the pupil using a micro veiner and clean up the pupil with a detail knife. The goal is to create a deep shadow.

### Sleepy or Drunk Eye



**1** Prepare the blank. Round the corner of the blank because the eyeball is round. Use a carving knife. Carve the outline of the eye with a 1/4" veiner.



**2** Add the shadows above the upper eyelid. Deepen the groove above the top eyelid with a 1/8" V-tool to create a slight shadow.

## Carving the Eye



**Add the shadows under the lower eyelid.** Deepen the groove below the bottom eyelid with a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V-tool to create a slight shadow.



**Carve the upper eyelid.** Use a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V-tool to carve along the bottom edge of the upper eyelid. This separates the upper eyelid from the eyeball.



**Carve the lower eyelid.** Use a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V-tool to carve along the top edge of the lower eyelid. This separates the lower eyelid from the eyeball.



**Round the eyelids.** Use a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " #3 gouge upside down to round the drooping upper eyelid and the lower eyelid.

## Carving the Eye



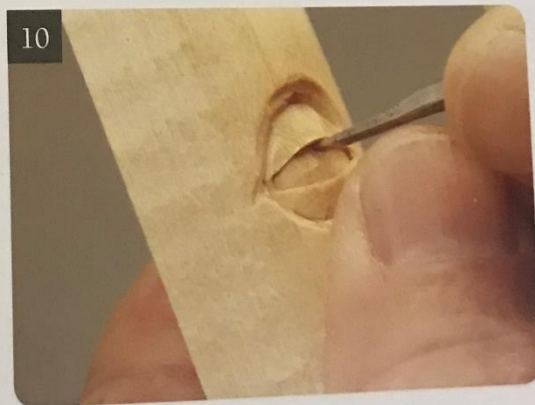
**Round the eyeball.** Stop-cut along the inside edges of the top and bottom eyelids with a detail knife. Round the eyeball to these stop cuts. Deepen the corners of the eyeball.



**Draw in the pupil.** A little less than half of the round pupil is visible below the droopy top eyelid. To make a drunk eye, make the pupil small.



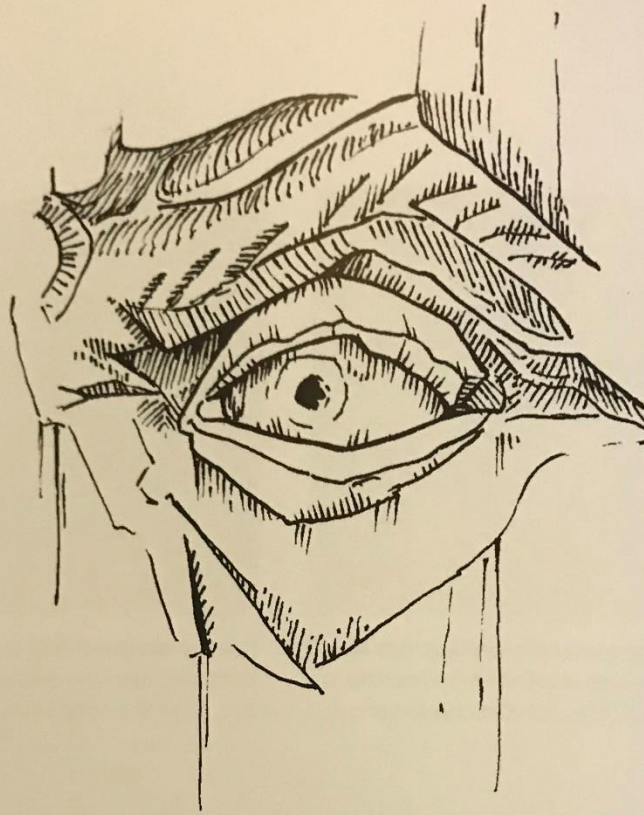
**To make a sleepy eye, make a larger pupil.**



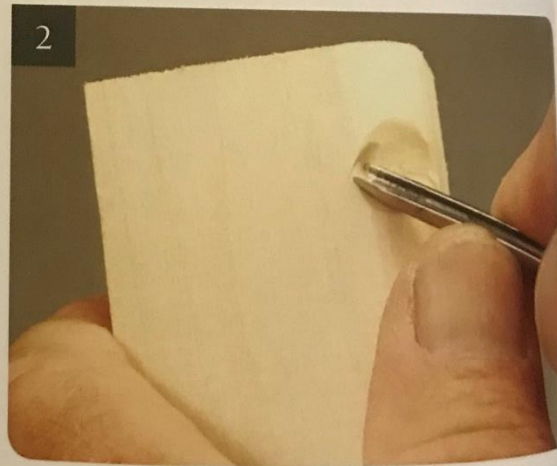
**Carve the pupil.** Stop-cut in along the pupil line with a micro gouge and free the chip with a detail knife.



## Angry Eye



**1** **Prepare the blank.** Round the corner of the blank with a carving knife. Make a curved stop cut with a carving knife, deeper on the corner and more shallow as it approaches the edges. Carve up to the stop cut to shape the eye socket.



**2** **Carve the corners of the eye socket.** Carve from the top down and from the bottom up to the inner and outer corners of the eye socket, deepening them with a small gouge. This sets the stage for a round eye.

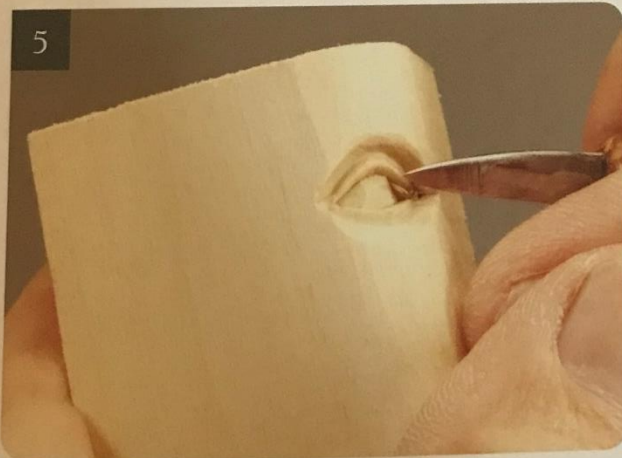
## Carving the Eye



**Separate the eyelids from the eye socket.** Carve along the deep crease at the top and bottom of the eyelids with a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V-tool to separate the upper and lower eyelids from the eye socket.



**Separate the eyelids from the eyeball.** Carve along the bottom of the upper eyelid and the top of the lower eyelid with a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V-tool. This separates the eyelids from the eyeball.

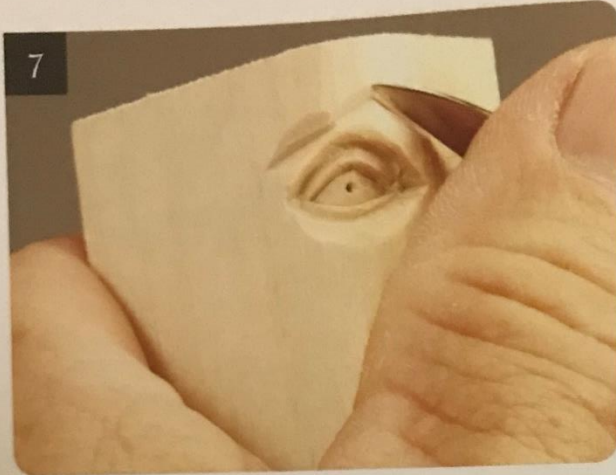


**Round the eyeball.** Stop-cut along the upper and lower eyelids with a carving knife. Carve up to the stop cuts to separate the eyeball from the eyelids and round the eyeball up to the stop cuts with a detail knife.



**Carve the pupil.** Use a micro gouge to carve the pupil. Make the shadow for the pupil even deeper by poking the pupil with an awl.

## Carving the Eye



**Rough in the angry eyebrow.** The eyebrow enhances the angry look of the eye. Stop-cut along the brow line with a carving knife. The brow is furrowed on the inside and arched over the eyeball. Cut up to the stop cut so the brow sticks out a little bit.



**Refine the brow.** Smooth and refine the brow with a skew chisel.



**Finish carving the eyebrow.** Deepen the brow lines with a 1/8" V-tool. Use the same tool to carve in the eyebrow hair. Refine the edges of the eye with the same tool.