



**NEWSLETTER OF THE
GOLDEN TRIANGLE WOODTURNERS**

<http://www.goldentrianglewoodturners.org/>
Center for the Visual Arts 400 E. Hickory, Denton, TX

December 2009

Our next meeting is 7:00pm December 7th

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Neal's NEWS

Each December GTW holds a Christmas Party during the usual meeting time. Instead of a demonstration, we have a dinner and gift exchange. The club will provide meat and drinks. We ask each member to bring a salad, side dish, appetizer, or dessert (my personal favorite) to share. If you are unable to bring a dish come anyway and be sure to bring your spouse or significant other. After dinner, we will have the usual bring back drawing and show and tell. We will also raffle a Binh Pho piece that he showed us in October as our quarterly drawing.



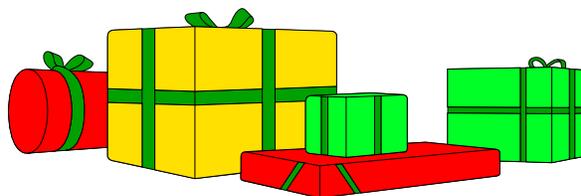
When other clubs have auctioned similar pieces from Binh, they sold for several hundred dollars, so you may wish to buy a few extra raffle tickets! In addition to Binh's beautiful art work, we will have several turning related tools that will also be in the raffle.

To participate in the gift exchange, please bring something that you made, something that a wood turner could use, or something a wood turner's significant other would want. Be creative about what you bring. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to bring a gift and participate as well. The gift exchange is always a lot of fun.

We are in the process of setting up the schedule of demonstrations for 2010. If you have ideas for demonstrators or topics, please let me know.

I hope to see you on December 7 at the Christmas Party.

Neal Brand



THIS MONTH'S BIO

John Horn is a charter member and past-newsletter editor of the Golden Triangle Woodturners and is a past-president of the Woodturners of North Texas.

John was born in Pecos, Texas in the depth of the 1932 depression and moved to the Abilene area in 1941. John attended junior high, high school and Hardin Simmons University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1953. After two years in the 4th Army Headquarters Band and teaching high school band for three years he moved to East Texas where he met and married Sue Meissner. They now have two sons and three grandchildren, all of them are musicians. Each year John and Sue play Santa and Mrs. Claus at approximately 30 special events from corporate functions to home parties with audiences from 2 to 3500 people. Sometimes John even arrives at the events by helicopter as a part of the Santa USA organization.

Since he is a professional Santa Claus, John collaborated with Ron Hampton in writing an article about how to make a Santa Claus Nutcracker for the Winter 2006 issue of Woodturning Design magazine where his picture appeared on the front cover. *(Editor's note) You will find the first installment of this article in the "Articles of Interest" section of this newsletter.*

John has spent a major portion of his life teaching a variety of subjects from high school band and choir to adult computer applications. After becoming a member of the Woodturners of North Texas in 1990 John earned awards at the State Fair of Texas for Best Woodturning, First Place in Christmas Tree Ornaments and First Place at the Frito-Lay "On Your Own Time" competition. He has demonstrated at numerous local chapter meetings including 10 demos at Texas Turn or Two and SWAT. John now teaches regular classes at the Woodcraft store in Addison and one-on-one sessions on woodturning topics in his shop for beginning to intermediate turners. When he is not teaching and attending woodturning meetings, he stays busy turning contract jobs for corporations and individuals on one or more of his four wood lathes, the largest of which will turn a piece 24 inches in diameter and 60 inches long on the inboard side.

Like many of today's turners, John started woodturning by making writing pens. He immediately progressed to bowls, weed pots, birdhouse Christmas tree ornaments, full sized birdhouses and many other projects. One of his efforts was the mannequin part of the Collaborative Project of the Woodturners of North Texas that won the "Best of Show" at the AAW Symposium in Tacoma, Washington in June 1999. The Project may be seen on the Woodturners of North Texas web site at: <http://www.wntx.org> and also on the American Association of Woodturners web site with stories about the project's creation and construction at: <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym1999/ChapChal/wnt.html>



Merry Christmas

As John and Neal have said in their columns, it's been a great year for GTW but it could not have happened without a lot of effort on the part of many of the club members. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who volunteer to turn cars and tops, man the SWAT registration, setup the meeting room with video equipment, provide input for the newsletter and a special thanks to C.J. and John Solberg for the great website. Have a Merry Christmas and be ready to join in for a great 2010.

Glynn Cox Editor

President's Patter

With the December meeting upon us I can't help but say WOW - what a year this has been. Except for the ice storm in January we have had 10 wonderful demonstrations, including nationally known professionals Al Stirt and Binh Pho. We have participated in community events like the Arts and Jazz Festival, Celebrate Roanoke, The Woodworking Show, and Empty Bowls. Many of us attended the national symposium in Albuquerque and SWAT in Wichita Falls. Our membership continues to grow with new members joining us each and every month. And we have a new web site and newsletter to help keep us informed. I wish to thank everyone for their involvement in our club and encourage everyone to take an active part in our activities.

The new Board is in place for 2010. I will remain President for another year. Neal Brand is Vice President and will continue to coordinate our demonstrations. Chris Morgan remains treasurer and club photographer. Mike Nelson is Secretary and in charge of keeping track of our membership. Chuck Raney will head our Activities. Glynn Cox will continue as newsletter editor. Peter Tkacs remains Past President and will take over responsibility for the library. The board will continue to meet the second Thursday of each month and all members are welcome to join us at these board meetings. Please continue to give these members your full support and thank them for their willingness to accept this responsibility.

As you are aware we were successful in reaching our goal in supplying Empty Bowls with 151 hand turned bowls this year. For 2010 we have started something new. It is called the Bowl of the Month Club and so far we have 15 members signed up. Each member of Bowl of the Month Club is committed to turn one bowl each month for Empty Bowls. We have committed the club to turn another 150 bowls in 2010 but if the current 15 members turn one a month we will have 180 bowls. We are still looking for additional members to join the club. My internal goal for 2010 is 200 bowls. If we can increase membership to 17, and everyone lives up to their commitment, we will have 204. Please consider joining this prestigious group. We will track the activity throughout the year and post it on the web site.

Our final meeting of 2009 will be our Christmas Gala. You and your guest are invited to share in the food and fun that will fill the Festival Hall at the Center for The Visual Arts. Dinner will include a catered BBQ meal supplied by the club. Members are asked to bring an appetizer, a side dish or desert. Again this year we will have a gift exchange. To participate please bring a wrapped gift, something a woodturner or woodturner's widow might enjoy. We will also have the biggest raffle of the year including bring backs, vendor donations, the Binh Pho demonstration piece and maybe even a few surprises. Please plan on joining us for an evening of celebration and fun. (Don't forget your Bring Backs - See the newsletter for list of last months winners)

2010 should be another outstanding year for Golden Triangle Woodturners. If there is something you would like to see or do please let one of the board members know. Also if you have something to add to the newsletter please send it Glynn Cox. He has done a wonderful job putting our monthly newsletter together but would like some help with additional information connected to woodturning.

John Solberg

Welcome New Member

Jack Gardner of Sanger

Please give our new member a warm welcome and introduce yourselves to Jack at the next meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Party

Our December meeting will be the annual Christmas party. We will start at 7:00pm, December 7th, so if you are late you may go hungry.

The club will be providing meats, drinks, plates and utensils. Please bring a vegetable, salad or desert and if you wish to participate in the gift exchange bring one of your best woodturnings or a woodturning related object. The gift exchange is also open to spouses/significant others. There will be some great raffle items so come prepared to buy a lot of tickets..

REGISTRATION

January is time to start thinking about taxes and club re-registration so beat the tax man and be ready with cash or check. 2010 dues are \$2.50 per month or \$30 per year. Sorry, no discounts for 12 month prepay. Registration forms are available on the GTW website here [http://web.me.com/gtw44/GTW/News_&_Notes_files/GTW Membership Appl.pdf](http://web.me.com/gtw44/GTW/News_&_Notes_files/GTW%20Membership%20Appl.pdf)

If you are not an AAW member please consider joining. There are many benefits including six issues of American Woodturner magazine, insurance, marketing opportunities, educational opportunity grants and on and on. We would like to have a 100% AAW member club. You may re-register online <https://www.woodturner.org/Member/MemberSignup.asp> or by mail

CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

December 7	7:00 pm Christmas Party
January 4	7:00 pm GTW Monthly Meeting

Bring Back Winners

Neal Brand	Richard Rivera
Dale Lloyd (x3)	Don Hawkins
John Easterling	Gary Armitage
Terri Sargent (x2)	John Downs
John Solberg (x2)	

Bring back winners remember to bring a wood turning related item, preferably one you turned, back next meeting.

Photo Highlights of last meeting





ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Turning a Santa Claus Nutcracker with John Horn, Texas' Turning Santa

Part I

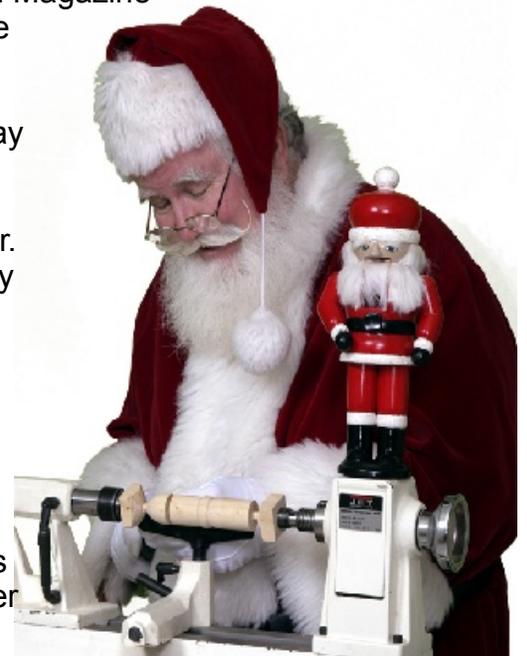
By Ron Hampton

Photographs by Josh Moore

And special thanks to Woodturning Design Magazine
for allowing the use of the article

"Tis the Season to be jolly!" We are now in the holiday season where our minds turn to things like Santa Claus and Holiday Good Cheer. In this article we will meet John Horn who is fondly known among Texas Woodturners as Texas' turning Santa Claus. John will teach us how to make a beautiful Santa Claus Nutcracker. A Santa Claus Nutcracker very similar to this one was first made by Bonnie Klein and appeared in the December 1997 American Woodturner.

For ten years John has been a professional Santa Claus, sometimes arriving by helicopter to appear to hundreds and sometimes thousands of children. John has also been a turner since 1996. He has had the very satisfying experience of being able to combine his turning with being a professional Santa Claus. John has a Masters Degree in Music Education and for eight years was a high school band and choir director. He also taught computer applications to adults for several years before he started in woodturning.



Like many of us John struggled to learn woodturning basics without an instructor. John shares his joy of woodturning with people by teaching beginners the woodturning fundamentals in a safe and successful manner. He teaches beginners woodturning fundamentals at the Dallas Woodcraft store three Thursday evenings out of the month. It has become a passion with John to help others get a good, safe start in woodturning. John is a Past-President of the Woodturners of North Texas and is Activities Director of the Woodturners of North Texas. He is also the Newsletter Editor/Secretary of the Golden Triangle Woodturners.

Getting Started

Before starting on the project take the plans to a good copy shop and have them make full sized plans that match the dimensions you desire. If you have a large lathe you could scale this project to make a nutcracker of any size you might desire. Nutcrackers come in a variety of sizes. Any lathe may be used if the swing above the bed is five inches or better and can accept stock that is eight or more inches between centers.

Turning With a Dead Cup Center and Spur Drive

In turning a spindle of almost any size, John prefers to use a dead cup center instead of the spur drive that comes with most lathes. (See red arrow in figure 1) The dead cup center will allow the wood to spin freely if you get a catch without injuring your work piece and giving you a real fright when the tool catches. This is especially helpful when you first start using the skew. The Santa project can be used very successfully for skew practice since you may select only portions of the boot and arms for the planing cut and the rest may be turned with a spindle gouge.



Figure 1

The Legs: 2 X 2 Blank 7 1/2 inches long for the leg

Start with the legs since they look to be the easiest to turn. The nutcracker can be made from almost any wood since it will be painted. Regular 2 X 4 pine wood from most any lumber supply can provide you with inexpensive material that is easy to turn. If you are a beginning turner and are not familiar with making duplicate spindle parts, it is easy and cheap to replace an imperfect spindle. The first leg is easy. It is making the second leg look exactly like the first one that presents the problems. Making accurate measurements and carefully comparing the first piece to the second piece as you go along provides the solution to the problem.

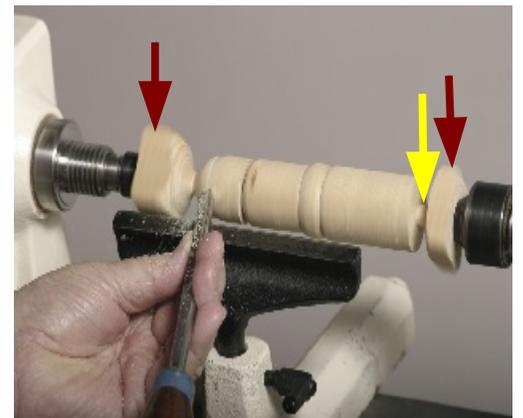


Figure 2

Leg Diameter:

Make each leg 1 1/2 inches in diameter, leaving the waste portion square on each end. Notice: The ends of the blank are left square (See red arrow figure 2) to aid in dividing the boot in half in a later operation. When turning the tenon at the top of the leg, a 1/2 inch diameter tenon will give the amount of support needed if the nutcracker is to be functional. (See yellow arrow figure 2) People will hold the finished product by the legs and firmly squeeze the legs together if they are really trying to crack nuts, thus the need for a strong tenon.

Saw the toe of the boot portion in half

By leaving the waste portion square, it is easier to make an accurate cut when dividing the toe portion into two parts to complete the boot section. Use a band saw to cut the boot section into two equal halves. (See figure 3)



Figure 3

Using a disk or belt sander to shape toe of boot

Through trial and error the toe of the boot can be shaped at a 45 degree angle with a disk sander or belt sander quite easily. (See figure 4) The toe of the boot should be flat on the bottom from the saw cut and the upper part slanted to fit a corresponding 45 degree angle on the upper portion of the boot. Be careful to keep the sanded portion absolutely flat and not leaning to one side or the other.



Figure 4

Shape the bottom portion of the boot

Carefully sand the bottom of the boot to the 45 degree angle that will match the toe of the boot. (See figure 5) It is easy to sand the boot heel area too much, causing a bad fit for the toe on the sides of the boot. If an error is made in the shaping of the boot or the toe, sometimes spackling compound or glue and sanding dust can be used to fill in gaps then sanded smooth to the desired shape.



Figure 5

Shop Made Sanding Disk

You can make a sanding disk to fit on your lathe by obtaining a nut from the hardware store that will fit the threads on the spindle shaft of your lathe headstock. Drill a hole in a hardwood block the size of the flat spots on the nut with a Forstner bit 1/8th inch deeper than the depth of the nut. With a chisel, carve out the corners of the hole for the nut to sink into the hole. (See insert figure 6) Then glue the nut into the hole with epoxy. (See figure 6) After the epoxy is cured, mount the nut and hardwood on the lathe and true the front and sides. Mount and glue a circle of MDF that is slightly larger than the sanding disk you want to use onto the hardwood block. When it is cured, true the rim and the side that will contain the sandpaper. Then affix the sandpaper to the finished disk. Since the materials are so cheap, you can make one for each grade of sandpaper. Most threads of lathe spindles do not go all the way to the shoulder, thus the need of the 1/8th recess between the edge of the nut and the outside surface of the hardwood block. The block must be in flush contact with the shoulder of the spindle when the sanding disk is mounted on the lathe. (See red arrow figure 7)



Figure 6



Figure 7

Turn the arms

Use your drawing to turn the arms as in photograph 8. Use a thin parting tool to demark the junction between shoulder and the forearm. Use a skew or small gouge to cut the beads of the wrist. (See insert figure 8) Do not sand the angle into at the elbows at this time. Wait until you have shaped the body and know exactly how you want to arms to fit. Also, wait to drill the holes in the top of the arm for the arms to be attached to the body until later.



Figure 8

Body Detail

The body consists of four pieces glued together with wood glue. (See figure 9) The center pieces are planed or joined to the thickness that will allow the crank to fit smoothly in the cavity. The curved shape of the inside body piece can be traced from the plan on page 10. Both of the inside surfaces of the outside sections must be lightly planed to remove the rounded corners that are found on all 2 X 4s these days. Otherwise, there will be a rounded section at the glue joint and the gap will be obvious.

Body Parts

The shape of the inside of the glued up section of the body leaves the cavity for the crank. The curved parts are outlined only for clarity in the picture. (See insert figure 9) Notice: The inside parts are narrower than the outside layers and are just thick enough for the crank to fit without binding.

Crank Detail

If the nutcracker is planned to be functional, it is suggested you make the crank out of some hardwood that can stand the pressure of cracking a nut. Make sure the grain runs lengthwise of the crank to maintain strength. (See figure 10) Shape the crank with a band saw or scroll saw and sand the saw marks off with hand sanding or better yet a sanding drum.

SUPPLIES

Wood: Common 2X4s with a minimum of knots for the body parts and base.

Almost any hardwood for the crank.

¼ inch hardwood dowel rod

Tools: lathe, roughing gouge, 3/8 or ½ inch spindle gouge, (optional) skew, (optional) narrow parting tool.

Drill press or hand drill and tri square.

¼ inch drill bit extending a minimum of 4 inches beyond the drill chuck.

3/8 drill bit.

Dead center preferred over the normal spur drive.

Band saw or other narrow kerfed saw.

Disk sander and (optional) drum sander.

Spackling compound for fitting error corrections.

Assorted sandpaper grits from 100-240 grits.

Choice of wood glue.

Acrylic craft paints in red, black, blue grey, flesh, "Puff" white fabric paint for fur appearance on the costume trim and clear glossy or satin sealer. *

Faux fur for the beard.**

Fine and medium craft brushes. *

E-6000 craft glue for beard *

Part II of the article will continue in the January 2010 newsletter



Figure 9

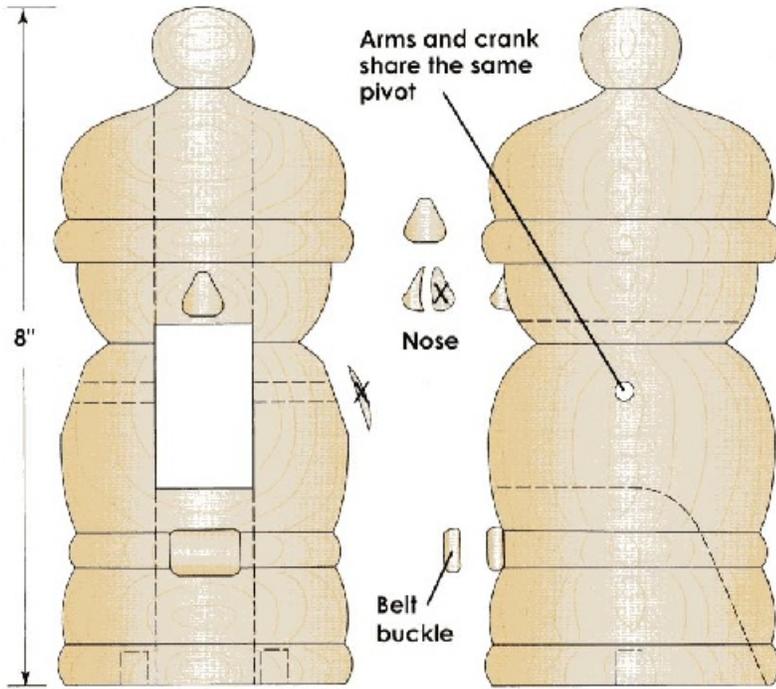


Figure 10

2010 Club Officers

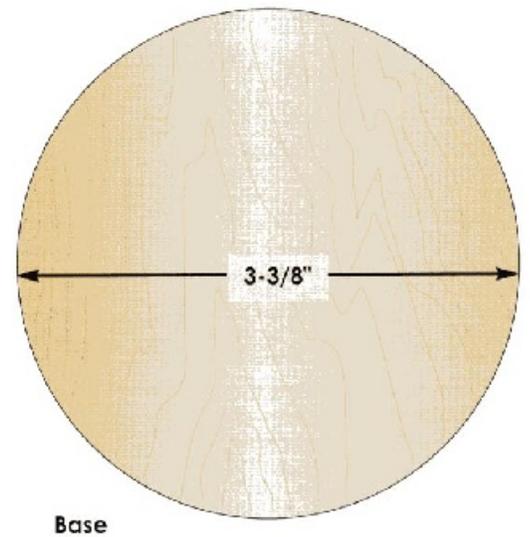
President	John Solberg	940-387-3089	Membership	Mike Nelson	214-387-9077
Vice President	Neal Brand	940-383-1248	Past President	Peter Tkacs	214-662-2200
Secretary	Mike Nelson	214-387-9077	Librarian	Peter Tkacs	214-707-0776
Treasurer	Chris Morgan	940-321-1151	Newsletter Editor	Glynn Cox	817-337-0210
Activities	Chuck Raney	214-548-7338			

PATTERNS FOR SANTA NUTCRACKER



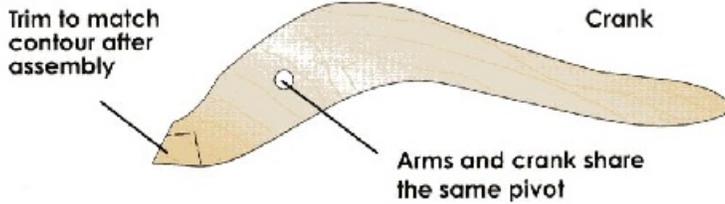
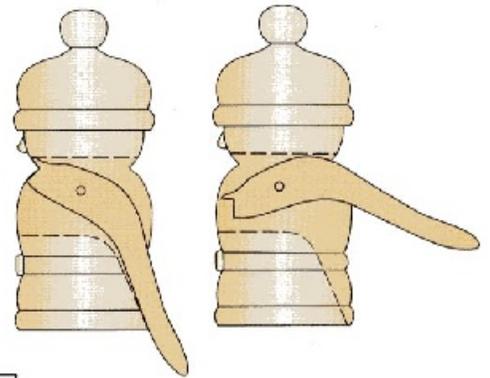
Front view
Shows three layers of lamination
(dashed lines)

Side view
Shows opening for crank
(dashed lines)



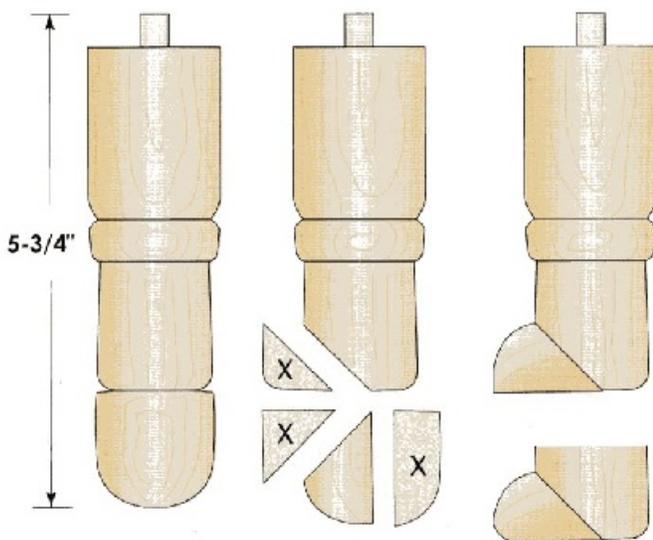
Base

Crank action

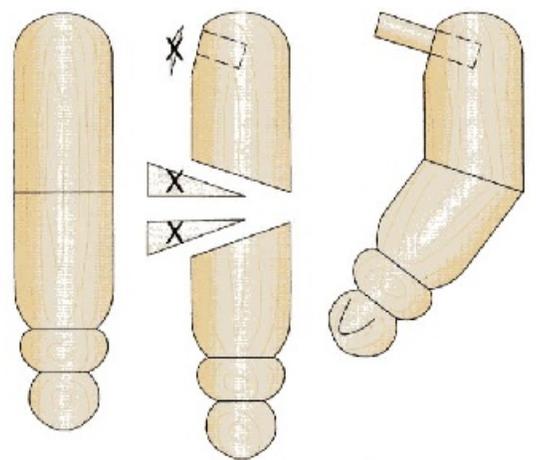


Crank

KEY
X = Waste



Leg
Turn, cut away waste, glue, and shape
(make two)



Arm
Turn, cut away waste, glue, and shape
(make two)

Patterns are not full-size
(Patterns were adapted from Bonnie Klein's Santa)