

# Head Joints

Tutorial Version 1.0

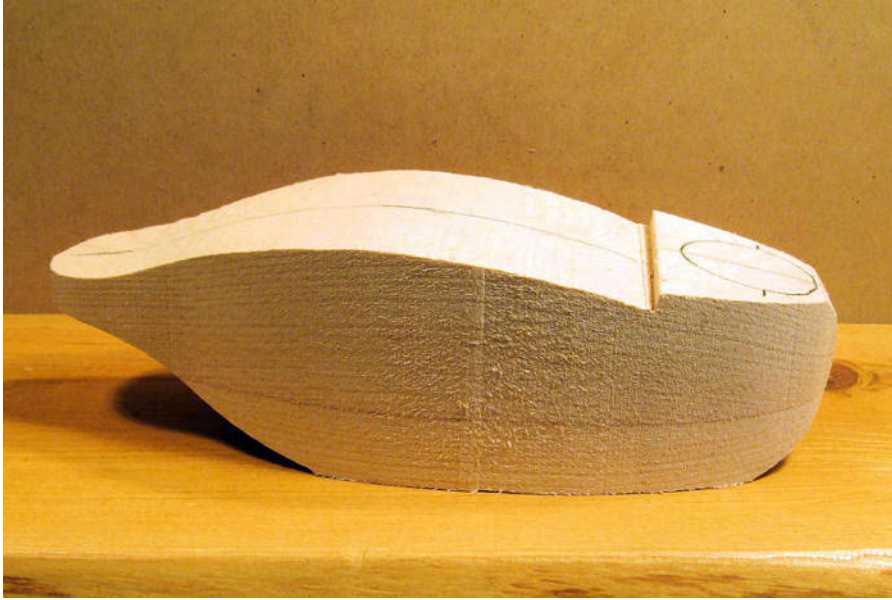
## Introduction

Some have asked about my construction methods, especially my head joints. I thought I would post this up and give a little show and tell...



1. I will start with a pre-carved head. Three hen heads are shown from a rig of six Greenwing Teal. The heads are Basswood. Carved with a knife to this point.





2. Layout the center line on the body cut-out to locate the head.



3. Line the head up with the center line and mark the base of the head on the neck shelf.





4. You can see the band saw marks remain on the base of the head at this point.



5. With the head located on the neck shelf, you can see the joint is still rough.



6. Now is a good time to check the side profile of the head and body cut-out together. Start imagining the curve that will flow continuously from under the chin to the bottom of breast.



7. I use a hand held belt sander to clean up the bottom of the head. Be careful not to round the base of the head as you sand. If you do create a high spot, use sandpaper on your finger to get the center of the head base back to concave.





8. Dry fit the joint to find out if you are ready for glue.



9. The heads are glued-up using Gorilla polyurethane glue. Attach them with your preferred method.



10. Use a knife to rough carve the neck into the breast, sides, and back.



11. Use a flat/round file for the larger curves and convex areas.



12. Use a small round file to work the tight inside curves.



13. You can now see the making of the smooth joint.





14. The whole decoy is now ready to sand. I spend a lot of time on this step. It is not necessary for a true decoy, but adds to the clean feel of my style.



15. The final sanded decoy is ready for sealer. The body seam was treated the same as the head.

I hope that new carvers and old pros alike can use a few of these thoughts. If you would like to critique the process, feel free!

-Geoff Vine

## NOTES

