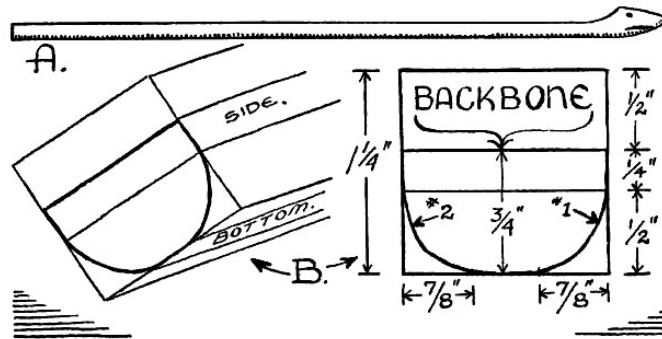


Snow Snake Construction

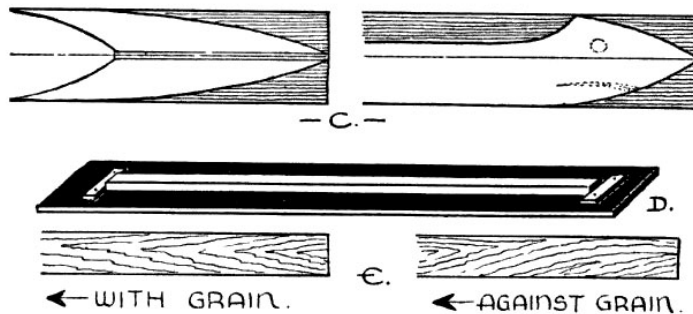
Materials:

- Stave - hickory, ash or pine, 1 1/4" square X 5 feet long
- Pocketknife
- Sandpaper
- Paint – several colors
- Varnish
- Paint Brushes
- Bolt - 1/4" diameter X 1" long
- 2 - Thumb Tacks

To make the snow snake shown in Fig. A, mark off on your wooden stave the dimensions shown in Fig. B. Mark them first on the two sides numbered 1 and 2, then on the rounded lines from end to end of the stave, as indicated.



Draw the outline of the head and the flat back, both top and side views, as shown in Fig. C.



To hold the stave for carving, place it on a workbench or on a rough board, holding it in place by nailing a short crosspiece to the board at each end of the stave, as shown in Fig. D.

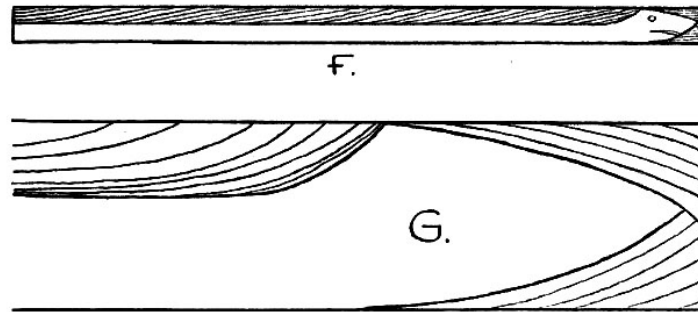
Carve *with* the grain. Working with and against the grain is clearly shown in Fig. E.

Starting with the angular edges of the stave, trim off thin slivers, a little at a time, with your knife. Do not try to take the whole edge down to the line all at one time. If you own a small plane, this could be used instead of the knife.

Repeat this carving on the other side. If it is done slowly and carefully, the belly side of the snake will be smoothly rounded.

While the stave still rests between the blocks, wrap a piece of sandpaper around a small block of wood and sand the rounded sides, removing all roughness. Then polish the sides with fine-grained sandpaper.

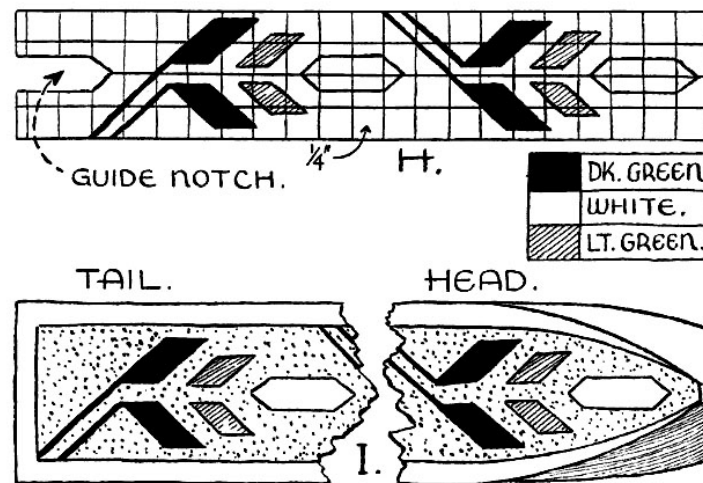
Now turn the stave over and, as shown in Fig. F, whittle the excess wood away from the back of the head and all the way down the straight part of the flat back. Remove layer after layer, as demonstrated in Fig. G.



The next step is to form the snake's head. Start by shaping the top and then the bottom of the head. Finally taper the sides of the head toward the nose, leaving just a very narrow strip along the top of the head. The shaded areas in Figs C and F are to be cut away.

The head and flat back must also be given a good sanding, first with coarse and then with fine sandpaper. The sandpaper on the block is to be used when sanding the back. If you hold the block straight, it will prevent you from rounding the edges.

Native decorations should be added along the snake's back. Fig. H shows a simple design. Draw up the squares as indicated on a strip of paper, and sketch in the design on your squares. Using carbon paper, trace your design onto the back of the snake, starting near the head.



The design should be painted in with in small jars. Three colors are indicated in Fig. H, but use whatever colors you wish. The entire snow snake should then be varnished. If you own a wood-burning set, the design can be

burned in, instead of painted, and then varnished. The dots shown in Fig. I have been burned in with the tip of the iron. Be sure to add features to the head, if desired.

To make it possible to varnish the snake on all sides at one time, a small screw eye can be fastened to the tail end, and the snake can then be hung from a nail.

To make the snow snake waterproof and warp-proof, three thin coats of varnish are better than one thick coat.

The 1/4" bolt can be inserted into the back of the head as shown in Fig. L to increase the weight at the head. The finishing touches on the snake are the eyes and mouth. Insert the two tacks for the eyes and cut the mouth in a v-shape, using the small blade of the pocketknife. Both are shown in Fig. M.

