

RAVEN CARVING AND PAINTING
A coronavirus confinement odyssey
by
FLOYD SCHOLZ



July 2020

DAY 1

Let's start video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2693409974238820/>

Oh boy!! Let's get this underway!... but, be safe 🙏 video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2693442370902247/>

Let's carve!

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2693474654232352/>

Stump cutter mounted into a Gesswein Slenderhead
15 to 20,000 rpm



Rounding over the back region video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2693481384231679/>

Left side rounded over



When shaping the right side it's helpful to draw a diagonal line and keep your cuts to the right of the line marked "X"



Right side complete...

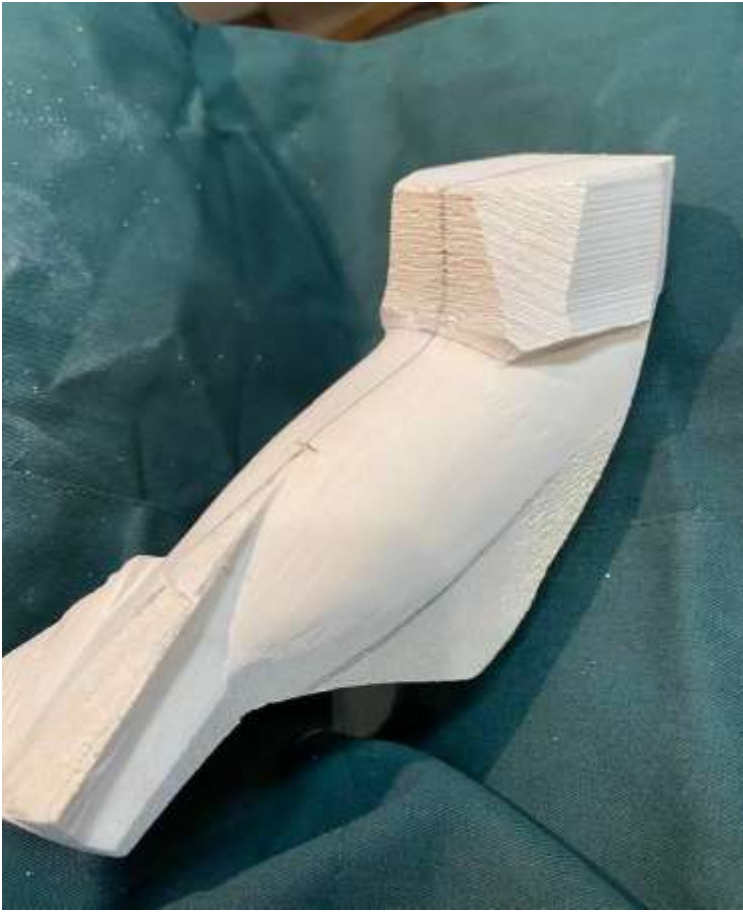
Resolve these areas!





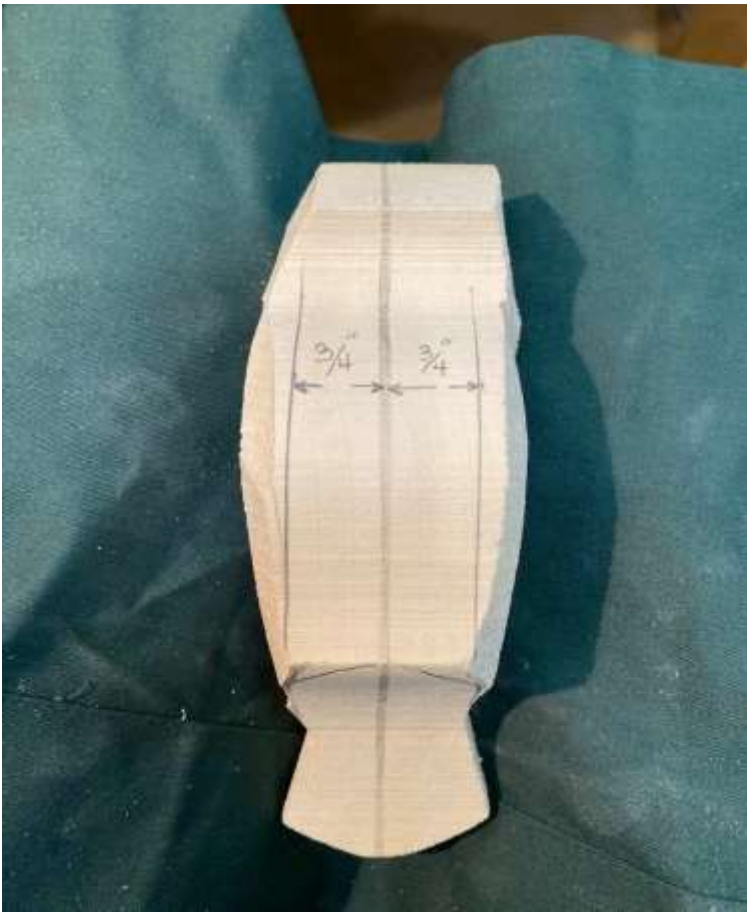
As a follow up to the actual cuts I like to lightly sand the surface to smooth it... (220 grit paper)





Front of the body block





Rounded over 👍





Layout of the scapular feather group...





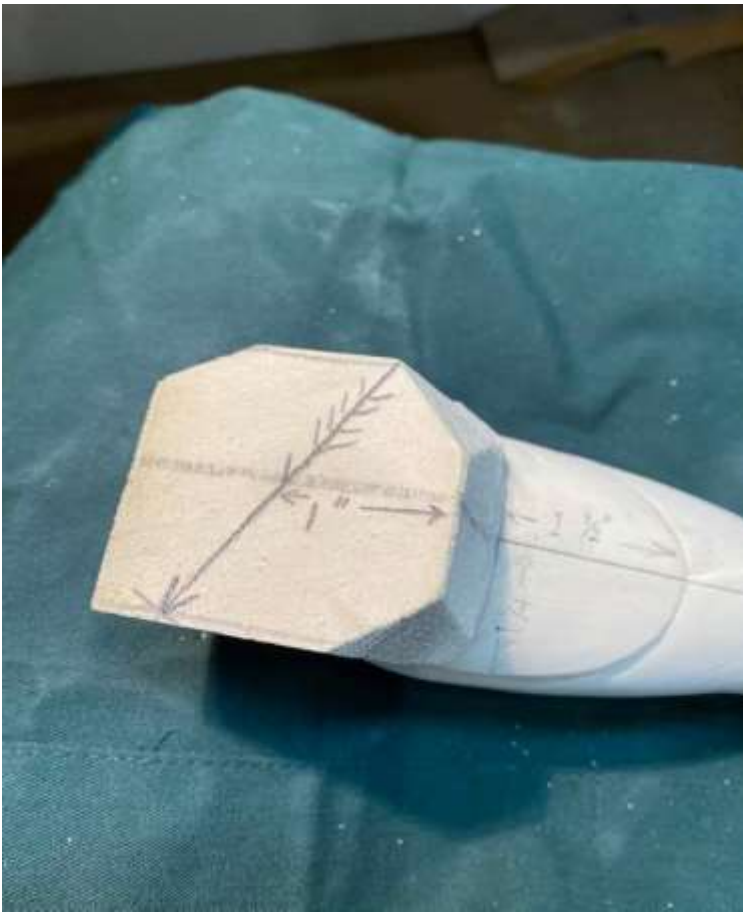
Cut outside the line to a depth of 1/8" resolve it into the surrounding area and then lightly sand smooth...





Establishing the head direction





Remove the excess wood on either side...





The head block has been isolated.
Note the position and importance of center lines!





Square up the back of the head...



Up to now, the only cutter I've used is the small serrated stump cutter..(known in the industry as the "Scholz Stump Cutter")



Make a profile pattern for the head and neck...



Refine each side of the head... then, remeasure and redraw the "T" mark at $1 \frac{3}{4}$ " from the base of the scapular.





Position the head profile pattern...

You have options and can have your little guy looking up or down...



Remove the waste wood (marked with the "x's")



Profile the head and re-draw the head center line



Layout lines for the wings ! (still just using the Stump cutter!)





Wings are shaped.... !!





Round over the front region to the centerline...



Under tail covers and tail dimensioning







DAY 2

Tools used during our first day of carving.





We'll begin today by refining the head and bill.
I'm still using the stump cutter... keep it simple!



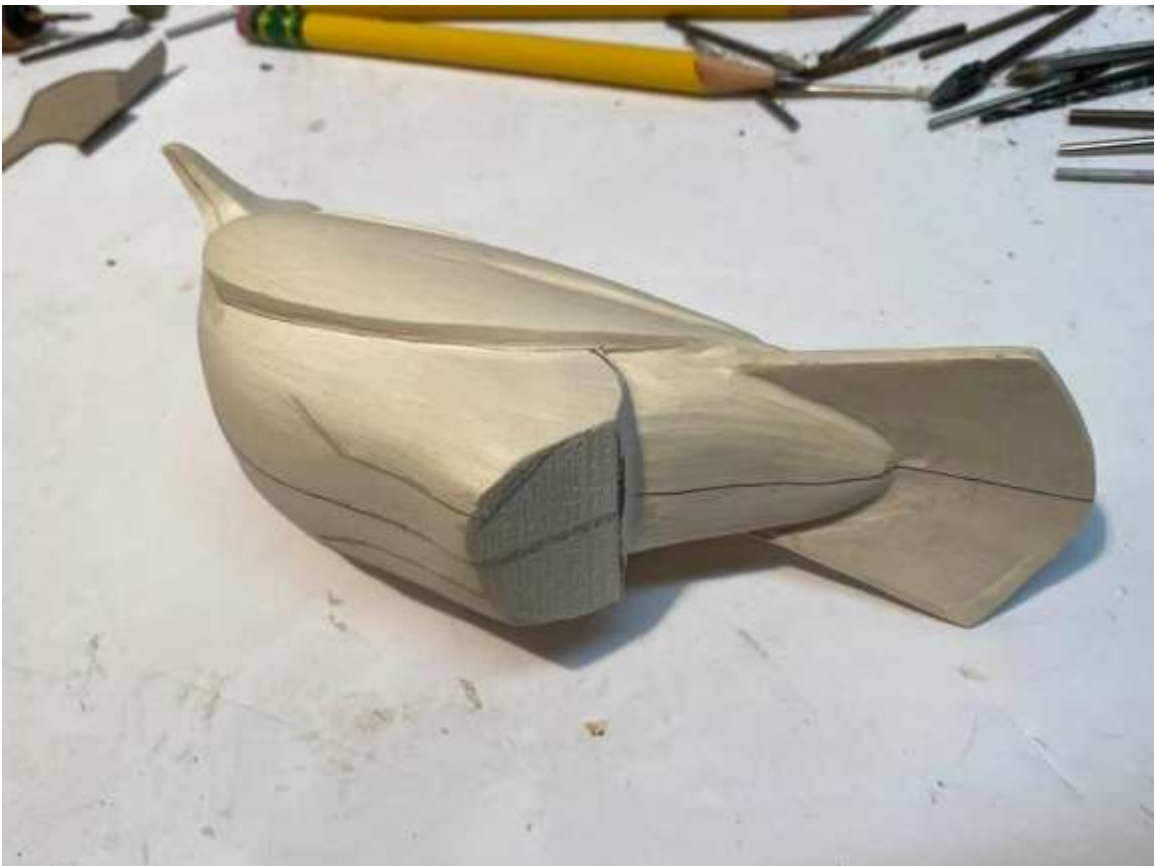
Done



Another view



Under tail coverts rounded over



Measure 2 7/8" up from end of the tail



Belly and tarsus lay-out



Still using the stump cutter...



Carve away in between the tarsus (legs)





These areas are now rounded over and now it's time to begin "blocking in" all the major feather groups...







Throat and breast area and sectioning the under tail coverts ... For these cuts we will be using a new cutter!





A ruby flame cutter works great for this!
Run your tool as fast as it can go! Gesswein is 55,000 rpm



Initial cuts... lower the level below and round over



Complete



Ready to begin laying out the feather groupings and feathers. Video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2694474974132320/>

Some splendid reference photos!





Reduce the levels marked with an "X"





More images! (Thanks Russ!)





Slight adjustment! Now ready!



Blocked in and ready for all the major flight feathers...



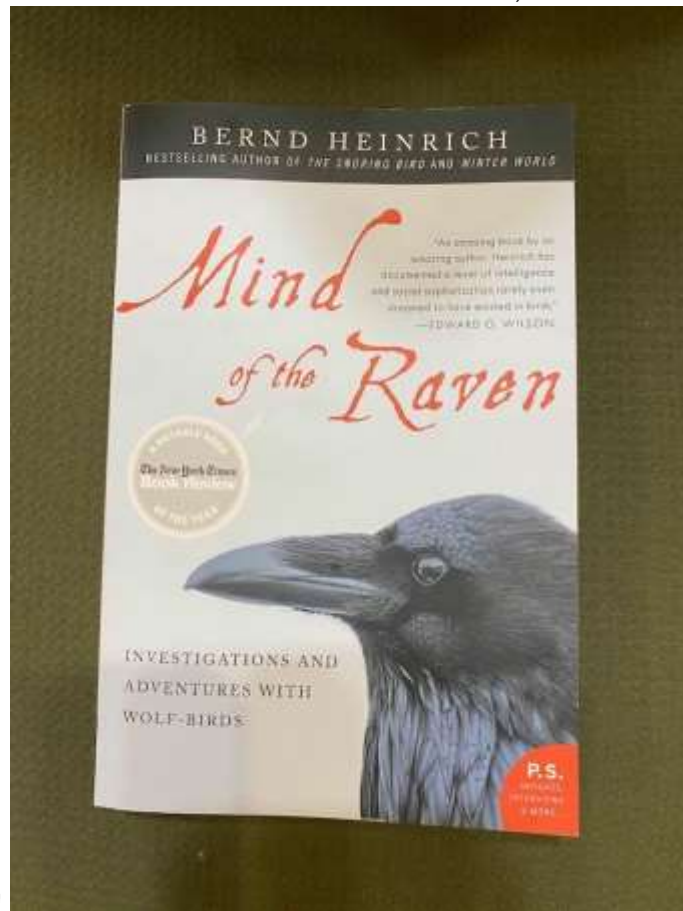
Lay out of flight feathers!



Onto the feathering!

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2694640587449092/>

Hey! If you are really looking to learn more about these remarkable birds, I'd like to recommend



the great Bernd Heinrich's book !

These are the 3 cutter bits I will use for the feathering



Tomorrow morning I will do a complete series of videos illustrating tool/ cutter bit selection and usage as it applies to the carving of the flight feathers...



DAY 3

Good morning! Out practicing some “social distancing” video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2695242630722221/>

Flight feathering with the diamond cylinder video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2695256814054136/>

With all the major flight feathers now carved in, it's onto the “landscaping” of the body. The directional lines are drawn in with a pencil...





Oops... sorry, forgot to post these pictures of the under tail! I used a diamond point run at high speed...





"Ruby Flame". No... it's not a New Orleans Prostitute!
It's a #3 medium grit Ruby flame cutter that I will use to put in the "landscaping" of the body...



Body contouring complete





Contouring video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2695602507352900/>

Onto the "contour "U" s"



Ready for light sanding...
head and bill details tomorrow!👍



DAY 4

Good morning ! It's Friday! video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697172183862599/>

Contouring progression on the right side...



Contouring the under tail coverts video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2696222507290900/>

Beginning to work on the head! 4 important cuts!! Video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2696225037290647/>

It's already Friday afternoon?? So many Wines... so little time!



Adult Raven head profile. Note position of the eye... It's set lower in the head than one might think..



Front view



Reduce the upper part of the head block to $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the top slightly tapering to $\frac{5}{8}$ " then to $\frac{3}{8}$ " where the beak begins...



Top and front measurements...



The eye location is exactly 1 1/4" back from the tip of the beak



I've tapered in the cheeks and slightly rounded over the eye socket edges... Now I'm ready to round over the bill and then the top of the head above the eyes...



Tapered diamond cylinder cutter...



Round the bill first!



Looks like a Raven to me!



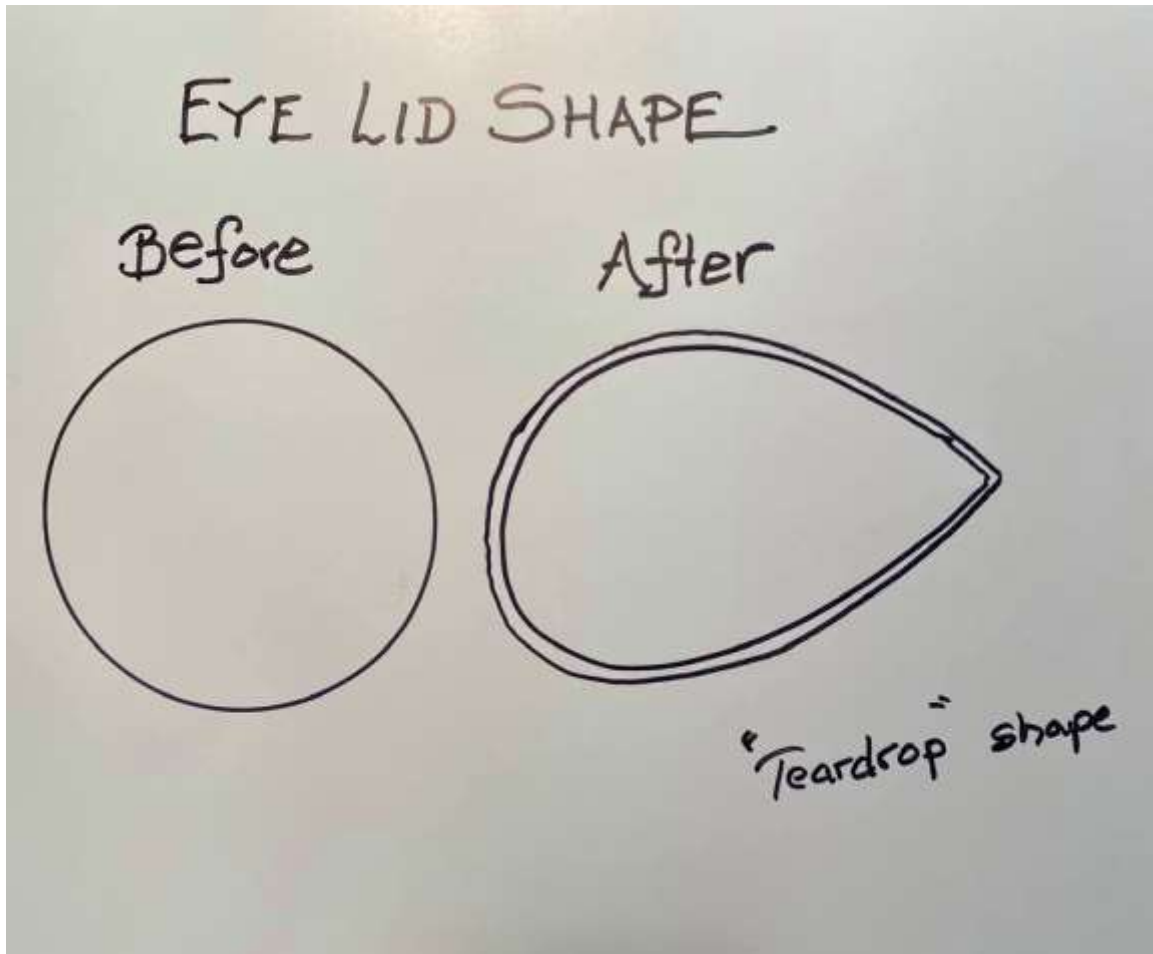


All set to set the eyes! A+B epoxy putty ... fill the sockets and place in the eyes... check for alignment and balance!





Once we create the eye lids... pay attention to the shape!



DAY 5

Happy Saturday! Let's talk about eyelids... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697164647196686/>

Eye shape video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697166557196495/>

Mixology ! 🌀 video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697168940529590/>

Forming the eyelids! Nuthin' to it !! video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697172183862599/>

Viola !!






Great stuff for eyelids feet, toes, talons and pool repair!



Subtle subtle subtle... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697321033847714/>

Cause it's all about the base, 'bout the base 'bout the base...  video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697325180513966/>

Contour sanding.... 330 grit adhesive backed Swiss paper and a split mandrel video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697425527170598/>

Contour sanding part 2 video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2697428597170291/>

DAY 5

For comparison sake...

The left side has been contour sanded so you can see the difference in surface dynamic.





Once the overall contour sanding is complete, I lightly spray Isopropyl Alcohol 90% over the entire bird... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698048787108272/>

Once the alcohol dries, I hand sand the body using 400 wet/dry paper wrapped around a soft silicon rubber cylinder...





The throat area is a place where we will have a “Feathering Field Day!” We’re going to REALLY play up those throat feathers!! 🦋🦋🦋🦋🦋🦋



Worn out diamond points



Introducing the wood burners! 🎥🎥🎥 video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698190187094132/>

Using the diamond point to undercut and define SOME of the flight feathers... (not each one!)
video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698194480427036/>

Mapping out the throat feathers! Video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698195830426901/>

Lay out the directional flow with a pencil first... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698207320425752/>

It's SHOWTIME! Putting in those throat feathers! Video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698213853758432/>

The throat... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698216210424863/>

DAY 6

Good morning!

Today we begin the burning process!

Also... for those who asked, here are the paints we will be using toward the end of the week 👍



Happy Monday! Video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698797850366699/>

Burning tip preparing with a rouge wheel video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698802273699590/>

Draw first! Video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698809607032190/>

Burning techniques video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698810630365421/>

Burning direction... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698811590365325/>

Starting with the tail... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2698832033696614/>

Very Important Burning Demo!!! video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2699774920268992/>

All the major flight feathers have been wood burned.
Tomorrow it's onto the rest of the body!



DAY 7

Good morning! Video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2700405900205894/>

Here's the lay- out I will use got the upper wing areas and scapulars. The burning techniques which seems to work well is the "outboard" technique... starting from the outer edge and working inward.





Here's the tip I'll use...



Contour burning the upper wings and back region... video

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2700518086861342/>

Working my way up the back...



Call me Floyd "Heavyhead" 😊... Nothing like a song to end the day!

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2700774686835682/>

Mapping out the diverse head feathers...

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2701491093430708/>

Burn baby burn !

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2701496526763498/>

Burning details...





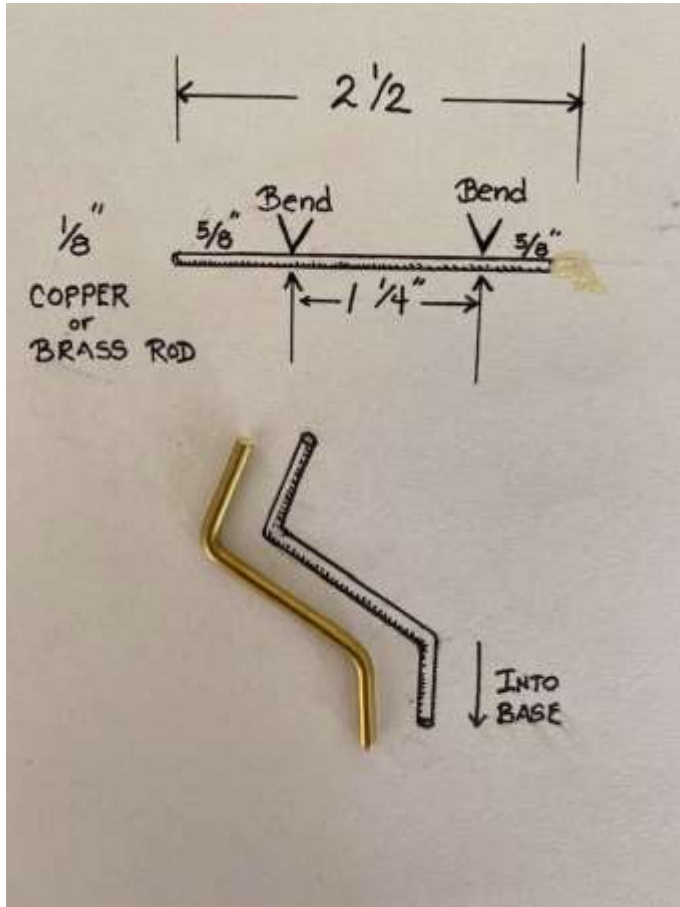
Burning complete.... we'll talk legs, mounting and feet and where the body joins the leg tomorrow!





DAY 8

Leg rods...



Drill $\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter holes $1\frac{1}{8}$ ". Apart. I drilled $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep



This direction



These flank feathers are really shaggy!!
A small 1/16" ball does the trick!





Progress of the lower flank feathering...



Overall burning is now completed and ready for sealer!
(instrumental music courtesy of the Kruger Brothers)

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2703881096525041/>

The sealer...



Sealer applied! Prior to sealing the bird, I used my airbrush with burnt umber and darkened the white area around the eye for tonal consistency



Finishing the base...

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2704024836510667/>

Nuthin' to it!

Painting begins tomorrow!! Yee- Haa 🤪🤪🤪

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2704095836503567/>

DAY 9

Do not gesso!

Begin with a 50% / 50% mix of these two (or something similar). You want a rich, deep purple with a hint of iridescence... Using a 1/2" oval wash brush, start by laying on a thin watery wash so it settles into the texturing!



First wash coat!

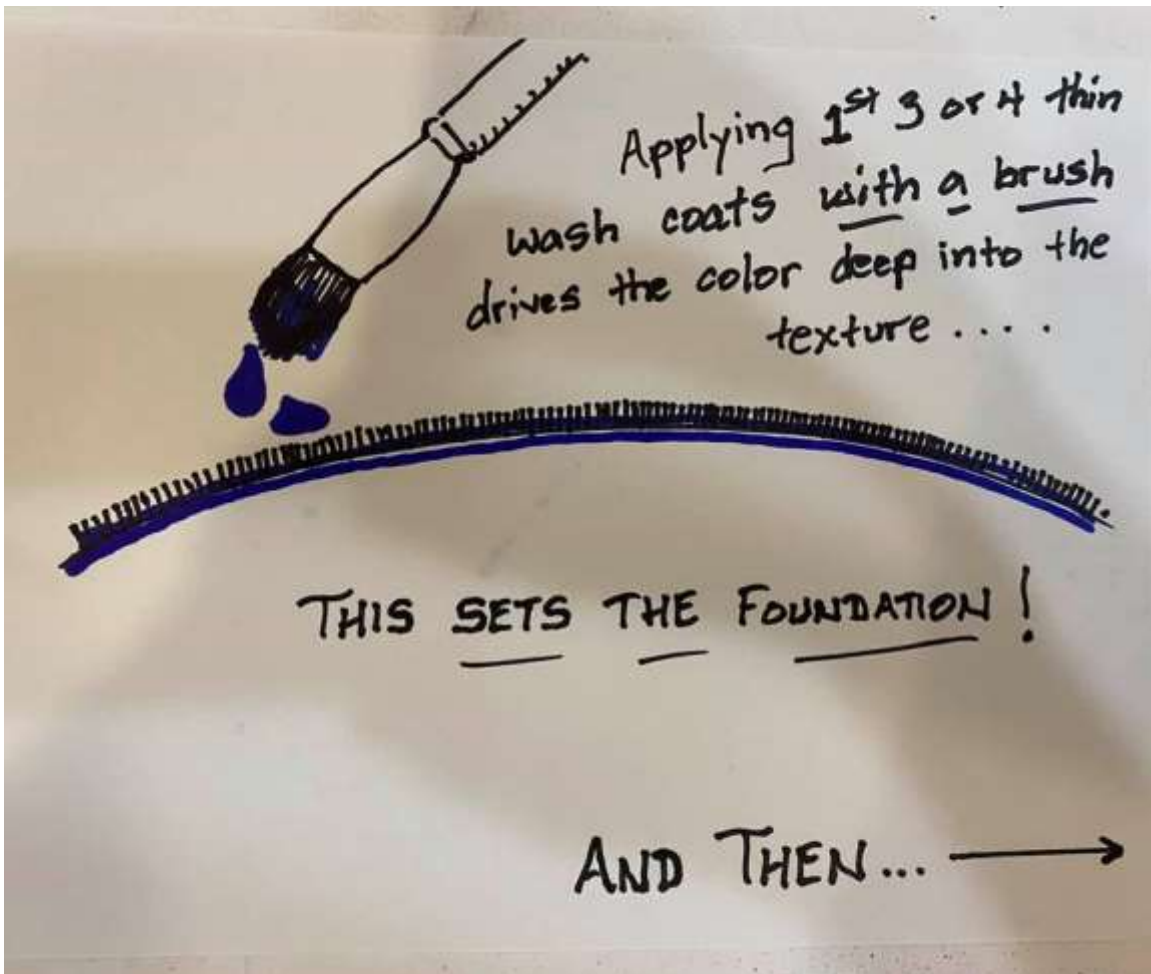


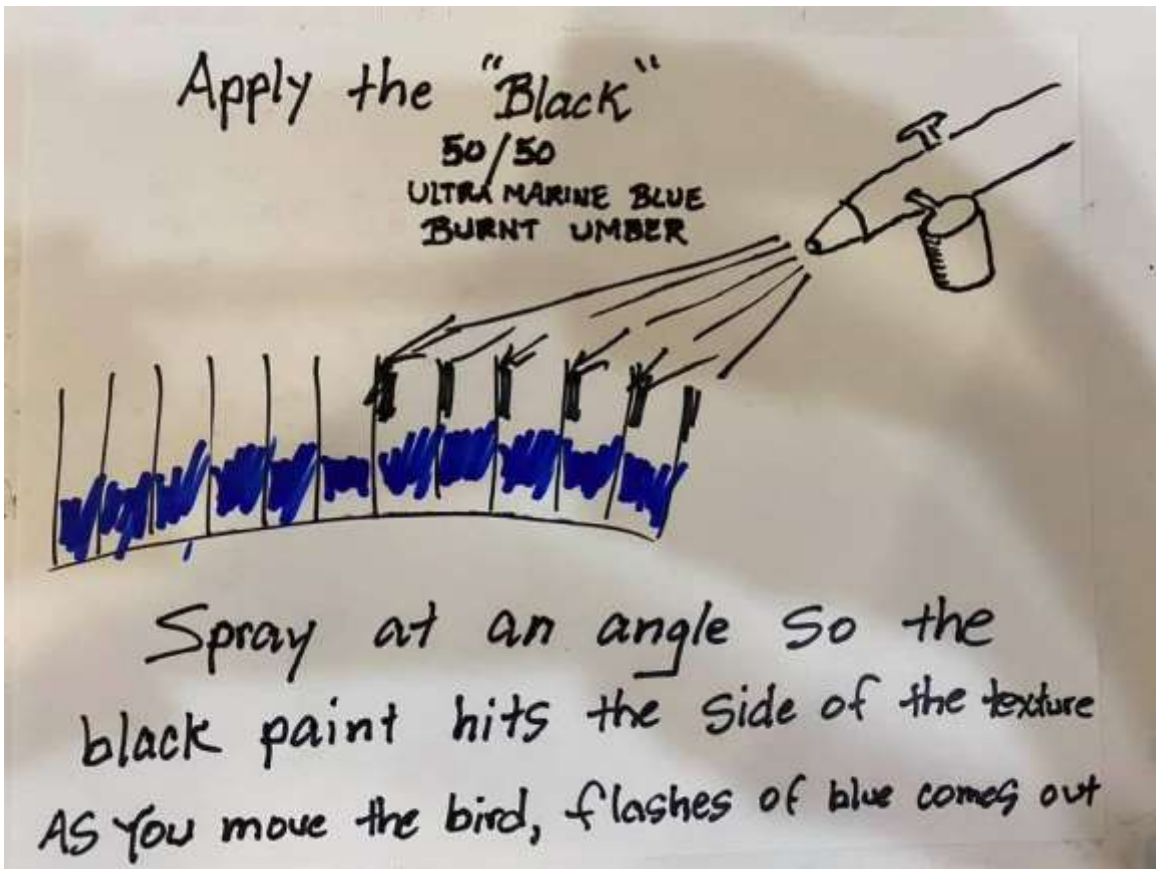
Second and third wash coats... just thin with water! No flow medium please!





This helps illustrate the concept I have for creating the illusion of black iridescence...





After the first 4 wash coats of the deep purple I "hopscotch" around the bird with highlights of this metallic green... you can see the subtle effect



Here is where the magic happens!
Mix 50 - 50 of these two... thin it down to airbrush consistency
(like skim milk) And lightly airbrush the entire bird!!



My airbrush is just an Aztec "el cheapo" ! Shooting at about 27psi



Airbrush in several light applications!







<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2704653203114497/>

The sunlight really shows the effect we're after...

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2704673606445790/>

Detailing iridescence on the throat feathers, crown and Supraloral feathers...."forehead area"

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2704801576432993/>

From left to right... iridescent violet, iridescent green and iridescent Blue
Any combination of the three would work...



DAY 10

Today Raveneers!!

We will focus on the legs/ feet and putting it all together!



After establishing placement on the driftwood I drill two 5/16" holes about 1 3/8" apart...

The cast toes are then bent to conform to the driftwood.

Then I carefully enlarge the hole found on each foot so the leg shaft passes through and position the leg.

Then, using 5-minute epoxy mixed with a pinch of "Morrissette's magic wood flour" I put a drop on the joint and allow it to settle in and harden. This locks it all together... but! Be careful not to glue the leg to the base!





After applying sealer to the feet. Painting is accomplished with a mid tone grey...
Simply mix white gesso with the body color...
(50% Ultramarine Blue 50% Burnt Umber)





Equal parts of 5 minute epoxy are mixed with just a dab of black paint...working quickly, glue the legs into the bird first... then at the same time, glue the leg shaft into the base... at long last... it's done!





A very creatively dark time..... 🤖 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼
Spiraling into the pit of dispare ... 😐 😊

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2705723383007479/>

Behold the light!!

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2705725963007221/>

Like a light from above!

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2705726713007146/>

I had meant to send this several days ago...
Here is my totally completed miniature Raven.

<https://www.facebook.com/floyd.scholz.56/videos/2711878965725254/>