

# Comfort Birds

Frank Foust began carving Comfort Birds in 1982 and has given them away to people around the world in need of comfort - the ill, blind, homeless, elderly, and those in disaster areas. You can read the article about him in *Woodcarving Illustrated*, Holiday 2011, Issue 57. You can also read it online by searching for "How to Carve a Comfort Bird." In this article, Mr. Foust uses a rotary-power carver with a small diamond bit to carve his birds, however, we'll be carving ours with carving knives and/or other hand tools.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Draw a line on top of the bird, centered, from beak to tail.
2. Using a V-tool, make a curved cut along the sides and back of the head, delineating the neck.
3. Use your V-tool below the forehead to divide it from the beak.
4. Begin removing the edges and rounding the cut-out.
5. Continue rounding and shaping both the body and head of your bird until you like its appearance.
6. Sand your bird with rough sandpaper and finish sanding with a fine sandpaper. Be sure to get in the small space around the neck area.
7. Finish your bird with any of the following: boiled linseed oil, clear polyurethane, Danish oil, or anything else you prefer.

