

Spiral Icicle Project

November 7, 2020 whittle-in. Warren Schlecht

Getting Started:

1. Cut a 1"x1"x6.5" basswood blank in a pyramid shape as shown in the pattern. (I use a basswood stock of about 6.5" to 7" in length.)
2. This project is for a 2 spiral icicle. Identify one corner as "A", the next corner as "B", the third corner as "C", and the 4th corner as "D". (See diagram pattern.)
3. From the top of the blank, measure and mark a line about 1/2" on all four sides of the blank. We will call this the "base line".
4. From that base line, go to corner A and measure down 1/2" and mark that point. From that point mark the corner down to the tip at 1" intervals. You should have 5 marks on that Corner A.
5. Go to corner B and from the baseline, make marks at 1" intervals all the way down to the tip. You should again have 5 marks on Corner B.
6. Go to Corner C and follow the pattern as you did on Corner A. (i.e. 1/2" down from baseline, then 1" intervals to tip.)
7. Go to Corner D and follow the same pattern as you marked on Corner B. (i.e. 1" down from baseline then 1" intervals down to the tip.) You should have markings on all corners at this point.
8. Now connect the marks from Corner A with marks on Corner B (i.e. the 1/2" mark on Corner A to the 1" mark on Corner B. (See pattern.) Connect the marks all the way down to the tip. These are the marks for one spiral.
9. Do the same process from Corner C to Corner D. These are the marks for the second spiral. Then continue with the spiral marking from Corner B to Corner C and from Corner D to Corner A.
10. Once all the corners have been marked, you will notice a spiral of lines from top to bottom on all four corners of the blank.
11. Make a V-cut on the lines from the top of the markings spiraling down to the tip of the blank. Tip: use a small bladed carving knife or detail knife when it gets down to the detail or smaller spirals.
12. Keep cutting a V-cut on all corners until the middle of the icicle has been hollowed out. As you round the sharp corners, deepen the V-cuts. As you round the ornament and shape the individual spiral and deepen the grooves, eventually you will be able to hollow the center of the ornament and shape the individual strand to form an icicle. Note: as you near the completion of the project, the icicle becomes very fragile. So, be careful to not cut yourself or break any of the strands.
13. Once completed, round off the top to your pleasure. To hang the ornament, insert an eye screw into the top of the ornament. Paint or put some sort of finish/sealant on the ornament as you desire.
14. Hang on Christmas tree or some other place as desired.

