



a natural state

Artist: Tom Boozer

Video 2: Process, Part A: Body Carving

Boozer: The drawknife really gets a workout in the first stages of making a decoy. It's appropriately named because you're drawing the knife toward you.

Now some of the work is already done for me because I'm using the rounded side of the log as the back of the bird. So I'll already have the basic round shape. And now I'm just beginning to shape down towards the breast, leaving the high portion back here for the primaries, or the...or the wing feathers.

Continue using the drawknife to shape the body, especially the area where the head will be attached. The neck has...has to have a very strong seat to sit on. And I'm flattening out that portion right now. It's also lower than the rest of the back and the tail feathers.

When you're making a decoy, you always have to think round. There're no square edges on ducks, so you simply think round and just keep rounding it up. And eventually it'll take a form that you'll be happy with. All this is simply done by eye.

Regular handsaw...I'm going to kind of draw me a line where the primaries go. And I'm going to saw, saw it out.

I'm using what's known as a wood rasp to taper all those cuts in a smoothed fashion. But at the same time, the wood rasp actually tears the wood and it'll leave me a feathery texture. Paint sticks very well to a feathery texture. Just to taper out all of these rough cuts, the rasp does a wonderful job.

End.