

## 2023 GMWC Club Project Elephant – Blocking in Part 3

### Basic shape of the ears:

At the March CarveIn, we continued to block in the basic parts of the Elephant, starting with the ears. Referring to the photos, we layed out the front edge of the ears, as well as the outside edges. With a “v” gouge, carve the outline of the front of the ears to separate them from the head, setting the rough width of the head where it meets the ears. As the ears are very “floppy”, we noticed a horizontal ridge down about 1/3 from the top, and layed out this hard fold edge. Above the line, the ear is scooped out, starting to establish its inside shape.



### Ear Folds:

Once the top fold of the ear is located, layout the other fold ridges, the seems to radiate down from the top fold. Also draw a heavy ridge line showing for now the thickness of the outside edge of the ear, making it curve along with the ridges. From these fold lines, again scoop out between the ridges to establish the flexible folds of the ear shape. At this point, you can also start to undercut the ears and make the ear shape “flow” together., as well as starting to blend into the face. The photos again are a good reference.



### Starting on the trunk:

From the photos, you will see the trunk begins to narrow about right below the cut line on the block. The head is also turned. To start establishing the trunk, draw the rough width on the top of the block and then remove the wood from both sides of the trunk area. Once done, you can start to “see” the head transition into the trunk.



### Homework:

The trunk like the ears can be carved into many shapes. It can form an “S” curve, or just angle upwards in more of a straight line, with the tip curving forward. Before we go on, its time to think about how you want the trunk to curve. This is both a personal choice possibly taking into consideration the direction of the grain in the wood, so the finished trunk doesn't snap off as it gets carved thinner in the final steps. Draw the shape on the side of the block, and then carve the rough outline, use a coping saw to rough it in and then carve, whatever works for you. As you can see from the finished carving, as you rough in the shape, leave plenty of wood for the tusks on the side of the head.

