

Carve a bateleur eagle kerchief slide

By BOB REITMEYER AND DON SELF

BATELEUR eagles stand out because of their red face and yellow beak. Commonly found in the sub Sahara of Africa, these colorful birds are partners for life. They hunt small birds and mammals, and scavenge carrion.

If you can't travel to Africa to see them, you can see a pair at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Penn., or at ten other sites across the U.S.

1. Trace pattern onto 1/2" thick basswood or a soft white pine; cut out with a scroll saw.

2. Carefully carve beak back to front as shown in the top and front views.

3. Use a knife point to detail lower beak and nostril notch.

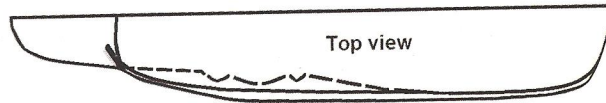
4. Carve eyebrow but leave eye intact. Recess wood in front and back of eye.

5. Round off neck, front and back as shown. Use a 3/8" #8 sweep palm chisel [gouge] for the feather tips.

6. Sand, and paint as shown.

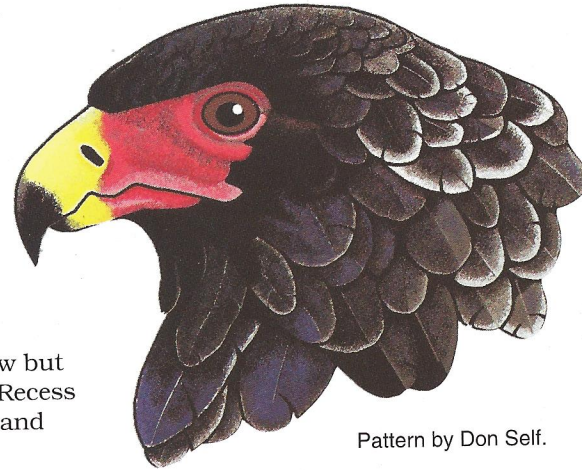
7. For a kerchief slide, glue onto the back a piece of wood with a 5/8" round or square hole.

To see more basswood kerchief slides or tools, visit website www.whittlerbob.com. ■



Top view

End view



Pattern by Don Self.



Kerchief slide carved by Bob Reitmeyer.