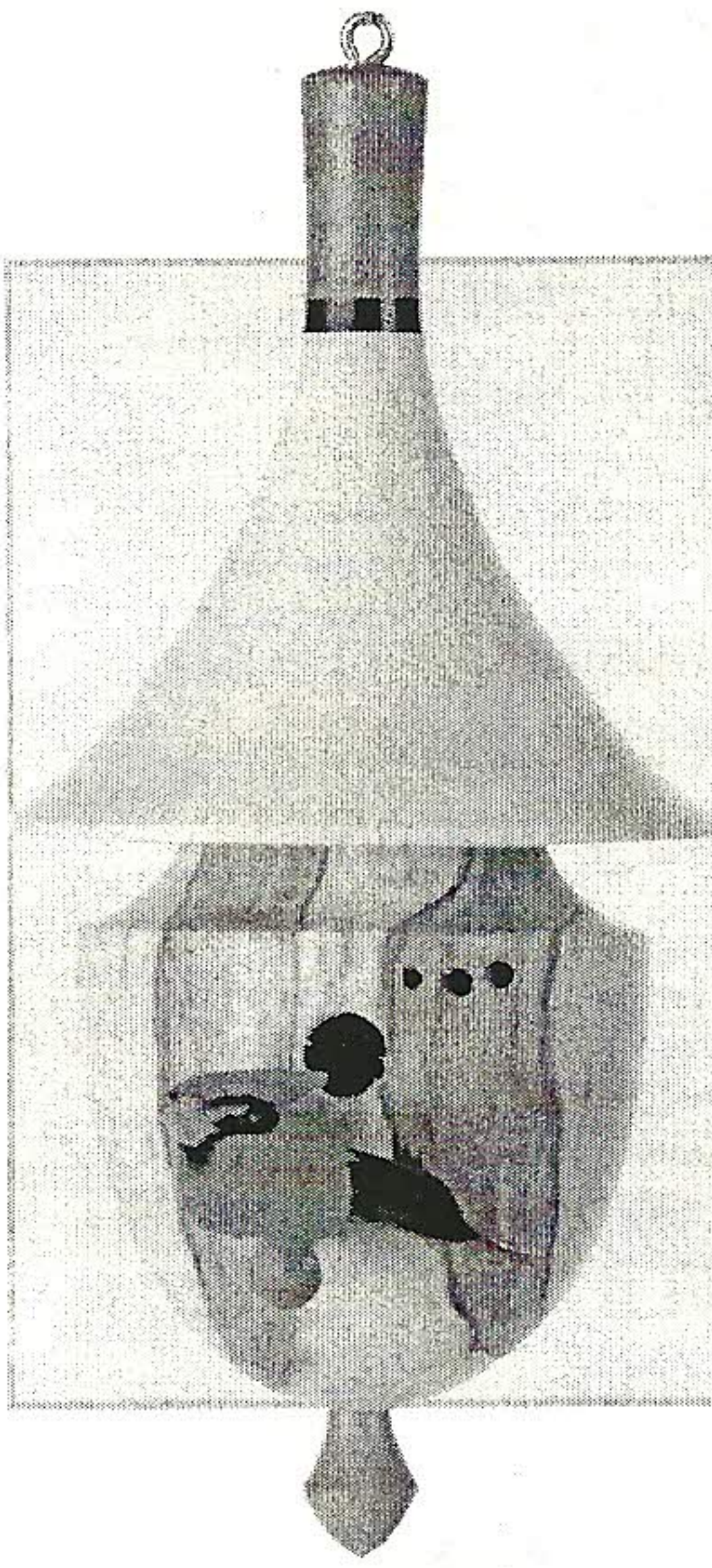


BIRDHOUSE ORNAMENT



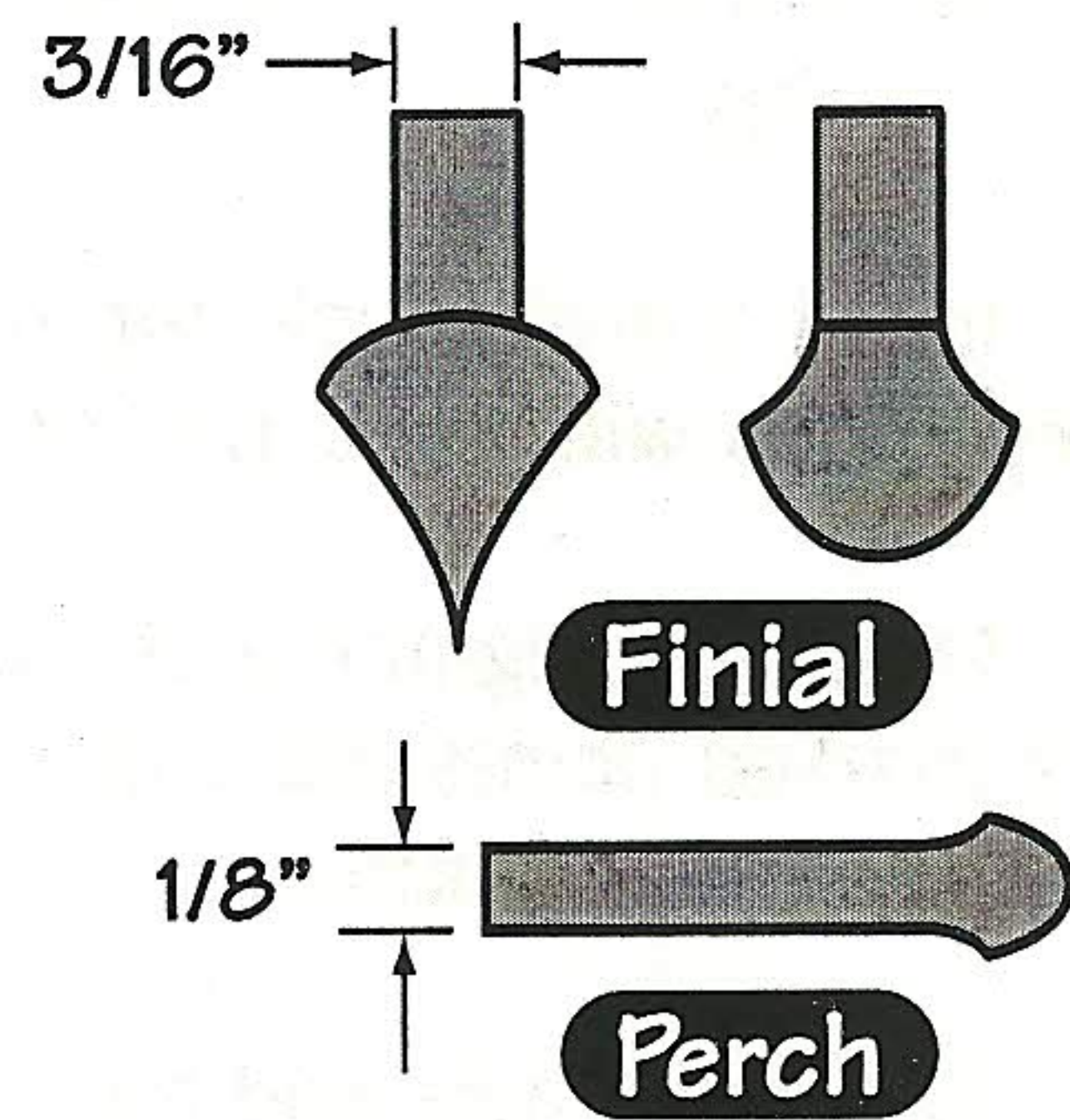
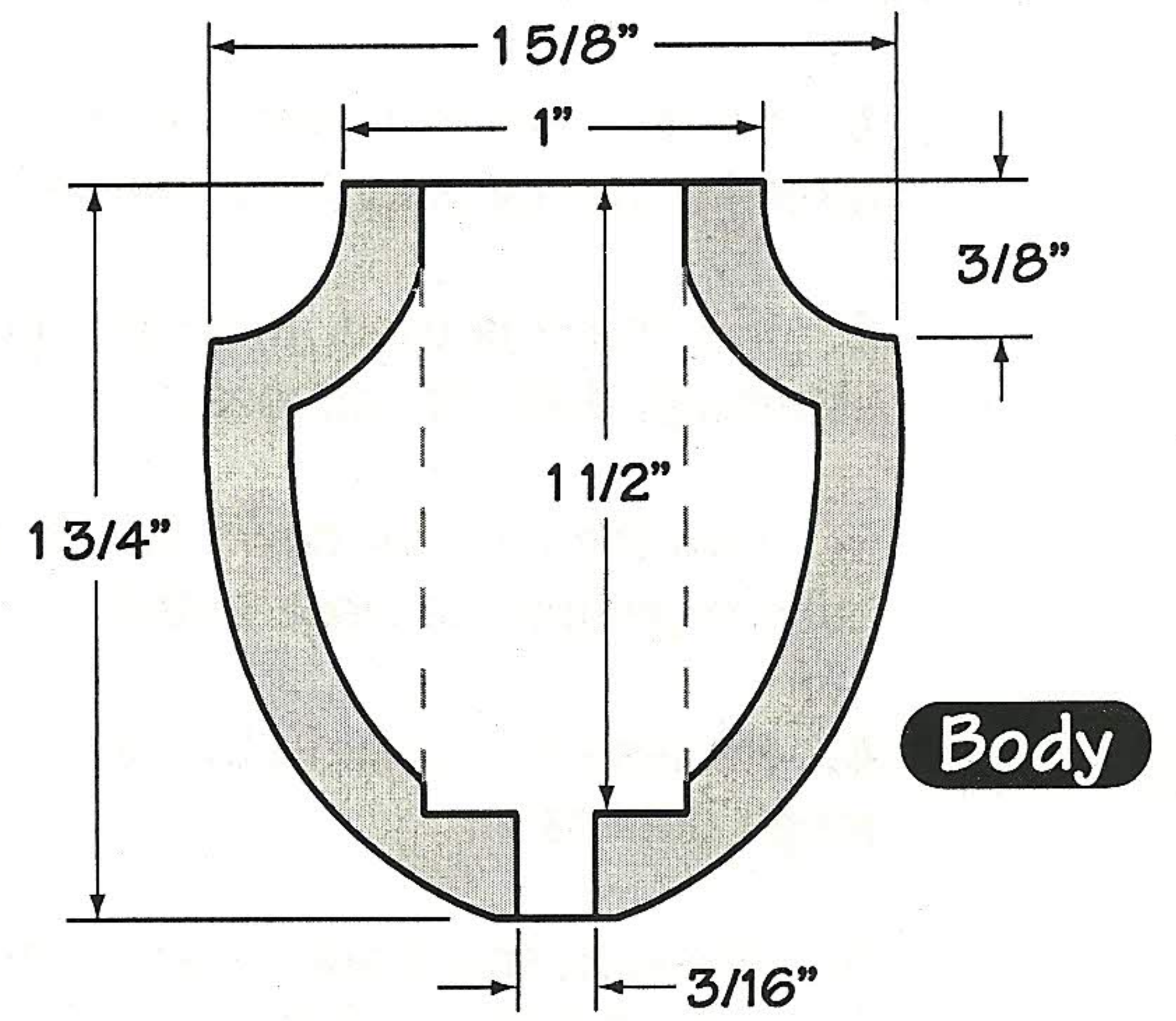
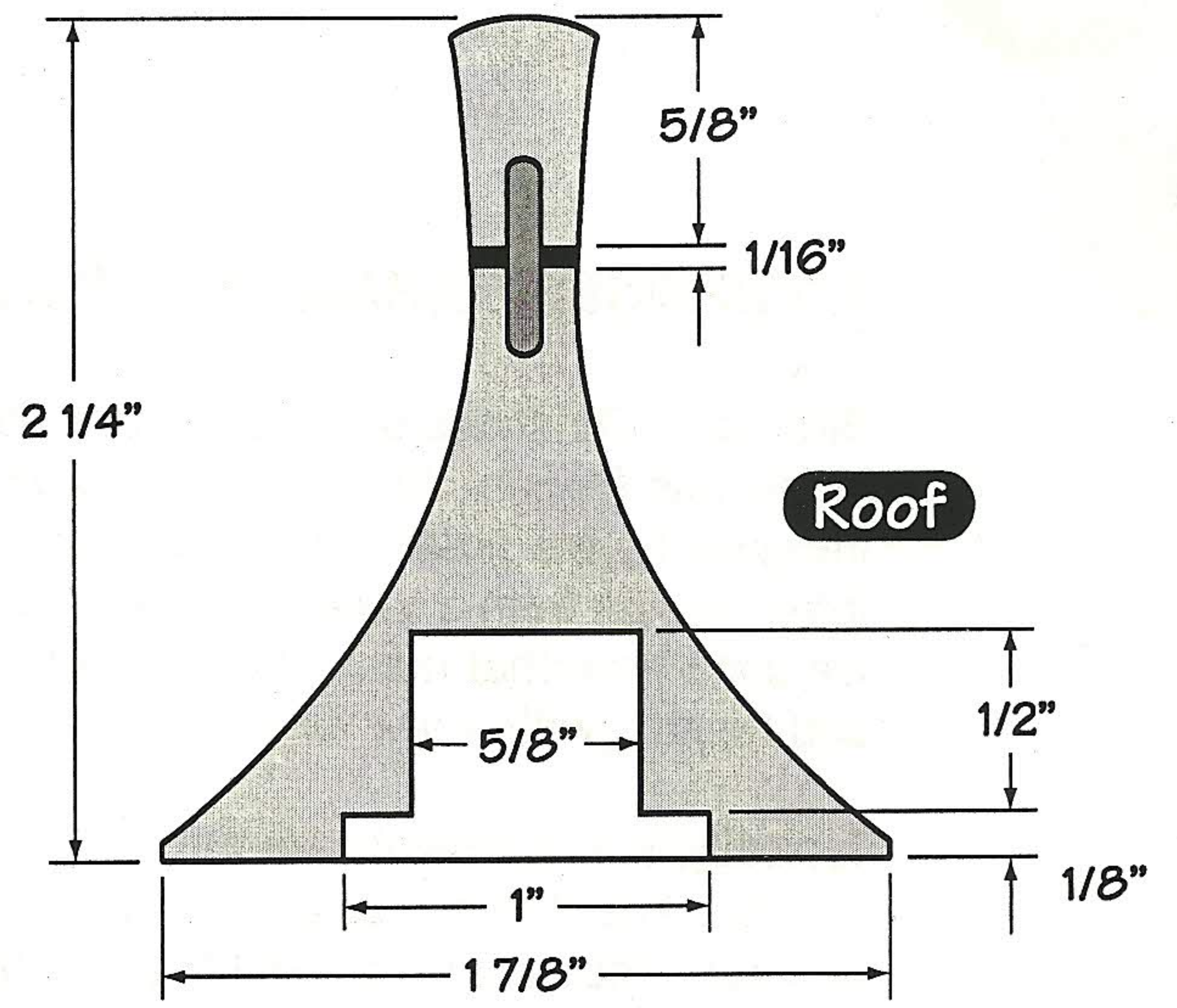
Birdhouse Ornament Kit

This kit includes everything you need to make an ornament as shown including complete step-by-step instructions by Dale Nish.

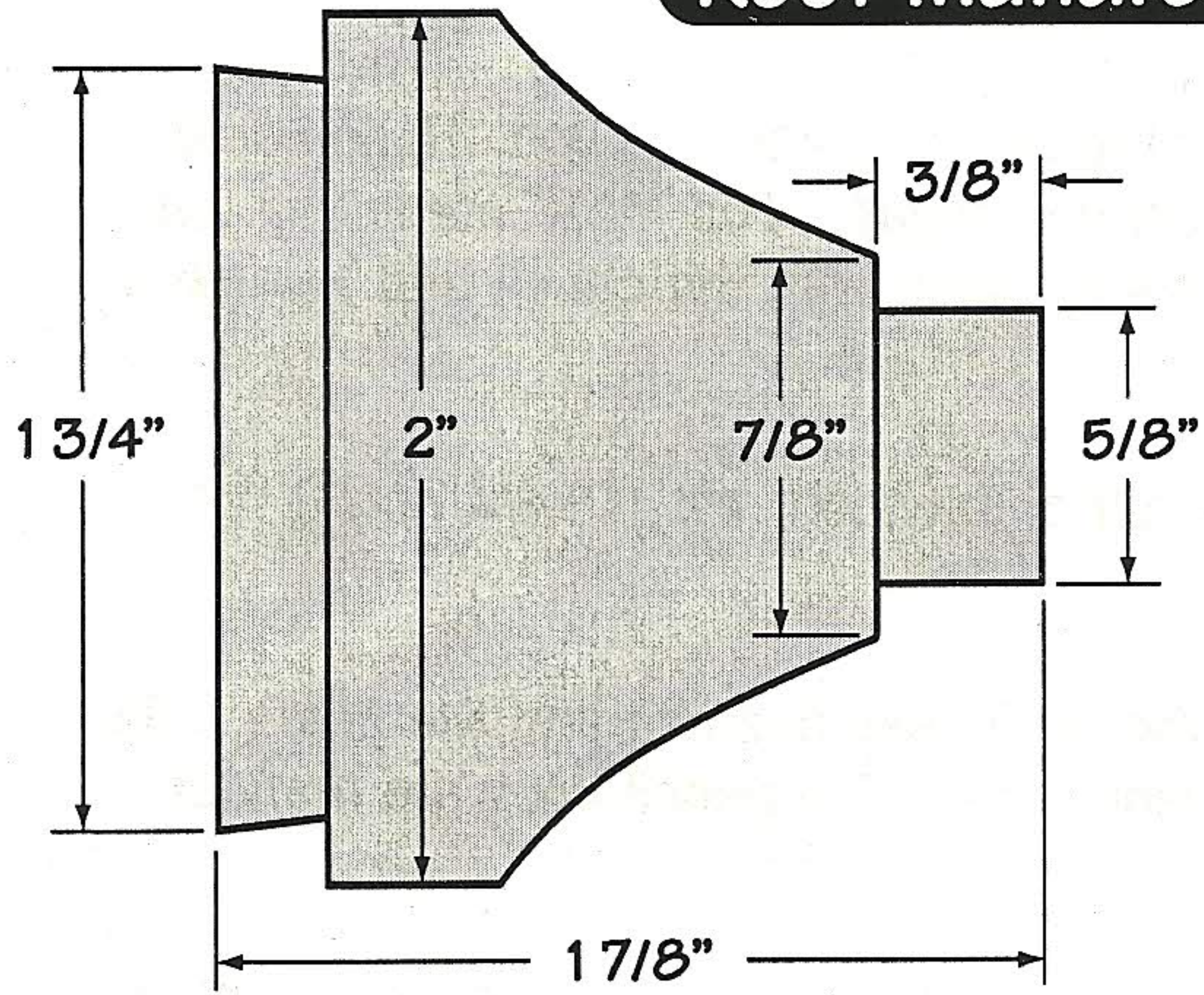
Includes one each of the following:

- 2" Ambrosia Maple blank
- 2" Holly blank
- Cardinal
- 9/16" x 4 1/2" Pink Ivory Blank
- Ebony Veneer
- Screw Eye
- Hook
- Cardinal

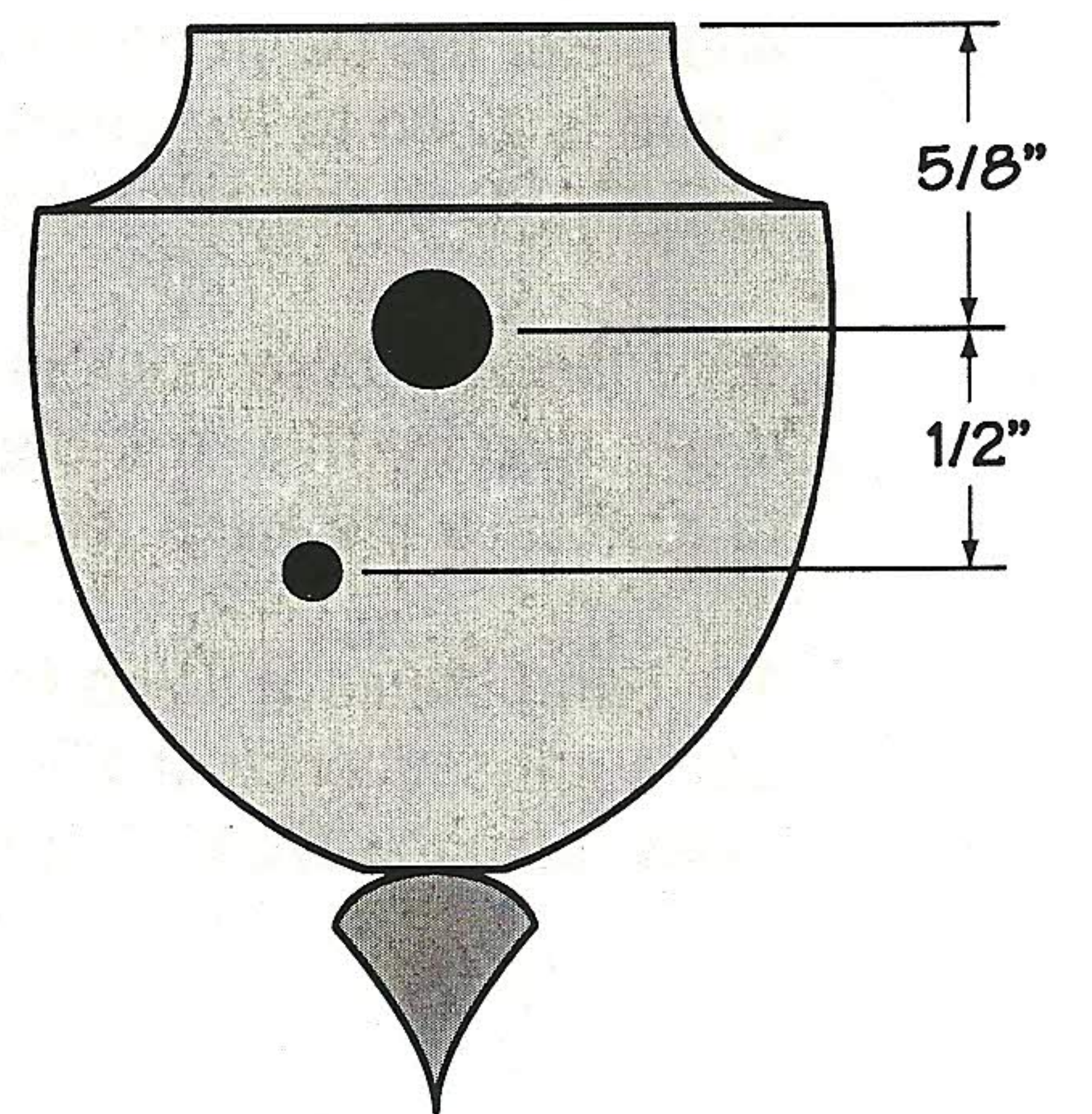
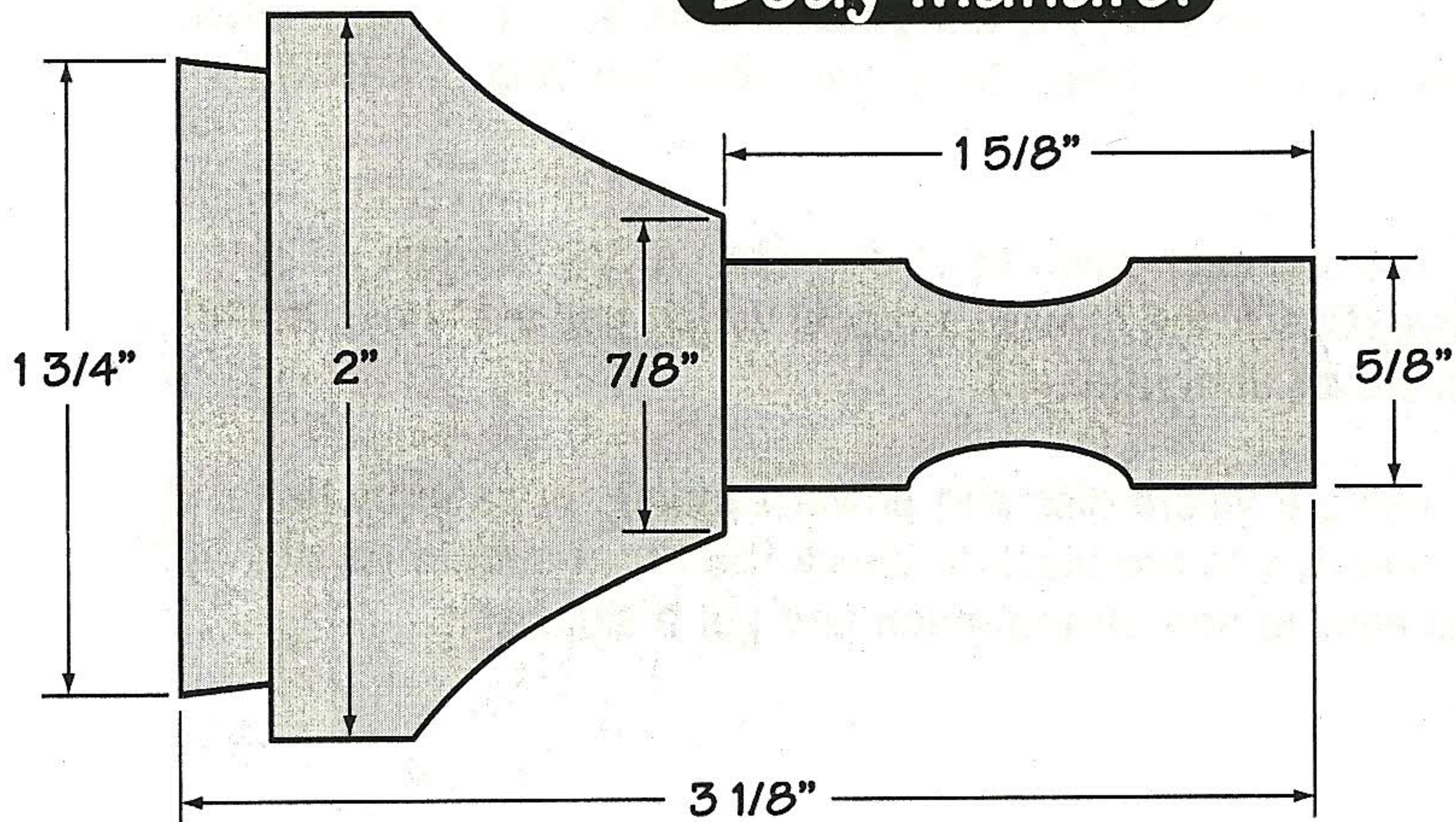
986-1000 Birdhouse Ornament Kit\$12.99



Roof Mandrel



Body Mandrel



BIRDHOUSE ORNAMENT – Dale L. Nish

Birdhouse Christmas ornaments have becoming very popular the last few years, and are an excellent gift for family and friends. In 1992 I saw a birdhouse ornament made by Ray Huskey from Gatlinburg, TN. I was intrigued by the possibilities of this small project as a gift for our grandchildren and friends. Each year a different design from a variety of woods, with 40 or 50 being turned for Christmas; for a total of 400-500. No we don't have that many grandchildren, but we do have 18, and the rest of the ornaments going to family and friends, with a few for sale.

Typically, the ornaments are turned in groups of 10 or 12, usually from a variety of colorful or unusual woods. After the bodies and roofs are turned and finished I match the tops and bodies for interest, contrast or color. The perches and finial are usually made from the same wood, such as ebony or pink ivory, but any straight grained and dense hardwood would do.

TURNING THE BODY

1. Select a block of wood approximately 2" square and about 2 1/2" long. This can be put in a chuck or turned into a cylinder between centers with the grain running lengthwise.
2. If a chuck is used, turn one side of the block to round, then use a parting tool and calipers to establish rough diameter dimension which is finished dimension plus 1/16", in this case about 1 11/16".
3. Turn the cylinder down to calipered dimension using a gouge, removing stock up to 2/3 of the length but not getting too close to the chuck, cut the end of the cylinder clean and smooth.
4. Reverse the stock in the chuck and turn off the square end. Turn the rest of the block to the correct rough dimension.
5. Measure and mark the cylinder to finished lengths. Part off the excess piece of wood. This should leave the cylinder 1 3/4" long. Examine cylinder, checking for color or figure. The most interesting part will be at the top of the body. It may be necessary to remove the cylinder from the chuck and reverse it to achieve this.
6. Insert a drill chuck into the tailstock and install a 5/8" Forstner or sawtooth bit. Drill a hole 1 1/2" deep. This will leave 1/4" of wood in the base of the body.
7. Mark the beginning of the cove at the top of the shoulder, the birdhouse opening and the perch hole. The marked points are difficult to see, so darken them with a pencil line. The pencil lines are marked with the cylinder turning.
8. The perch hole and the birdhouse opening are best drilled using a V-block and the drill press. Center the V-block under the drill bit and clamp the V block in position. Put the marked cylinder in the V-block and rotate it until you find the place for the entry hole, mark it. Now drop down to the perch hole line and offset the perch hole about 1/2" one side or the other from the entry hole. This is done so that when a bird is glued to the perch, the bird will not cover the entry hole. Mark the entry hole and drill it with 1/4" bit. Drill the perch hole 1/8" in diameter.
9. Place the body back in the chuck and turn the shoulder down to 1" diameter. A 3/8" spindle gouge works well for this. Try to get a nice smooth cove. Check the fit with a block, which has a 1" hole, drilled in it. Leave the areas around the opening a little over dimension.
10. Sand the cove down to finished dimension using a Velcro disc and power sanding, or sand by hand. I use a grit sequence of 100,200 and 320. Frequently use the block to check the fit. It should be slightly loose, perhaps 1/64". With power sanding, it is easy to sand off too much and get a sloppy fit.

