

# Comfort Birds

Begin by creating a blank from any type of wood. Use solid or laminated stock. Your stock can be any size provided it fits in your band saw.

Draw your bird onto the blank using a freehand method or by tracing the templates provided with these instructions.

There are two shapes that need to be drawn on the block, one on top and one on the side.

Use the band saw to cut the top shape (labeled A) by making cuts on the line. Keep going even if you come off the line. Try to remove the excess material in two passes. One for left and right side of the template. This will result in three pieces of wood. Do not throw away the off cuts yet.

Tape the three pieces of wood back together. This is not required, but it makes the next step easier.

Flip the block on its side and begin cutting along the line as in the previous step. You will be cutting out the side shape (labeled B).

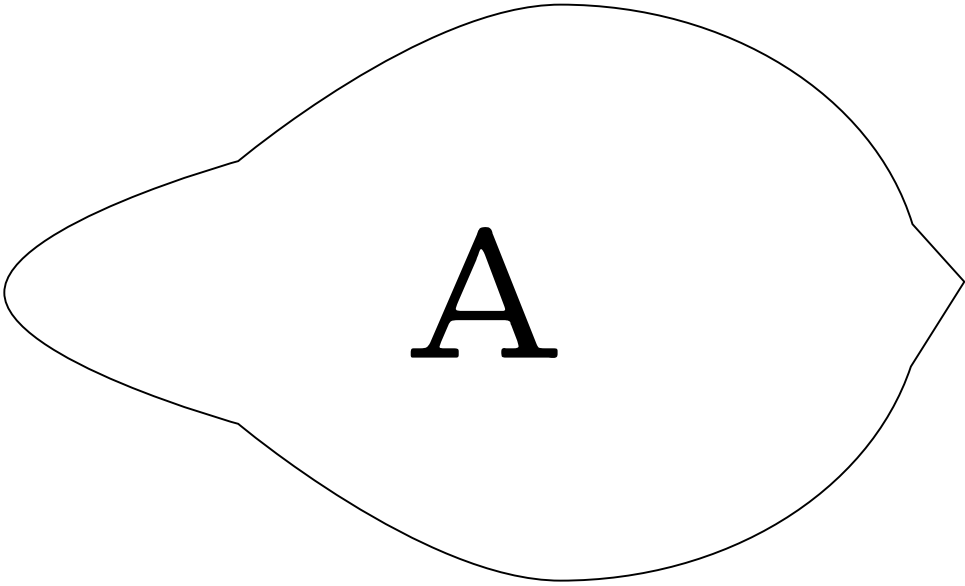
Remove all of the off cuts. You will be left with a bird. You can stop here or keep going to further shape the wood.

Use a sander, rotary tool, or band saw to remove any excess wood. I begin by thinning out the head area and rounding over the edges with the band saw. This is done to reduce the amount of sanding I will need to do later. I find setting the bed at 20 degrees helps in this rough refinement process.

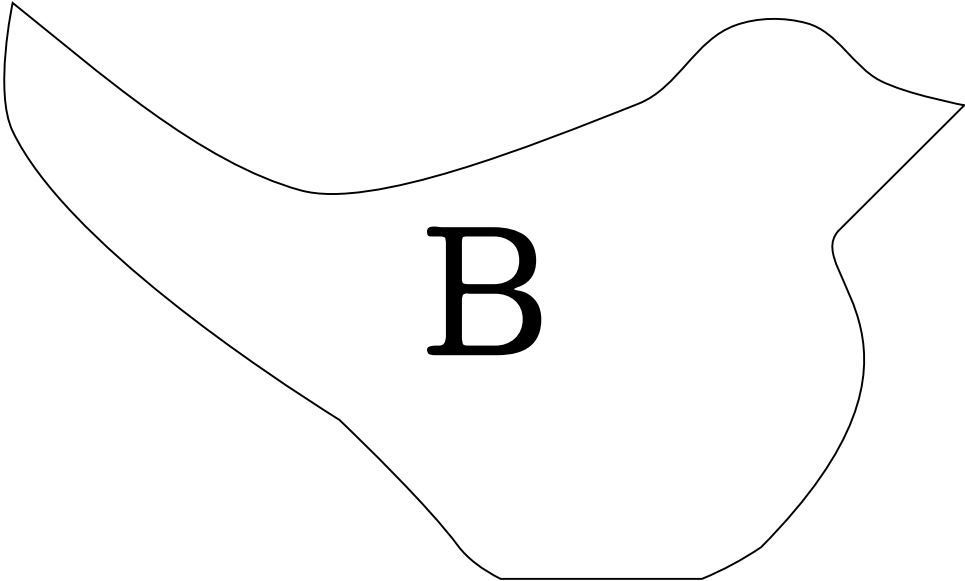
I follow the band saw with a sander to remove saw marks and smooth out the facets.

Finish the bird by hand sanding and applying a your preferred finish. I like using a finish made from soap flakes for light-colored woods and either boiled linseed or tung oil for darker woods.





**A**



**B**