



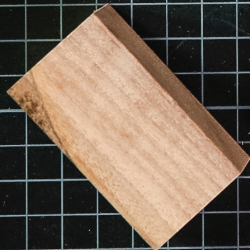
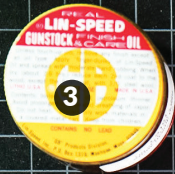
MAN CRATES  
PROJECTS

# YOU MAKE THE CALL

DIY DUCK CALL WHITTLING GUIDE



MAN CRATES



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- ❷ Opinel No. 7 Stainless Steel Knife
- ❸ Lin-Speed Finishing Oil
- ❹ Cork
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- ❻ Insert
- ❼ 10 Feet of Paracord, Black
- ❽ 10 Feet of Paracord, Camo
- ❾ Duck Call Whittling Booklet

## *The Wood and Blade*

Two black walnut blocks are included for your carving pleasure. That gives you variety or an extra in case your first attempt is less than perfect. Black walnut is a hard wood, so it will have a lot of deep, mellow tones.

You'll do your handy work with a classic whittling tool, the Opinel No. 7 stainless steel knife, crafted in France. If you think it carves smoothly, you should see it slice through a warm baguette.

## *The Materials*

Your kit also contains a polycarbonate insert and two reeds. If you're feeling bold, you can go with a double-reed configuration for a variety of sounds. The Lin-Speed oil will help preserve your wooden duck call. Finally, the two strands of 550 paracords are for braiding a striking duck call lanyard, which doubles as a fashion accessory for any date night.

\* **Additional Equipment:** You'll need a pencil a safety glove, possibly duct tape to create a thumb pad, and steel wool for finishing

# CARVE WITH CARE

Always be careful when handling the blade. Wear a pair of cut-resistant gloves or a thumb pad.

If you don't have a thumb pad handy, a bit of duct tape can work just as well. Loosely wrap one layer of duct tape around your thumb with the sticky side facing out. Then wrap 5 layers of duct tape around your thumb with the sticky side facing in.

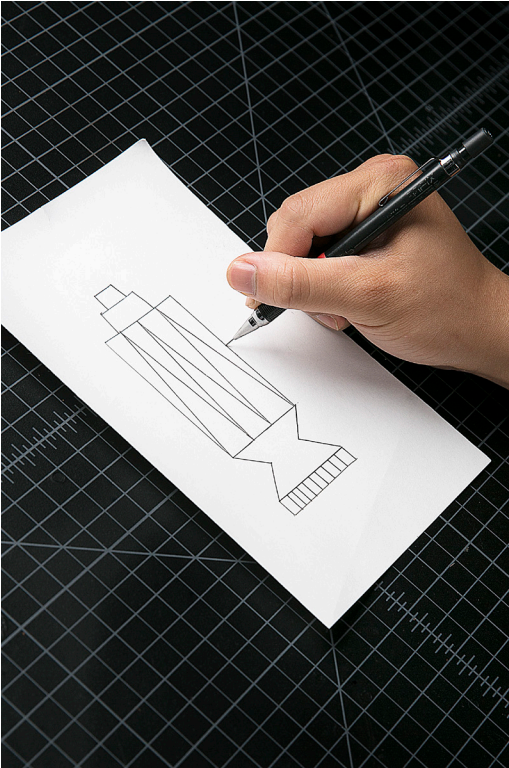
Whittling is pretty much the opposite of an Olympic 4x100 meter relay. Go slowly and never make a big cut. Work into the wood slowly and gradually.

Keep your knife sharp. This may sound counterintuitive for the safety of your fingers, but blunt knives are much more likely to skip across the wood, instead of into it. Even dull knives can send you to the ER for stitches.



# DESIGNING

Start by drawing out your design lightly with a pencil. Don't obsess over the details too much, Picasso. Just focus on drawing the basic shape. Then grab a piece of paper and draw out various perspectives of your piece. Next, draw a horizontal and vertical center line and transfer your design directly onto the wood block.



# WOODWORKING

There are three basic whittling cuts:

## ***Straightaway Rough Cut***

Use this cut to get a basic outline for your project. Make long sweeping cuts with the grain that go away from your body. Resist the urge to cut too deeply. Deep cuts are really cool in your vinyl collection, but they're not ideal in whittling. Just gradually remove the wood you don't want.

## ***The Push Stroke***

Use this stroke for “a whittle help” when you want to start shaping your duck call. With a high level of control, push the knife away from you. The thumb of your non-cutting hand provides the power by pushing on the back of the knife or your other thumb. The cutting hand then steers the knife to create small and smooth cuts.

## ***The Pull Stroke***

Used in a similar way to the push stroke for control and detail. Draw the knife toward you, with the grain, and with the thumb of your cutting hand acting as a

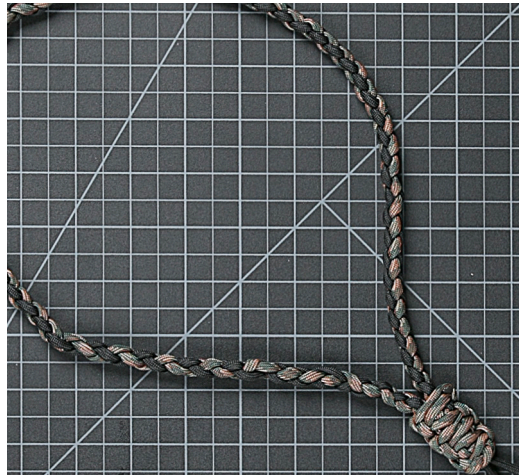


clamp at the end of the wood. With some pull strokes, the thumb will stop the knife. Not a problem for you, though, because you've got that thumb guard ready to go. Way to think ahead!

### *Tips*

Always cut with the grain because the wood will smoothly peel. Cuts against the grain will give resistance and the wood will split like the Beatles in 1970. To determine the direction of the grain, take shallow cuts in the wood and observe the direction that it peels.

When you've determined the direction of the grain, start taking off thin layers of wood. Avoid those deep cuts like poison ivy because you can't put wood back. Focus on creating the approximate shape of the call and carve around the drawn-out design.



# ASSEMBLY

A duck call works in the same way as a woodwind instrument. Air is forced through a mouthpiece and across a reed, which vibrates to produce sound.

To assemble your duck call, place the reed directly onto the soundboard and anchor in place by stuffing the cork wedge into the insert. Cut the cork to size.

You can experiment with multiple reeds for a different sound. Single-reed calls have more range and are more versatile



than double-reed calls, but they are also a little more difficult to master. We'll give you bonus points if you can play "Home on the Range."

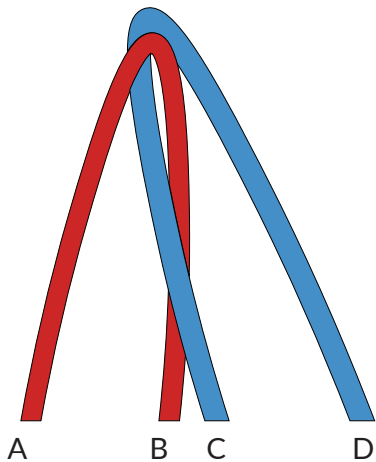
Double-reed calls take more air to blow and don't have as much range as single-reed models. But most double-reed calls have a "sweet spot" that sounds very realistic to passing ducks.

Plug the assembled insert into the barrel and push to keep it snug.

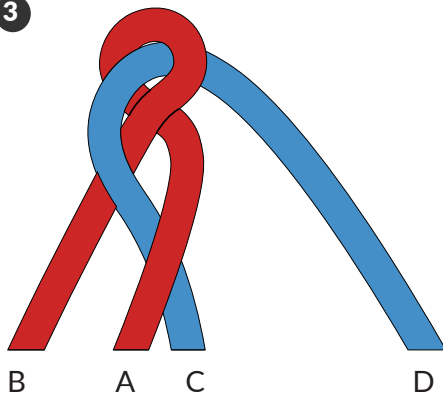


# LANYARD

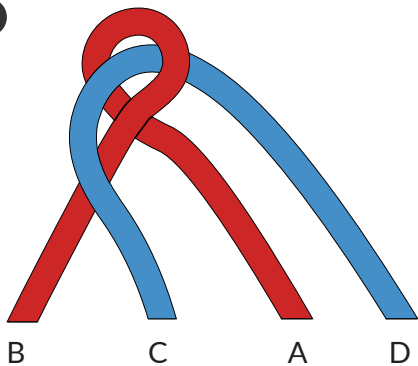
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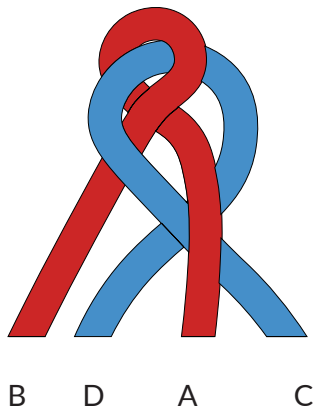
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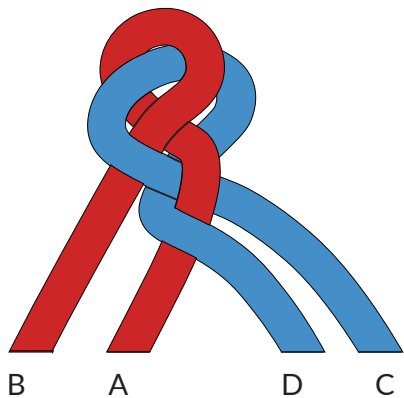
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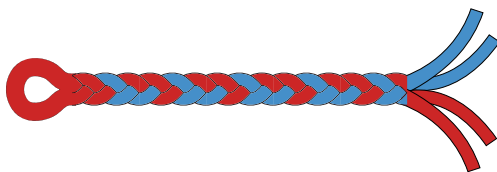
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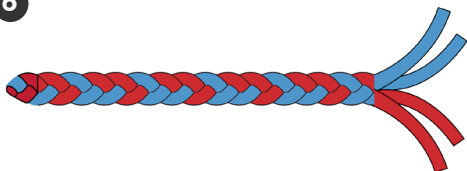
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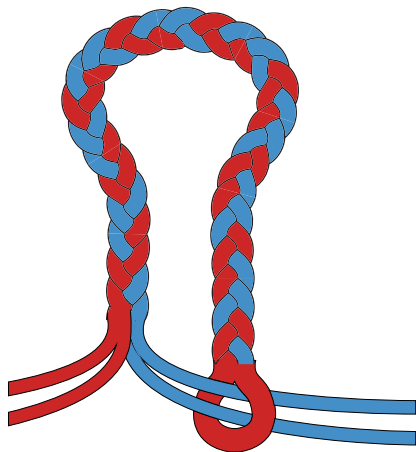


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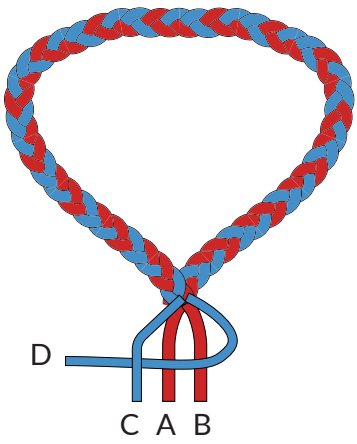


Repeat steps 4 and 5 until you have a braid of 30 inches.

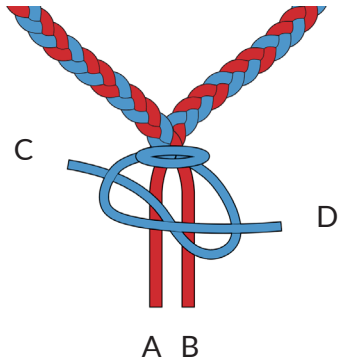
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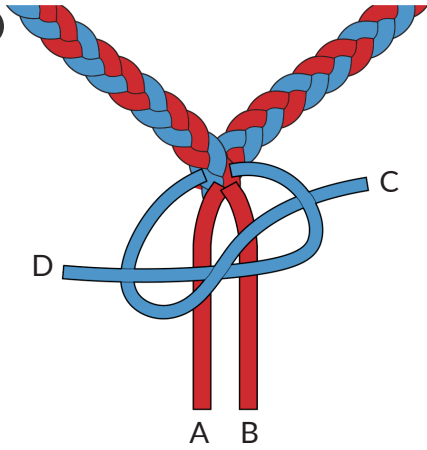


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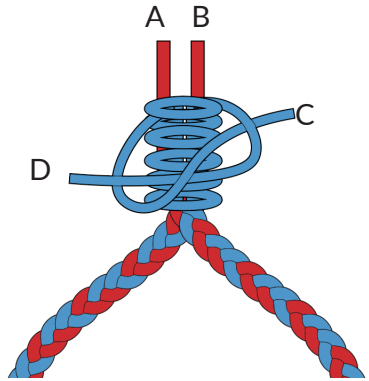


Repeat steps 10 and 11 six times.

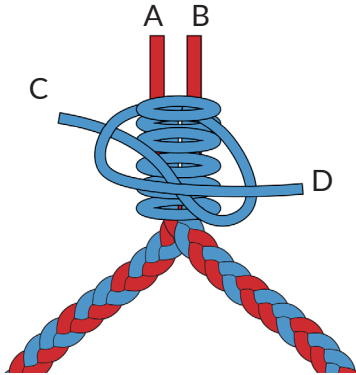
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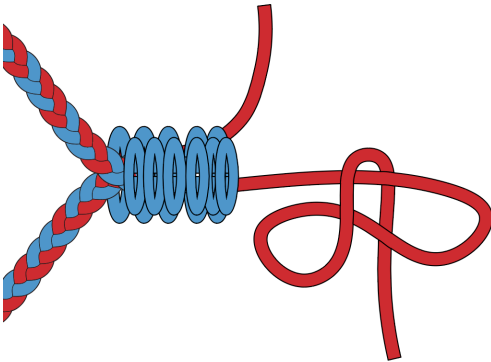


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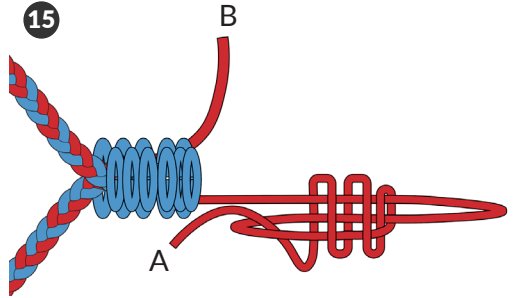


Repeat steps 10 and 11 five times. Cut off leftover black colored paracord and burn the ends to seal.

14

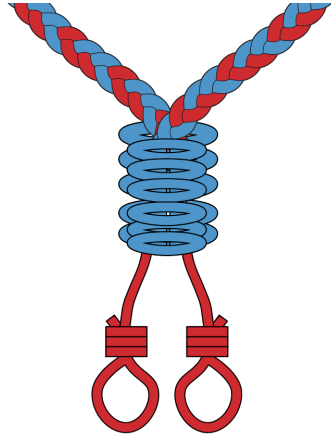


15



Pull loop to tighten. Cut off leftover camoflage colored paracord and burn the ends to seal.

16



Repeat steps 13 and 14 for strand B.



# CALLING



## *Lip Placement*

Place the call on your mouth with the top edge against your top lip and the bottom edge of the call against your bottom lip. Make sure that your lips are on the barrel and not the insert.

Then, seal your lips around the call so all the air coming out your mouth will go through the call. Imagine you're drinking from a beer bottle. Or, if you're underage, a soda bottle.

## *Holding the Call*

Hold the duck call by the insert, between your thumb and forefinger. With the rest of your hand, including middle, index, and pinkie fingers, form a bell shape around the call.

You will control tone and pitch by opening and closing your middle, index, and pinkie fingers.



## Calling

You blow a duck call by forcing air out of your diaphragm through your airway and into the call.

When blowing a call, keep your cheeks flat. Don't puff them out like Dizzy Gillespie.

Duck calls aren't blown like whistles. You'll need to sort of grunt or growl into the call. To produce a basic "quack," force air out from your diaphragm and through your mouth while saying a calling word and slowly opening up your middle, index, and pinkie fingers.

Some of these calling words include "THEN," "WHIT," "QUACK," "KWIT," and "KAK." You'll want to say these words slowly and in a drawn-out fashion.

Learning the quack requires experience and patience, so feel free to practice around the house and give a little scare to your nosy neighbors.

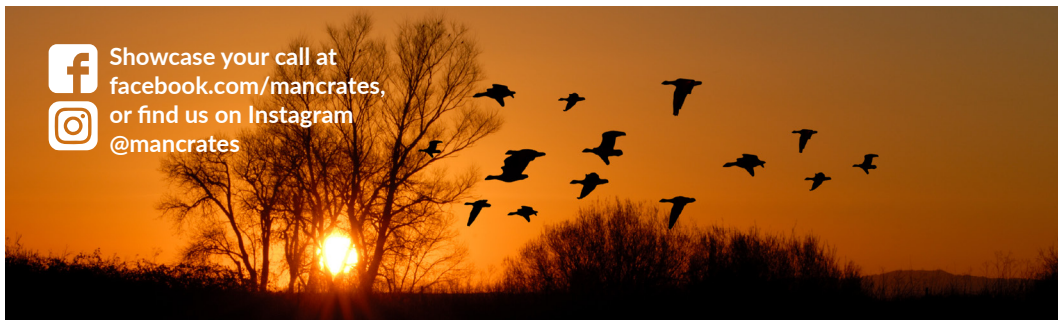
Store-bought duck calls aren't all they're quacked up to be. You'll earn the respect of your fellow hunters and ducks with your handmade duck call.



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