

Historical information translated from Russian websites:

The birthplace of this wooden toy is the Arkhangelsk region. One of the original names of the toy is "Pomor sky". In the sixties of the 20th century the art of making was practically lost. The bearer and the breaker of the tradition of making birds was master Martyn Filippovich Fatyanov from the village of Selishche (Leshukonsky district, Arkhangelsk region).

According to the description of the famous researcher of Russian ethnography Sergey Maksimov, in the XIX century, a chipped bird was suspended from the ceiling and was an indispensable attribute of the Pomor home. He mentions that such Pigeons were made by Pomorian Old Believers in their hermitages, as well as Murmansk industrialists.

The bird was hung from the ceiling in the front, "red" corner of the village room, where the table with benches was located. When a simmering samovar was put on it, the carved bird, submitting to the currents of hot air, slowly and solemnly rotated around the axis. The bird of happiness was hung in the house as a guardian, a keeper of a home and well-being.

When making these wonderful birds, the property of wood is used to split along the fibers under the action of a wedge. This is the property we use when splitting firewood, splitting the beam. From ancient times and before the invention saws boards for construction and other household needs were obtained exclusively by splitting the logs along the fibers.

Wall panels, lamps, pencils, newspapers and screens - that's far from a complete list of what can be done from the lacine. But before you try to make even the simplest thing, learn how to properly prick wood. For work it is enough to have only two tools: an ordinary table knife with a wide blade and an ax on the arm. Any log can be split in two ways - in the tangential direction and in the radial direction.

The log is split so that the split plane passes through the core, then bunnies are obtained, in which the cleavage surfaces will be radial. And if you split in any other direction, but not through the core, then from under the ax will go out the buckets with tangential surfaces of the cleavage. On any piece of wood, the radial and tangential chips can be determined from the pattern of annual layers. On the first, annual layers are visible in the form of parallel bands, and on the second - in the form of characteristic

arc-shaped lines.

In order to obtain the fins with the desired cleavage, the annual layers in the billet block must also have a certain orientation. Thus, lances with tangential planes of cleavage can be obtained from a bar, in which the annual layers are parallel to its narrow facet. If the annual layers in the bar on the end face are parallel to its largest face, then the rays will be obtained with radial chips.

Do not forget that not all trees split equally in all directions. For example, oak wood splits well only in the radial direction. The core rays, diverge in all directions from the core, coincide with the plane of the radial split and thereby facilitate the splitting.

The wood of aspen and poplar due to weakly developed core rays is well pricked in all directions, therefore it is the main material in the production of matches.

Well pricked in all directions and pine with spruce, although in the radial direction is better than in the tangent.

The width of the annual rings is also important. Cleaner and even chips can occur in shallow wood.

In all the sliver products, separate rays must be connected with each other by string of hemp, flax, bast or pine, spruce and cedar roots. It is undesirable to use twines made of synthetic materials: they do not fit well with wood. For flexible joints, for example, a newspaper girl, you need linen, bast and hemp twine, and for hard - the roots of spruce and pine.

Having prepared the necessary materials, start work. Before splitting the workpiece into thin rays, moisten it with some hot water in some dishes and bay. After half an hour, make a trial. If the billet is poorly split, then hold it in the water a little more. If, on the contrary, it is too swollen, then slightly dry it. The knife with which you will split the blanks should not be very sharp. Otherwise, it will cut, not split the wood, violating the integrity of the fibers. Splitting a simple bar, you get the rays in the form of rectangular bands, which basically go to the weaving. From the bands you can weave a basket, a rug under the vase or a stand under the hotter.

To simplify the work, you can in a matter of minutes make a simple adaptation of two bars. At the ends of the bars, about a millimeter in height, make two cuts and insert a knife into them. Bars nail to the edge of the table or workbench. Between the bars on the back of the knife, make a shallow trough on the workbench, ensuring free passage of the beam. By feeding the workpiece to the point of the knife, you quickly split the

workpiece into laches of equal thickness.

Best of all, the chopped birds are obtained from small-leafed pine. It easily splits into thin plates and flexes well. Old masters have noticed that small-layered wood is most often found in a pine grown in a marshy place. Such a pine has golden wood with beautiful shimmering brilliance. But instead of the traditional pine, it is possible to successfully apply straight-layered and easily cleaved wood of spruce, aspen, linden and other trees. And one more condition: a tree prepared for a toy, must be plastic enough. The degree of plasticity of wood is defined as follows. From the workpiece, separate a small piece of wood with a knife and cut it from the sides along the corner. Turn one part of the chip about the other by about 90 °. If the chip does not break, the wood is ready for use. Well, if it's broken, you'll have to increase the humidity of the wood. Lower the workpiece into the water for several hours, and then test it again for flexibility. If the wood still remains fragile - again soak it. It is necessary that moisture is evenly distributed in the wood. This time, the harvesting will not last long in the water: the wood saturated with moisture will become too viscous and will be poorly split. Therefore, in an experimental way, try to determine in due time the optimal humidity of the tree.

For the production of the original sliver of poultry you will need two flat bars of 200 mm length and 28 x 14 mm section each. While processing the workpiece, try to trim the tree so that the annual layers are parallel to one side of the bar.

From one bar first cut out the trunk and the head of a bird. Do not try to convey them with naturalistic accuracy - this condition will contradict the conventional ornamental drawing of the plumage. The feathers of the right and left wing, as well as the tail, should be the same in the pattern, so they need to be done according to a pattern cut from thin cardboard or thick paper. Alternately, applying a template to each of the two blanks, circle the contours of the pen with a pencil. Then cut through the blanks with the knife along the outlined contours and cut the grooves to connect the bars to each other. Now proceed to splitting the bars into thin plates. This operation is the most responsible. It requires patience and accuracy. Remember: the thickness of each plate should be no more than 1-1,5 mm. The thinner the plate, the more open and airy the bird will be.

The next stage in the making of birds by northerners is figuratively called "feathering". Raise slightly the upper feather of the wing and gently bend it to the left. Carefully guide the right edge of the bent pen with the feather lying below it. Then bend the second pen to the left along with the first one and draw its right edge under the third pen. The rest, wing feathers blossom as well as the first two. Pay attention - with each subsequent feather the angle to which you bend it increases, so the last feathers of the wing try to breed especially carefully. While spreading the feathers of the other wing, do not forget

that the left wing feathers should be blown from the right to the left, and the right one from left to right.

The feathers of the tail should be planted in a different order. All feathers are bent alternately to the right - left, right - left ... only the upper feather remains motionless. When the tail is completely dissolved, the upper feather will be in the middle, and to the right and left of it there will be an equal number of feathers.

It remains only to attach the wings to the trunk, driving a thin hook for twine, and the strange heat-bird is ready.

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Bird of Happiness (Russian: птица счастья, IPA: [ˈptʲitsə ˈɕːasʲtʲjə]) is the traditional North Russian wooden toy, carved in the shape of a bird. It was invented by Pomors, the inhabitants of the coasts of the White and Barents Seas. The Bird of Happiness is made without glue or other fasteners, by carving thin petals for the bird's wings and tail and then using a special method of spreading and curving them, also found in other products of the North Russian handicraft. The amulet is usually made of pine, fir, spruce, or Siberian cedar. It is suspended inside a house, guarding the family hearth and well-being.

Wood chip bird is a carved wooden item with thin wavy plumage of the wings. The plumage and tail of these birds were usually made of split pine, that is why the birds were called "wood chip". The place of the wooden toy origin in the form of a bird is the Arkhangelsk region. It's also called a "Pomor dove".

According to legends wood chip bird brings many benefits to the house. In addition, this bird is the symbol of the sun. The bird was hung in the house as the hearth and well-being keeper. These birds used to hang in almost every home of a farmer in the icon corner, above the dining table, opposite the Russian stove or over a child's cradle. From the movement of warm air they revolved in a circle.

The history of the bird: In the far North in Arkhangelsk province, there lived a hunter. Winter in the North is long and cold: snowstorm, blizzard and freezing cold. This year the winter stayed for a long time and cooled the hunter's house completely and the hunter's younger son fell ill. He was ill for a long time, got very thin and pale; neither doctors nor wise men could help him. The hunter grieved. He felt sorry for the little boy. The hunter asked his son: "What do you want?" The boy whispered quietly: "I want to see the sun...". And where can you get the sun in the North? The hunter was lost in thoughts, heated the furnace to warm the house. But the fire is not the sun.

Suddenly the hunter noticed a splinter that was glowing in the fire. A smile lit up his face; and he knew how to help his son. The hunter was working all the night. He carved a wood bird, made wood chips, decorated them with fretwork. He hung the bird above his son's bed, and the bird suddenly came to life: it began spinning and moving in the hot air that was coming from the furnace. The boy woke up, smiled and exclaimed: "Well, here is the sun!" From that day on, the child began to recover rapidly. So, miraculous power was attributed to the wood chip bird and it was called the "Holy spirit", the guardian of children, the symbol of family happiness.