

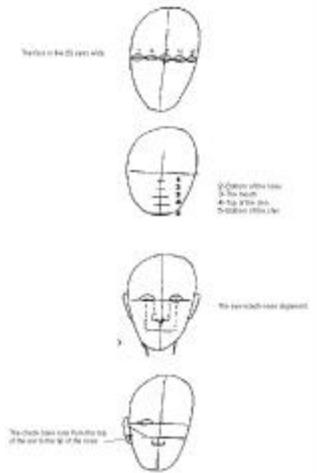
Head & Face 101

Do you want to learn to carve the human face? You do not know where do you start? Use the basics in this handout to help you layout the head and face for carving. The width of the eye is the basic unit of measurement for the head.

GENERAL LAYOUT

To layout the head and face, use the following:

- The head is an oval or egg shape.
- The widest part of the head is at the cheekbone that is just below the level of the eye when viewed from the front.
- The mouth runs from the center of one eye to the center of the other eye in width.
- The top of the ear is located at the top of the eye or eyebrow and is as long as the nose.
- The center of the ear lies slightly behind the center of the head when viewed from the side.
- There should be as much nose on the face as there is off the face when viewed from the side.



To size the head and face, use the following:

- The head is five (5) eyes wide.
- The head is seven (7) eyes tall
- The nose is one eye wide.
- The eye line is located at halfway point of height on the face.
- The distance between the eyes is the width of one eye.

Example:

If piece to be carved is 5 inches (125 mm) wide and the face is to be 4 inches (100 mm) then the height of the head should be 5.8 inches (140 mm)

Hints:

It is easier to measure and divide using millimeters (mm) instead of inches. Allow room for hair, hats, ears, beard, and so on.

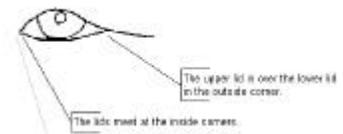
HIGH RELIEF

Once the size of the project is determined, you can proceed as follows:

- Mark the chin and top of head.
- Draw a centerline.
- Divide centerline in half and draw a horizontal line. This is the eye line.
- Divide bottom half into five (5) equal parts.
- Mark up from the chin is the base of the nose. This distance is also one-third of the face height (chin to hairline) it is also equal to the distance between the center of the eyes; therefore it is two (2) eyes distance.
- The center of the mouth is located one-third of the distance from the bottom of the nose to the chin.
- Make the cuts for the lips at about 90 degrees.
- From the base of the nose, mark another one-third-face height to the eyebrows.
- Mark another one-third face height from eye brow to the hair line
- Divide one-third face height into two (2) equal parts. This represents one eye width.
- Measure along eye line from centerline (one eye length drop vertical line down from center of each eye. This is the corner of the mouth.

Sketch in an eye, using the following measurements:

- An eye is one unit wide and a unit high.
- The distance between the eyes is one unit.
- Inside corners of the eyes mark the widest part of the nose.



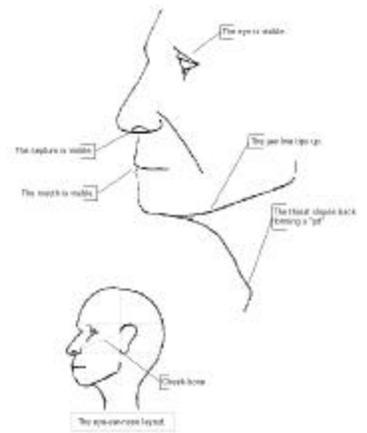
Sketch in the nose and facial features, using the following measurements:

- Top of the mouth is two-thirds of the way from the chin to the nose.
- Bottom lower lip is one-half the way between the chin and the nose.

THE FULL HEAD

There is a new dimension to worry about— the front to back. All previous rules still apply. Use the following when laying out the full head:

- The height of the head equals the distance from the nose to the back of the head.
- Chin to the corner of the eye equals the corner of the eye to the top of the head, which equals the corner of the eye to the back of the ear.
- Ear height is equal to the distance between the eyebrows to the base of the nose.
- The ear is twice as high as it is wide.
- The back of the ear slants at about the same angle as the front line of the nose.
- The naso-labial folds (the smile lines) begin above the wings of the nose and carry down to the corners of the mouth. These folds may continue along either side of the chin and may be doubled or broken on some faces especially the elderly.



REFERENCES:

Head Proportions Made Simple: by Ivan Whillock

Drawing the Head and Figure: by Jack Hamm

Carving Realistic Faces with Power: by Frank C. Russell

NOTES

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