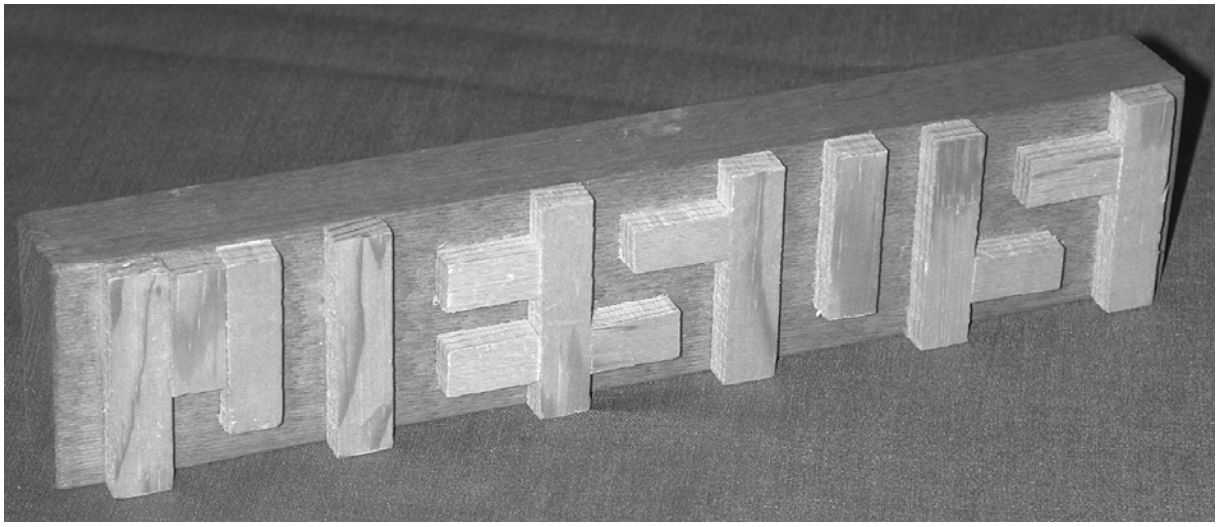
JESUS Illusion Block

This project can be done with any word. The example used is the word "JESUS". The key to the illusion is light colored wood shapes glued onto a darker (but not too dark) block. Usually, under normal lighting, a person will see the light wood blocks and assume this is something written in Japanese or Chinese before they see the letters embedded in the wood blocks.

Materials needed:
1. 1 x 2 x 7 ¼" pine/spruce wood block.
2. 16" of ¼" x 3/8" spruce wood strips (you can rip this from ¼" lattice strips).
3. White glue, brown shoe wax (the old fashioned kind in a can), white cloths for applying wax.

Before the meeting: (for each project):
1. Six - 1 ½" long; six - 5/8" long; two - 1 1/8" long; one - 13/16" long wood strips (3/8" spruce).
2. Cut spacer blocks to be used to get the letter spacing correct. This is a 3/8" strip, about 1 ¾" long (Make these longer than the other strips, so it is not confused with regular strips and write "spacer" on both sides of these).

Assembly at the meeting:
1. Have boys stain their 1 x 2 x 7 ¼" block with brown shoe wax. (Or you can do this before the meeting if your craft time is really short).
2. Glue small 3/8" wood strips as shown in the figure below. It is best to have the boys lay out the wood strips on the table just above their 1 x 2 x 7 ¼" block, or they will get lost in gluing the strips onto the block. They should then move and glue each piece (left to right) onto their board.