

Off center turning challenge July 2014 - make some kind of off center turning

Use plywood that is adequate to the stresses involved. At each step take care to be sure that the piece is securely mounted to the board and the board to the backer plate. If needed, add more screws, or glue. Beware of the rotating counterweight. It is a good idea to keep your fingers on the "safe" side of the tool rest.

This piece was initially turned between centers creating a tenon on the bottom and flattening the bottom. It was then reversed and mounted in the chuck to flatten and sand the top. The bottom is completed as the last step.



In many instances, decoration of the top surface before doing any off center work is best.

At a minimum, mark the centers and the circumference of each small bowl to be cut. (The lines indicate where a "burning" pen will be used and the small circles indicate where deeper small bowls will be cut)

The tail stock is then used to locate the area to be cut at the center.

The small bowls in various sizes can be located anywhere on the surface and overlap those adjacent. Finish each small bowl before going on to the next one since it is difficult to precisely "back up" to a previous location.



Demo blank on "fixing" board



Tailstock is used to position blank on wooden faceplate for mounting.



"fixing" board is secured on wooden faceplate and assembly is checked for balance

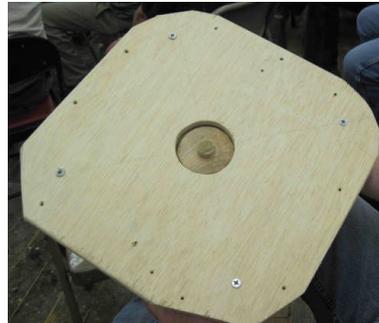


Using a gouge to hollow out a depression. Can also use scrapers as needed.

After turning the first depression, the mounting board is relocated for the next turning. Expect to adjust the angle of the mounting board and/or relocate the balancing weight to reduce vibration each time the mounting plate is remounted. In the demo, the wooden faceplate shown in the pictures had a weight (3" steel faceplate) screwed onto the faceplate in a location that balanced the turning block in the location chosen.

The weight could be mounted on either side of the wooden faceplate. The better your balance, the higher the speed you can use. Just about any weight that can be securely fastened can be used. The order of cutting the small bowls should be determined so as to minimize the amount of air being turned where the bowls overlap. This is where a higher speed is helpful.

After all the top surface turnings are completed, the blank is removed from the "fixing" board and the wooden faceplate is also removed. The turning blank can then be either by mounted using it's previously turned tenon, or positioned in a jam chuck, or vacuum chuck, so that the bottom of the blank can be finished.



Underside of "fixing" board showing cutout for platter mounting tenon