

Turning Bracelets



By Gary R. Smith

In honor of my father who was turning wooden bracelets in the 1950's on a spindle lathe with a 3 step pulley, spur center, dead tail stock center and home made tools.

In 1993, when I retired, I had more time for wood working. Having my father's old lathe I thought I would try turning. This demo is the evolution of the turning that my father did.

First is to work safely. Wear a face shield or at least safety glasses and respect your lathe.

The tools will be described as we go along. Use what ever tool that works best for you.

Sizing bracelets: Inside range from 60 mm to 80mm. After determining the inside diameter add about 20mm for the outside diameter.

Good Luck

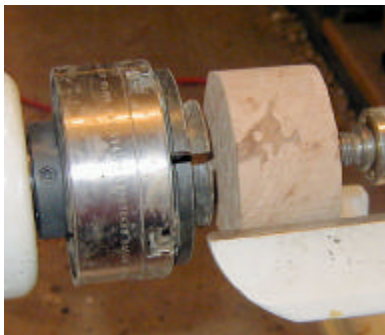
Keep turning



I use a 3 1/2 in (about 90mm) template with a center hole. Select your wood and draw the circle and mark the center.



Cut the circles out on a band saw.



Mount the block to the lathe using the front of the chuck jaws as a jam chuck. True up the outside to the desired diameter.



True up the face of the block to the desired width, marking the center with an indentation.



Fill any cracks or voids with CA glue.



With a compass set to $\frac{1}{2}$ the inside diameter draw a line to mark for the parting tool.



Use a narrow parting tool that has a modified tip.



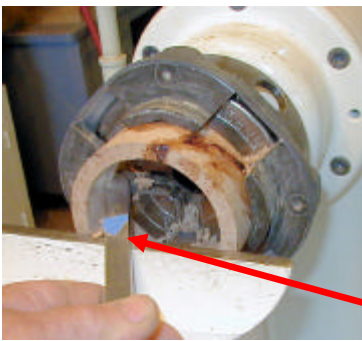
Part in just over half way, opening the kerf as you go.



Turn the blank around and repeat. True up the face, mark center and mark the parting line.



Part in until the core is free.



With a 3/8" round nose scraper clean up the inside. Tilt the tool handle down to give a shear scraping cut. Turn blank around and clean the other half. The blue tape is a depth gage so I don't go in to far.



A piece of a small tire tube is cut and put over the jaws of the chuck to protect the inside of the bracelet. Note: I also use a larger piece to protect my hands and tools from the chuck.



Insert the bracelet over the jaws and expand (not to tight) it doesn't take much to hold it.



Shape the outside and inside edge, turn around and do the other edge. Sand until you're satisfied. I do not finish on the lathe.



Put on one or two coats of sanding sealer and hand sand. With a 3 prong spring holder I spray 2 to 3 coats of lacquer.



Inlaying



Use skew chisel to cut the fibers where the inlay will be placed. I made a tool with two blades. Made from saber saw blades and pointed, then sharpened on the inside. This will cut the same each time.



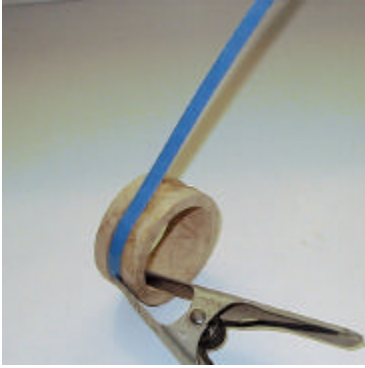
Remove the wood to the depth of the inlay with a standard parting tool.



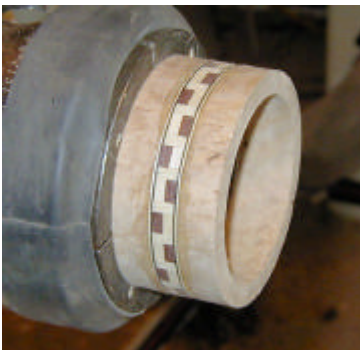
Stick the inlay strip to 2 or 3 layers of masking tape. Apply contact to the strip and the groove on the bracelet blank.



After the glue dries remove with a hobby knife or razor blade.



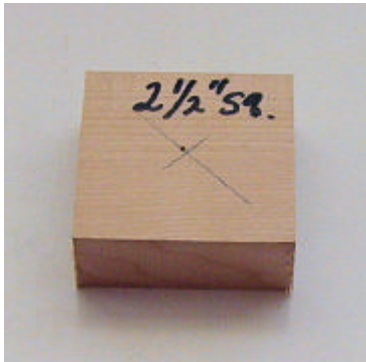
Clamp one end in the groove and work around. Trim off end and reposition clamp and leave to dry.



Remove tape and mount on lathe. Shape and sand.



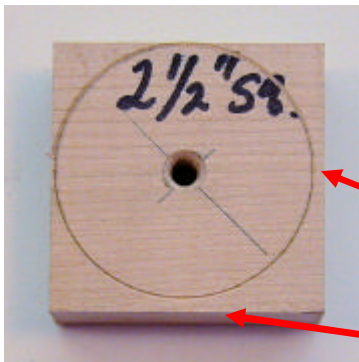
Segmented Bracelet



Start with a waste block the thickness of the bracelet you want to make. Mark the center as close as possible. I have marked the center off for illustration purposes. Drill a $\frac{1}{4}$ in hole and countersink this will hold the piece at center each time it is remounted.



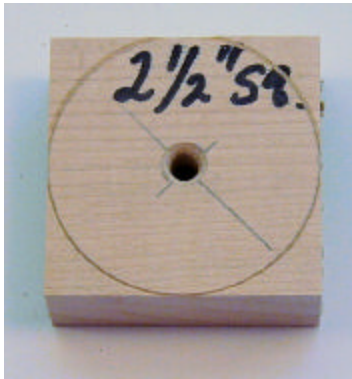
Use a pointed tool or pencil to mark the largest diameter that you can get.



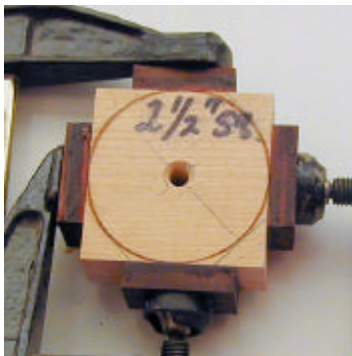
Note: material needs to be removed on the right and bottom of the waste block to meet the center. This will keep everything centered.



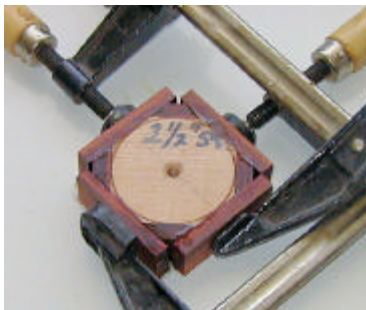
Using a disk sander remove the material up to the line.



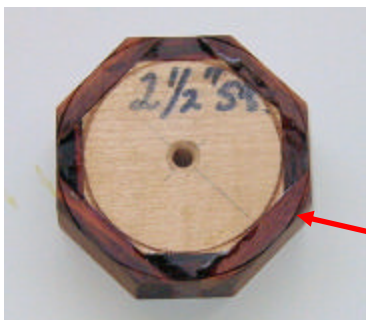
Waste block is ready for glue up.



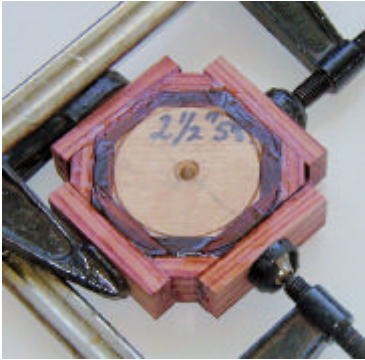
1st glue up. Use $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick material, this is Rose Wood. Make each segment long enough to cover when the corners are cut off. I use Epoxy in most of my lay-ups. Clean all surfaces with Acetone especially on exotic woods.



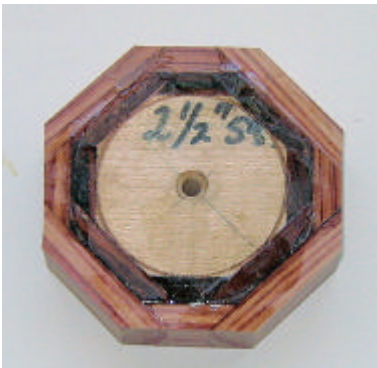
2nd glue up.



Ready for the 3rd and 4th glue ups. Note: Another ring has been marked. Remove material down to that mark. This will keep everything centered.



3rd and 4th ring complete.



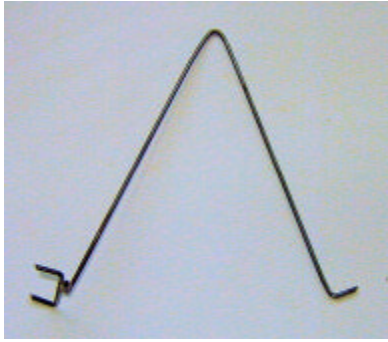
Ready to turn.



Center removed.



Turn to shape desired.



Spring hanger for holding and hanging for finishing. You can get tempered wire at a hobby store.



1 coat of sanding sealer 2 coats gloss lacquer

You're only limited by your imagination. Good Luck

