

PROJECT : TURN A PLATTER

Timber required : (approx.) 9"dia. x 1½" thick.

Tools required : 3/8" Bowl Gouge.
Skew Chisel
1/8" Parting Tool.

METHOD:

Design Shape of outside of the Platter. Various shapes can be achieved using minimal thicknesses of timber. Try to introduce a little flair into the design so that a functional item is also a joy to look at.



Mount blank on Faceplate making sure that the screws only go into wood that will later be removed and proceed to shape the outside to the chosen design. If you are going to mount the platter onto a chuck to turn the inside, remember to incorporate the chuck recess

or spigot into the design.

For complete freedom from this restriction a Jam Chuck can be used. If using a Jam Chuck, it is advisable to create a small foot which will form the jam fit into the recess cut into the scrapwood chuck. This foot also gives the form a 'lift' and adds to the elegance of the shape. Use the skew to define the shape of the foot.

Once the shape is formed using the bowl gouge, sharpen the gouge and, taking whisper fine cuts, bring the outside to a finish, sand and apply desired coating, e.g. wax, oil etc.

Before removing from the lathe, using the parting tool or gouge if you prefer, true up the front face (that nearest the headstock) as this will help to establish the line when wedged in the jam chuck. Remove from lathe and faceplate.

At this point measure the overall thickness from foot to front face, allow for the thickness of the foot, plus the wall thickness of the platter, deduct these and the remaining dimension shows how much wood to remove.

Mount scrapwood on faceplate, true up and, after measuring with dividers the width of foot, mark the area on the scrapwood and cut the recess using the parting tool and the skew. Keep checking the foot against the recess and remember that each cut is effectively doubled so, as you get closer to a fit, gently does it ! When the fit is exact, jam in the platter foot and, using the tool rest as a guide, (by watching the trued up front face against a gap between it and the tool rest), turn by hand and adjust until the gap is even. Establish trueness of blank. If a very slight looseness is felt when jamming blank into jam chuck, a rub on the chuck with a stick of chalk will often be enough to firm up the fit. If more is needed,

a piece of toilet roll or kitchen roll can be used to the same effect. Once satisfied that all is O.K., proceed to turn the inside taking gentle cuts with your nice **sharp** bowl gouge. Check the depth periodically so that you don't go too deep, keep the rim of the platter fairly wide and lead down slightly to the bowl (depending upon the design chosen).

Remember, fine whisper like cuts with a sharp gouge to finish, sand and polish gently, as it is only jammed in.

Remove from jam chuck with a gentle tap with the heel of the hand and 'Hey Presto' another 'Nice Piece of Wood' !!