

Easy to make Centre Finder

Finding the centre of a regular shaped piece of wood usually presents no great difficulties but if the lump of wood is irregular then it isn't quite so easy.

One way of finding the approximate centre is to use a centre finder such as the one that I have described how to make below. It means that one can mount the wood on the lathe more centrally and avoid a lot of imbalance, associated vibration and of course save wood!

Materials and tools

- 1) 200x 200 m.m. x 2m.m. thick clear Perspex or similar
- 2) Selection of Sharpie coloured pens
- 3) 2-3m.m. drill bit
- 4) Drill
- 5) Pair of dividers
- 6) Time taken approx 30 mins.

Method

- 1) Drill a hole in the centre of the Perspex
- 2) Using the dividers score a series of concentric circles onto the Perspex using the drilled hole as the centre point. I spaced my circles approx.5m.m. apart.
- 3) Using the Sharpie pens carefully colour in each circle. This is the most time consuming part of the job. This step can be ignored but it does make the item easier to use!

Using the centre finder

Place the item on the surface of the piece of wood that you are trying to find the centre of and adjust until one of the concentric circles lines up with the outsides of the wood or is equidistant from all sides and using a bradawl or pencil mark the wood through the centre hole.

You can, of course, make the item any size you wish to suit your needs.

