

Make

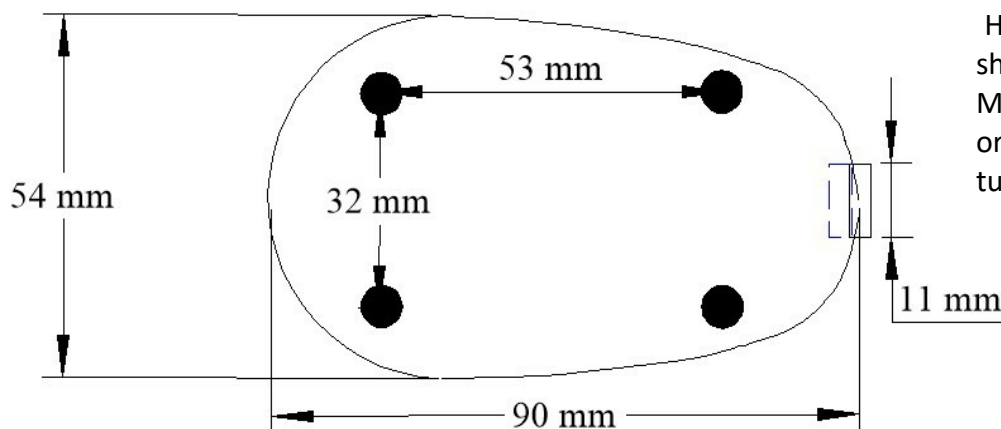
Percy the Pig



Percy pig is an easy and fun project to make and he does seem to raise a smile.

Start with a 100 mm length of knot free pine 70 x 70 mm. Before mounting in the lathe and while the wood is square it is a good idea to drill the holes for the legs. They should be angled slightly outward about 3 degrees and it is easier to get all the legs when the piece is square.

A pillar drill is the obvious tool to use especially when you have one which incorporates a table that can be tilted. If you don't have a pillar drill you could adapt the method of drilling splayed holes illustrated by Keith Rowley in his book "Woodturning. A Foundation Course" (see his stool project)



Here is a plan of the underside showing the holes for the feet. Make sure the holes are deep or they may be lost in the turning process

With the blank turned to a cylinder and mounted in a chuck turn the body shape making the rear of the animal slightly heavier. When you have done this drill a 5 mm deep hole in the front to make the snout. Sand and finish the body and part off from the lathe.

Turn some scrap to form the dowelling for the legs. I would recommend a diameter of about 8 mm to resemble short stubby legs.



Glue in the legs and the snout. If the legs are uneven hold them briefly against a disc sander to level them up.

A bit of pipe cleaner is handy for the curly tail. The eyes and markings on the snout can be burnt on with a pyrography bit or painted. The ears were made from shaped black felt. A bit of soft leather recycled from an old purse would be a good substitute.

I would like to be able to say that silk ears would be fine, so one could say "you cannot make a silk purse from a sow's ear" but you can make a sow's ear from a silk purse but to be honest I haven't tried. Let me know if you do.

