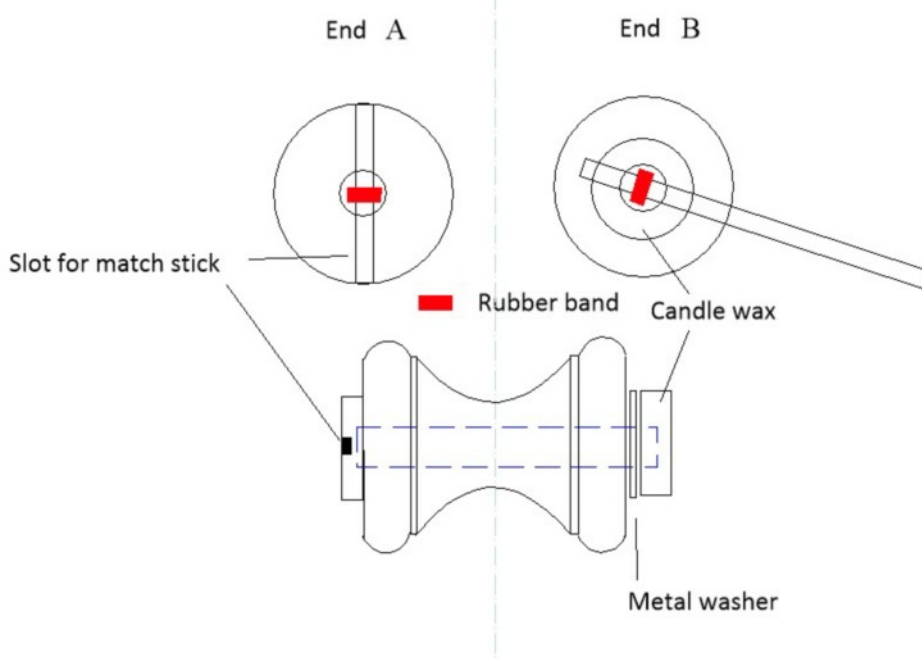


Turn a

A Cotton Reel Tank



Kids can no longer enjoy building and racing their tanks from discarded cotton reels thanks to the introduction of plastic ones. However if you are a woodturner then you can save the day by making one of these. Dimensions are up to you but remember the concept is based on a cotton reel.



Choose a suitable blank and start by drilling an 7mm diameter hole through the centre.

Turn the shape shown Sand and finish

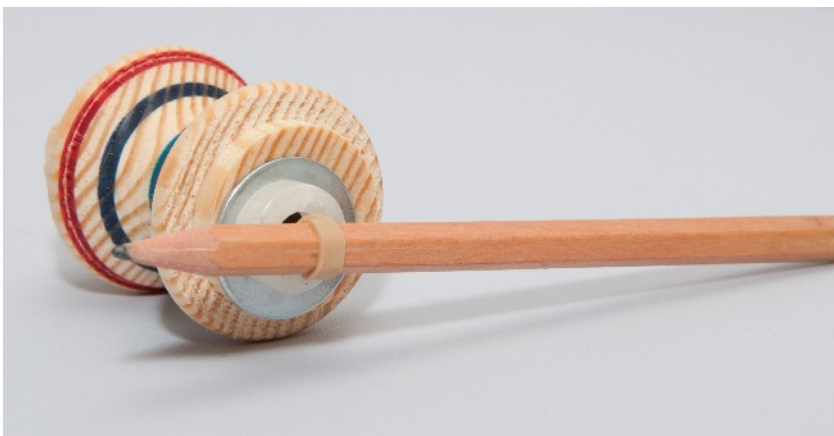
Make sure the "wheels" are the same diameter.

A light pull drive ensures the blank is centred accurately.

John Hawkswell



Fit the rubber band at one end. A groove cut in the tank body helps secure the matchstick or turned pin so that it doesn't slip.



At the other end pass the rubber band through a pre-drilled piece of candle wax. A washer placed between the tank body and the candle helps to overcome surface friction. Finally push a pencil through the rubber band as shown.

Give the tank a test run. If it veers off in one direction remount the tank in the lathe and reduce the diameter of the opposite wheel.

Once all is well cut or file notches in the rim of the wheels (not shown in the photo)

This will enable the tank to climb modest obstacles.