

Southern Turners Project Sheet

Pendants



This project explains how to make a wooden pendant using the eccentric chuck described in another Project Sheet.

The blank size is up to the individual, but to begin with, try a blank of approximately 60 to 65 mm square and approximately 7 mm thick.

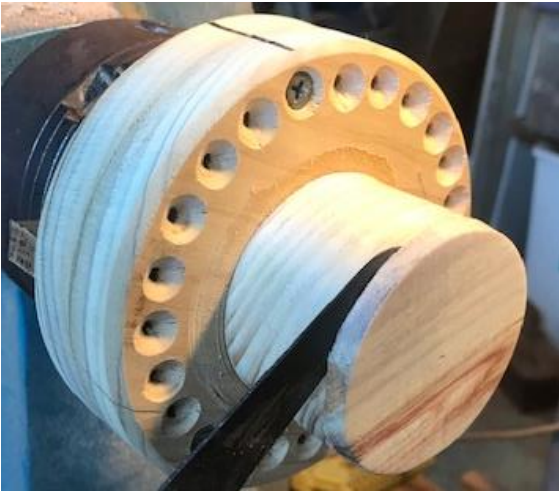
Timber with a tight grain structure and intense figure work well for pendants. Timber with low shear strength along the grain needs to be reinforced by laminating another piece of the same or contrasting timber to the blank such that the grain of the two pieces is at right angles.



Select a blank with at least one fairly flat side. The one in the photo is Broughton Willow (*acacia salicina*) 60 by 60 by 8 mm.



Fasten to the eccentric chuck (concentric position) using hot melt glue (recommended) or double-sided tape. Three small blobs of glue are ample; anymore and you will have difficulty removing the blank from the chuck without damage. Use a live centre that does not leave an indent in the blank eg a ring centre without centre point.



Turn to round and make flat using a spindle gouge or scraper. Sand to 400 grit minimum; higher grits may be required for some timbers. Final size is not important at this time.

Remove pendant from chuck using a skew chisel or knife. Clean residual glue off chuck using a spindle gouge, sharp knife or white spirit (or any combination of the above).



Place a piece of non-slip matting or paper towel between chuck and sanded surface of the pendant and secure with a live centre extender to create a friction drive.

Turn the front face of the pendant to your desired shape (the centre area will be turned away in the next step). Finalise the diameter of the pendant and ensure the circumference has any sharp edges removed ie well sanded.

Sand accessible area of pendant face to 400 grit or greater.



Determine the orientation that best suits your pendant for the offset hole. Sapwood/heartwood intersections or grain pattern may influence your decision.

There is an arrow on the chuck indicating the short point of the eccentric circle (hidden by the masking tape). This is used to aid mounting of the blank. In the photo the blank is mounted to ensure the hole goes through the white, uninspiring area of the pendant.

Remount the pendant on the eccentric chuck using 3 pieces of masking tape. In the photo an extra piece of masking tape has been used to secure the ends of the other pieces.



Move the chuck to the eccentric position. Use light cuts with a spindle gouge to turn a hole in the pendant. Stop the lathe regularly to ensure sufficient wood remains at the short point. Sand through the grits.



Remove from the chuck and ensure all hotmelt glue and tape glue residue is removed. Hand sand the edge of the hole to remove the sharp edge.



Finish with lacquer or other hard wearing finish. De-nib between coats. CFP floor varnish works well. The pendant in the photo has had one coat of Stylwood 95% gloss lacquer applied.

Most wearers of this type of pendant prefer high gloss finishes but it is up to you to determine what the end user wants.

Fit a chain or cord according to your preference. Cords can be leather, imitation leather or a multitude of other products. Polyester cords need the ends sealed to prevent fraying – this is easily done by holding the ends over a lighted candle until the polyester melts – take care with the hot ends – they bite.

Cords are best fitted using slip knots as this allows the wearer to determine the length that suits them best. Excellent instructions on how to tie slip knots can be found at https://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/slip-knot

Turned embellishments can be added to the pendant face when the chuck is in the concentric or eccentric positions.