

Southern Turners Project Sheet

AWL



This project sheet details one way to make an awl. These little tools are extremely handy for woodturners for marking the centres of your blanks for your drive and tail centres to locate. For this project you will require a small timber blank, on one pictured here is approx. 50mm X 50mm X 75mm. A concrete nail (approx. 40mm long is ideal), and a small metal ferrule, a small offcut of copper pipe or similar is ideal for this purpose.

Mark the centres of your blank and mount between centres



Rough turn to round and form a tenon on one end to suit your chuck



Mount your blank in your chuck. Using a drill chuck in your tail stock, drill a hole slightly smaller than the diameter of your concrete nail.



Select a ferrule to use on your project. It can be any small off cut of metal pipe or pipe fitting. The ferrule is used to prevent the timber splitting when the nail is driven into the blank.



Using callipers, measure the inside diameter of your selected ferrule.



Measure the length of your ferrule and mark a line around your blank



Using your callipers to measure, form a tenon to suit your ferrule. Use the line to dictate the tenon length, slightly longer is better than shorter.



Remove the blank from your lathe and using a hammer, knock your ferrule onto the tenon. If the fit is too loose, wrap a small bit of masking tape around the tenon.



Remove the chuck from your lathe and using a cone tail centre into hole that you drilled earlier, remount the blank between centres.



Shape as desired and sand smooth



Using a fine handsaw, cut the remaining spigot from the end and sand to complete.



Knock in your concrete nail



Using a grinder or file, grind a 3 sided point onto the end of your nail. This will allow it to cut as it is twisted.



Apply your favourite finish & job complete!

