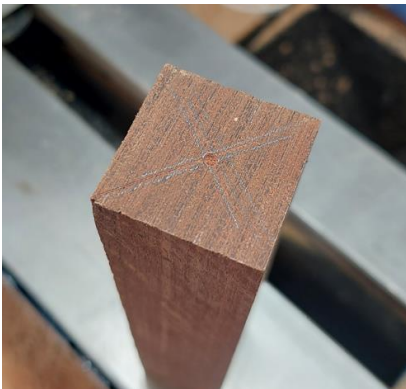


# Southern Turners Project Sheet

## Whistle



Turning a whistle is a relatively simple project, that also provides plenty of opportunity to tailor the end result. Adjustments in the length of the hole, the dowel placement/shape, along with the shape of the notch in the barrel will all affect the final sound. On top of that, the mouthpiece and barrel can be styled to suit your individual preference. You'll need a blank around 140mm long and 35mm square, along with a 25mm piece of dowel that's been flattened on one side, by around a third.



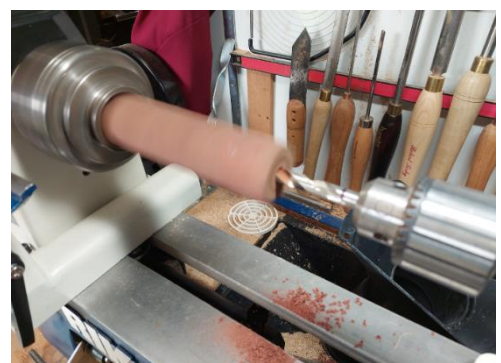
Mark centre on one end of your blank, take grain patterns, etc into account as this will be the mouth piece of the finished product.

Loosely mount the other end in a chuck, gripping just the very end. If your blank is too narrow to be gripped by the outer jaws, take advantage of the inner jaws. Once held, bring up a cone live centre and gently push the blank back into the chuck, taking care that it doesn't bottom out. Tighten the chuck at this point, and give it a test spin. Mounting it this way helps to get the blank more balanced for drilling.



Next mark two lines 20mm, and 32mm from the tailstock end. This will be where a notch is cut out in following steps.

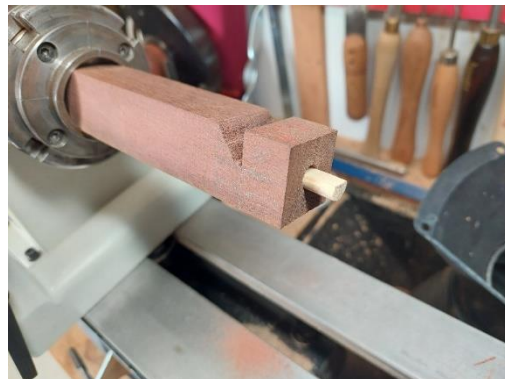
Remove the cone live centre and install a drill chuck/bit that matches the size of your dowel. In this example we'll work with 3/8" (9.5mm) dowel and drill bit. Drill a hole around 80mm deep. Go very slowly to start with as the piece is largely unsupported. As you progress the drill bit will add some support to the piece. Using a brad point drill bit can make this a little easier





Once the hole is created, remove the drill chuck from your tailstock, replace with a cone centre and bring it up for support. Don't make it so tight that it pinches the saw blade in the next steps. Now we cut the whistle notch. Any saw will work, but a thin kerf pull saw will make it easier. Lock the spindle, then cut down the 20mm line to the mid point of the whistle/hole. Next, cut from the top of the 32mm line to the bottom of your first cut to take out a wedge.

Now it's time to test your whistle. Insert the dowel (no glue), making sure the flat is level to the top of your notch, and the end doesn't go past the 20mm line. From here you can experiment with the shape of the notch and/or the flat on the dowel to produce different sounds.



Now remove the dowel and bring up tailstock support. The outside of the whistle can now be shaped to your preference. Keep in mind the depth, and width of the hole so you don't break through. Whatever decoration, beads, coves, etc. that you like won't affect the sound. Take it down pretty thin at the headstock end to minimise hand sanding required later. It's also best to sand, and apply any friction polishes at this time, as after the next step there will be no tailstock support.



Glue in the dowel, making sure that it's in the same position where it achieved your preferred sound. Allow the glue to go off before cutting off the excess.

From here you can gently sand the mouth piece. Make sure to support the piece with your hand, as it should be quite thin at the headstock end.



Once happy, part off the headstock end and hand sand the nub. Apply desired finish, and job done.