

Southern Turners Project Sheet

Salad Servers



This project explains how to make simple and attractive salad servers. Ensure all safety equipment is used appropriately. You will need two blanks, both approximately 300 mm long, 50 mm wide and 25 mm deep. Straight grained timber is best for this project. The project is an excellent one for improving/refining your use of a skew chisel and spindle gouges. There is no right or wrong when it comes to the design of the servers – just go with what is pleasing to you.



Accurately locate and mark the centre of one end of your blank. Mark the other end central on the 50 mm face and approximately 5 mm from one edge of the 25 mm face. Mount the blank between centres; the head can be toward the head stock or vice versa depending on your preference. I used a four-pronged drive centre and a step live centre. The mark-up shows what shape we are trying to achieve.



Use a sharp spindle gouge to commence defining the shape of the salad server head. Take light cuts as the diameter near the head is only going to be 10 to 12 mm diameter. Only work on an area of 30 to 40 mm long at any time.



Keep removing wood from the handle in small increments. Make sure each section is perfectly round by stopping the lathe and inspecting or if you are comfortable use your fingers to detect any flats spots with the lathe running. Ensure you blend each section into the last. It can be difficult to come back to completed sections.



Sand every couple of completed sections. Prepare to part off by removing unnecessary waste timber with a parting tool or skew chisel. Part off at least 1mm toward the waste wood.



Your handle should look something like the photo. Parting off this way avoids wood fibres being torn from the handle as the timber separates into two pieces. Clean up the stub using a craft knife then hand sand through the grits.



Now comes the harder part. Shape the head of your salad server to your preferred design. Use a bandsaw to rough out the shape if you are confident that you can do it safely or use rasps, files and abrasives to refine the shape.

Your next challenge is to make another server similar to the first one. Only this time it needs to be modified to become a fork as shown on the photo.

Finish with a food safe finish such as grape seed oil.