

# Turning Bracelets



**By Gary R. Smith**

**In honor of my father who was turning wooden bracelets in the 1950's on a spindle lathe with a 3 step pulley, spur center, dead tail stock center and home made tools.**

**In 1993, when I retired, I had more time for wood working. Having my father's old lathe I thought I would try turning. This demo is the evolution of the turning that my father did.**

**First is to work safely. Wear a face shield or at least safety glasses and respect your lathe.**

**The tools will be described as we go along. Use what ever tool that works best for you.**

**Sizing bracelets: Inside range from 60 mm to 80mm. After determining the inside diameter add about 20mm for the outside diameter.**

**Good Luck**

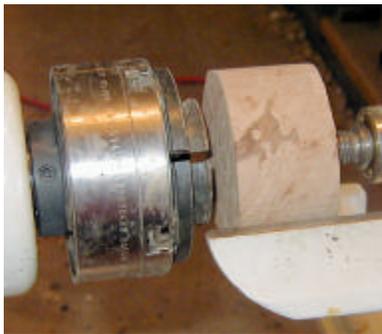
**Keep turning**



**I use a 3 1/2 in (about 90mm) template with a center hole. Select your wood and draw the circle and mark the center.**



**Cut the circles out on a band saw.**



**Mount the block to the lathe using the front of the chuck jaws as a jam chuck. True up the outside to the desired diameter.**



**True up the face of the block to the desired width, marking the center with an indentation.**



**Fill any cracks or voids with CA glue.**



**With a compass set to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the inside diameter draw a line to mark for the parting tool.**



**Use a narrow parting tool that has a modified tip.**



**Part in just over half way, opening the kerf as you go.**



**Turn the blank around and repeat. True up the face, mark center and mark the parting line.**



**Part in until the core is free.**



**With a 3/8" round nose scraper clean up the inside. Tilt the tool handle down to give a shear scraping cut. Turn blank around and clean the other half. The blue tape is a depth gage so I don't go in to far.**



**A piece of a small tire tube is cut and put over the jaws of the chuck to protect the inside of the bracelet. Note: I also use a larger piece to protect my hands and tools from the chuck.**



**Insert the bracelet over the jaws and expand (not to tight) it doesn't take much to hold it.**



**Shape the outside and inside edge, turn around and do the other edge. Sand until you're satisfied. I do not finish on the lathe.**



**Put on one or two coats of sanding sealer and hand sand. With a 3 prong spring holder I spray 2 to 3 coats of lacquer.**



# Inlaying



**Use skew chisel to cut the fibers where the inlay will be placed. I made a tool with two blades. Made from saber saw blades and pointed, then sharpened on the inside. This will cut the same each time.**



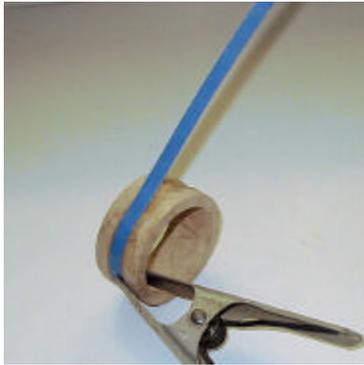
**Remove the wood to the depth of the inlay with a standard parting tool.**



**Stick the inlay strip to 2 or 3 layers of masking tape. Apply contact to the strip and the groove on the bracelet blank.**



**After the glue dries remove with a hobby knife or razor blade.**



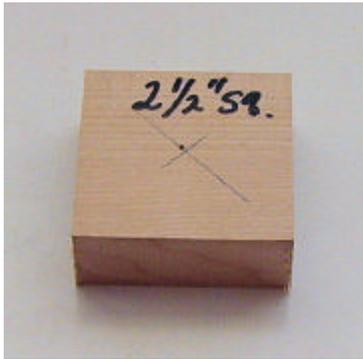
**Clamp one end in the groove and work around. Trim off end and reposition clamp and leave to dry.**



**Remove tape and mount on lathe. Shape and sand.**



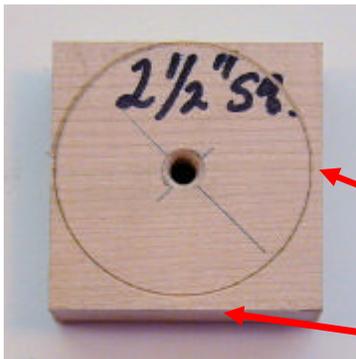
# Segmented Bracelet



**Start with a waste block the thickness of the bracelet you want to make. Mark the center as close as possible. I have marked the center off for illustration purposes. Drill a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in hole and countersink this will hold the piece at center each time it is remounted.**



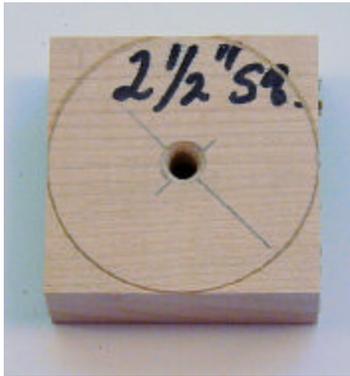
**Use a pointed tool or pencil to mark the largest diameter that you can get.**



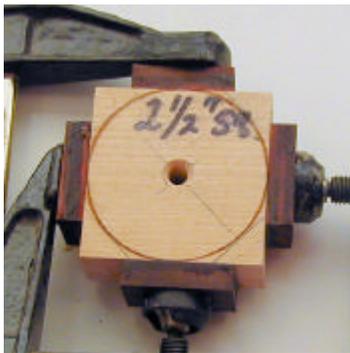
**Note: material needs to be removed on the right and bottom of the waste block to meet the center. This will keep everything centered.**



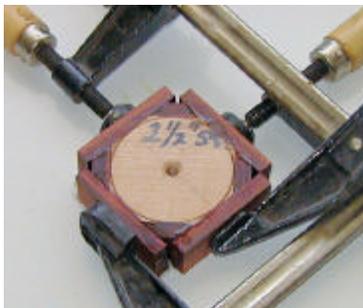
**Using a disk sander remove the material up to the line.**



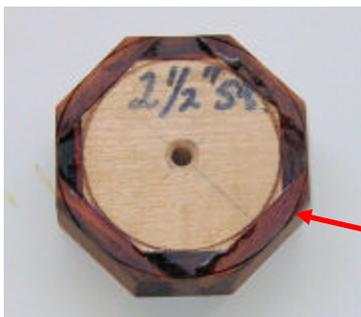
**Waste block is ready for glue up.**



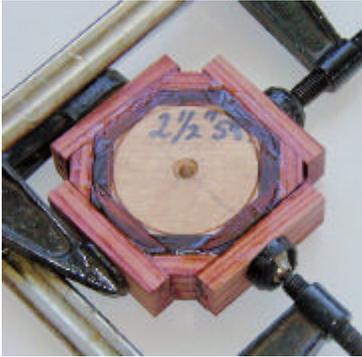
**1<sup>st</sup> glue up. Use  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick material, this is Rose Wood. Make each segment long enough to cover when the corners are cut off. I use Epoxy in most of my lay-ups. Clean all surfaces with Acetone especially on exotic woods.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> glue up.**



**Ready for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> glue ups. Note: Another ring has been marked. Remove material down to that mark. This will keep everything centered.**



**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ring complete.**



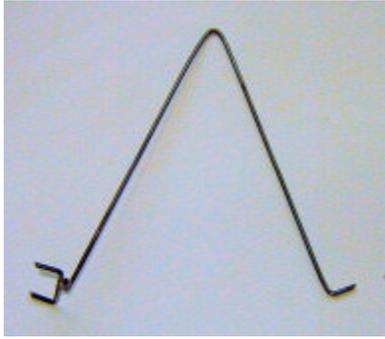
**Ready to turn.**



**Center removed.**



**Turn to shape desired.**



**Spring hanger for holding and hanging for finishing. You can get tempered wire at a hobby store.**



**1 coat of sanding sealer 2 coats gloss lacquer**

**Your only limited by your imagination. Good Luck**

