WOODTURNERS
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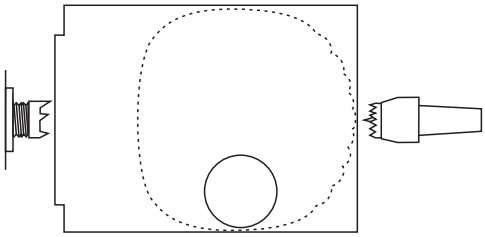
WOODTURNERS GUILD INC
TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

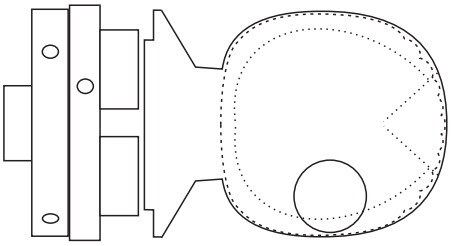
Snail

Designed by Ursula

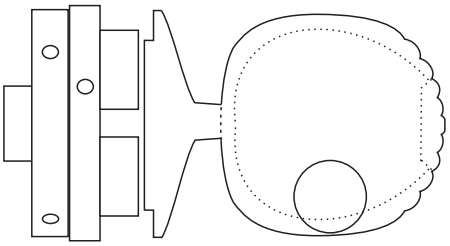
This project is in three parts: Shell, Body and two tentacles. Contrasting woods will improve the look of the finished project. The measurements shown here will make a finished snail about 150mm long.



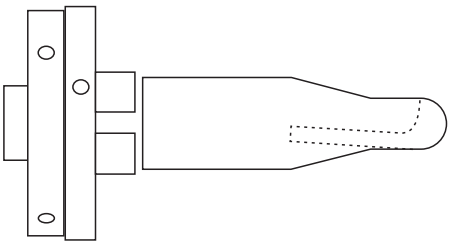
The Shell. Start with a block of wood that is 80mm long and 60mm square. On a centre that is 12mm from the edge and 35mm from the tailstock end drill a 20mm diameter hole through it. Mount the wood between centres, turn it almost round and cut a spigot on the headstock end.



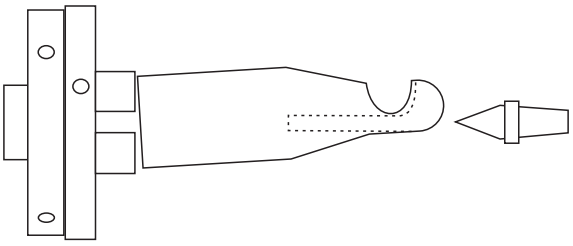
Mount the wood in a chuck and turn it round. Turn a curved face on the tailstock end and begin a less-curved face on the headstock side. Aim to get a finished shell that is about the same in length and width.
If this wood is heavy, or you just want to make the snail lighter, this is the time to hollow the shell. Open it using a fine parting tool (see Hollow Bud Vase Tools on www.sawg.org.nz) and take out as much wood as you wish. Glue the hollowing plug back into the hole.



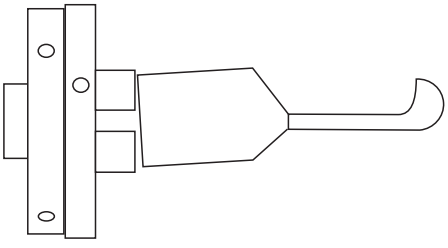
Turn, sand and finish as much as possible of the outside of the shell. Part it off and hand-sand the centre of the headstock side.



Two Tentacles. For each one start with wood that is 80mm long and 25mm square. Grip the wood in a small chuck, turn it round and turn the end to be a hemisphere of about 15mm diameter. Sand the end and about 10mm of the shaft to a good finish.

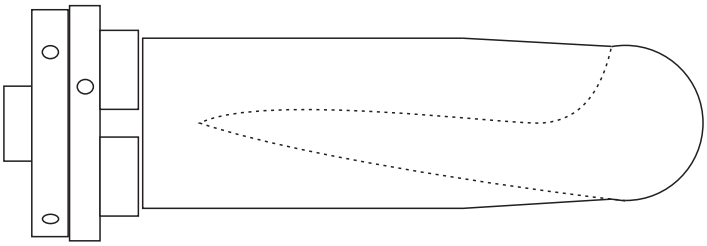


Loosen the chuck and angle the wood off-line by about 3 degrees. Use the tailstock to see that line but do not connect the tailstock to the wood. Start turning the stem of the tentacle down to the planned 4mm diameter. When the diameter is about 5mm check and move the off-line angle if necessary.

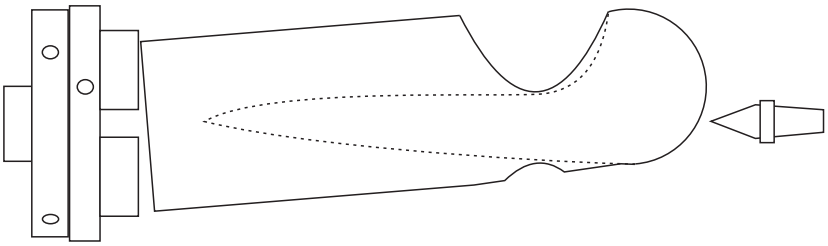


Turn the stem of the tentacle down to about 4mm diameter. Sand and part off so that the total length is about 40mm.

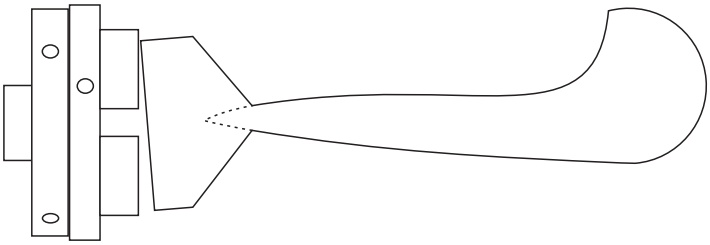
Snail P2



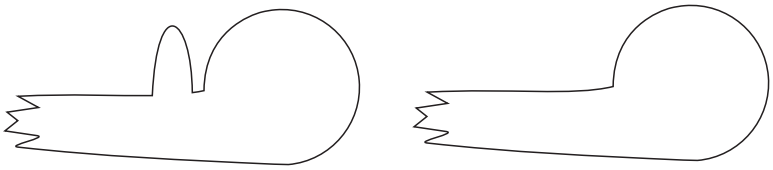
Body. Start with wood that is 150mm long and 45mm square. Grip it in a chuck and turn the wood to round. Make the end of the wood roundish.



Loosen the chuck and angle the wood off-line by about 5 degrees. Use the tailstock to see that line but do not connect the tailstock to the wood. Start turning the body of the snail down to the planned 20mm diameter. When the diameter is about 23mm check and move the off-line angle if necessary.



Turn the body to 20mm thick where the shell will be on it. Taper the shape towards the tail end. Sand and part off.



Or you may make the head a different shape. This may require that the body be made longer.

Assemble the Snail

Drill holes in the head at the location and in the direction that you would like to fit the tentacles. Glue the shell onto the body. The rippled side of the shell should always be at the snail's right side. Glue in the tentacles. Check how the snail now rests on the table - you may wish to give it a flatter base with a few moments on a belt sander.