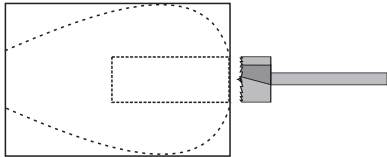
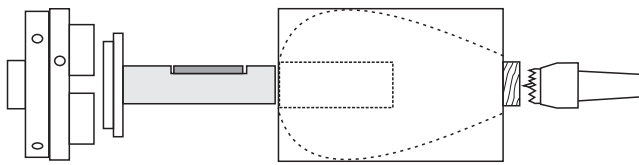


Oamaru Stone Vase

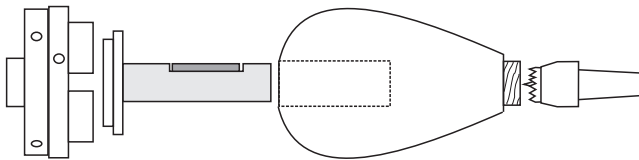
Oamaru stone blocks are cut to size with a carpenter's saw and then mounted on a woodturning lathe in a way that avoids strong gripping and the use of steel jaws and steel centres. The stone can then be turned to shape using woodturning scrapers and a lathe speed of less than 500rpm. This process is dusty but the limestone dust is not harmful to humans or the machinery.



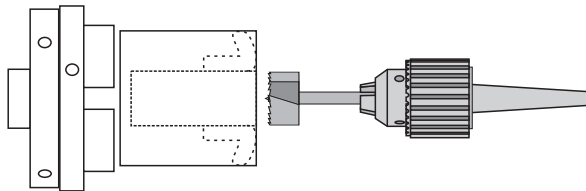
Cut a block of Oamaru stone to 120mm long and 80mm square. Drill about 50 to 60mm down the centre of this block using a 25mm Forstner bit or auger style bit.



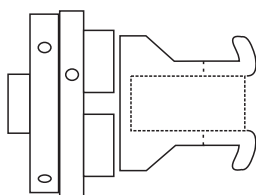
Mount the stone on a 25mm pin chuck. This chuck may be all wood or a steel main dowel with a wooden locking dowel. Bring the tailstock up against a small piece of padding wood to make the work secure.



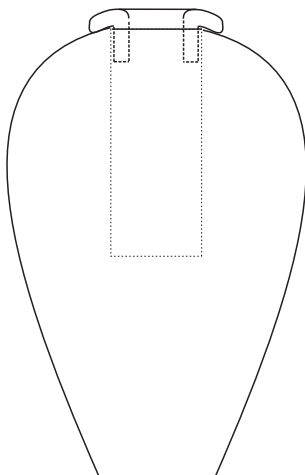
Turn the vase to shape using woodturning scrapers. Sand and finish all the outside surface. Apply a sealant like Kiwicare No Leaks. Remove the stone from the lathe.



Make a wooden lip for the top of the vase. Use a dark wood piece about 35mm cubed. This can be held directly in a 50mm chuck. Drill a 15mm hole almost through the centre.



Turn the outside of the block round and dress the end. Turn or sand a curve into the drilled hole. Turn from the centre to the edge in a gentle curve that will match the curve of the stone. Round off the outer edge of the wood and then cut in and up so that the lip of the wood will rest on the stone. Work back towards the chuck making the wood 25mm diameter, or a little less, to ensure that it will fit in the drilled hole in the stone. Sand and finish all surfaces of the wood that will be visible when it is fitted to the stone.



This wood may just rest in place or, preferably, secure the wood to the stone with a silicone sealant which will remain flexible.