

The Paper Joint

A paper joint is an excellent tool when a woodturner is wanting to make a turning which will be split in half later in a building process. Things like beading on a grandfather clock, ears for a rabbit and streptohedrons use this process. You can use brown paper, as in larger carry bags, newspaper, or some double-sided tapes, for this jointing.



1. Cut the wood for the project to size. Be sure to have enough for drive and tail centres or a chuck spigot. You may make a slight increase in width to allow for the width of the next bandsaw cut.



2. Mark one face of the block clearly with a pencil line or two. This ensures that you will know the original orientation of the parts of the wood after the next bandsaw cut.



3. Cut this block in half, usually this is along the grain.



4. Sand the two faces from the last bandsaw cut to ensure that the wood is flat and free from saw marks.



5. Apply glue to one side of the pair of blocks.



5. Rub the blocks together to spread a thin layer of glue on both blocks.



6. Put the blocks together with the paper layer between. Rotate one block now if it needs to be rotated back again later to maintain a grain match. Clamp lightly.



7. When the glue is dry remount the wood on the lathe. Use drive and tail spurs that do not have points which may split the wood.



8. Turn it to the finished and sanded shape.



9. Remove the work from the lathe and use a thin knife to slice down the paper line.



10. Sand the remaining paper off while keeping the surfaces perfectly flat. Glue the parts together. Rotating one if needed to match the grain.

The Paper Joint P2

There are occasions, such as making streptohedrons, when one part of the wood is rotated after the woodturning is done. The paper joint is split, one part is rotated and the parts are glued back together. To get a nice grain match in the finished item it is wise to rotate one part of the wood by the degree required, before making the paper joint. Then, after the paper joint is split and the faces sanded, one part is rotated back and a good grain match achieved. This requires angle templates to be prepared before wood cutting begins. The dimensions shown here are to get an 80 mm cube for the turning.



1. Start with a block 120 square & 80 mm thick. Cut this in half on the long axis. Sand these inside cut faces. Mark the centre point on both inside faces.



2. Measure the diameter of a thin dowel. Bamboo skewer is suggested. Drill a 5 mm deep hole of that size in the centre of each face.



3. Prepare paper for the joint. Cut it slightly smaller than the wood face. Mark the centre and punch or cut a hole at that point.



4. Apply glue to the wood faces. Keep the holes clear of glue.



5. Small squares of thin masking tape may be used to keep the holes clean.



6. Apply the paper to one side of the pair and insert the dowel in the hole.



7. Rotate the block to match the angle template made earlier. Clamp lightly.



8. When the glue has set, mark the centre of one side of the glued blocks. Draw these lines well towards the corners of the block.



9. Cut a paper or card template to the size of the planned block. Place it centrally on the marked lines on the wood. Draw lines at the edges of this template.



10. Cut the block to these lines. You now have a block ready for turning as described in page one of this project.