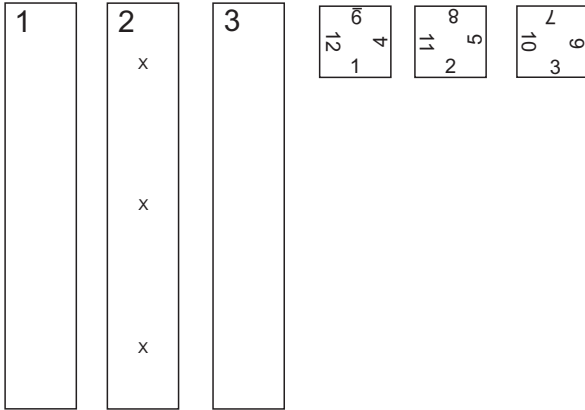


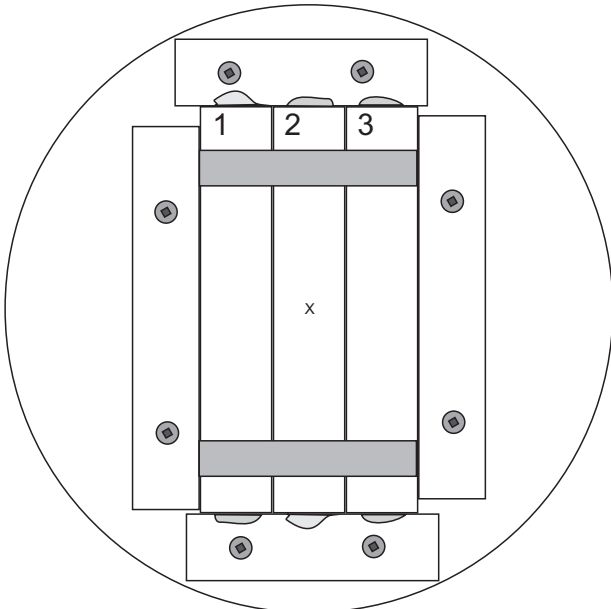
Triplets

As demonstrated by John Balsillie

This project creates a trio of same-size tall and square items with differing decorations on their four sides. These may be used as candle holders, dried flower holders or simply remain as decorative items.



Start with three matched blocks all 230 x 40 x 40 that are dressed and sanded to a finished quality. 15 mm will be cut off each end later. Number the top end as shown to the left. Measure and mark on all four faces of the central piece of wood the exact centre and at the centre of the width of the wood at points that are 80 mm from the centre towards the top and the bottom.

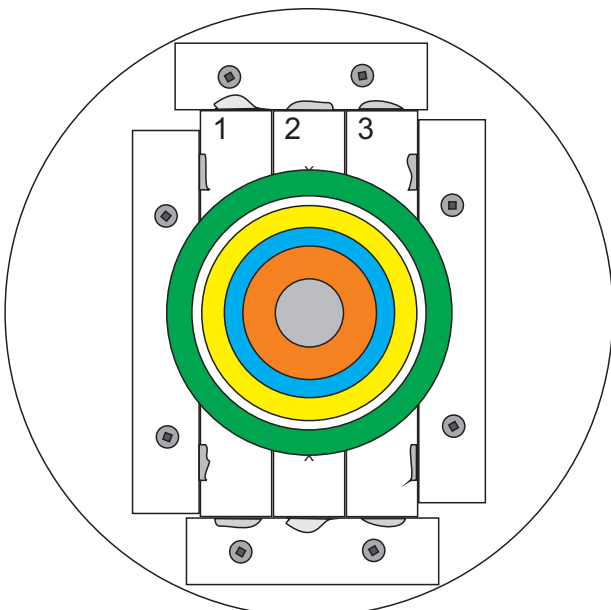


For convenient handling, tape the three pieces of wood together.

Mount an mdf faceplate on the lathe.

Place the taped together wood on the faceplate and bring up the tailstock to the centre to hold it.

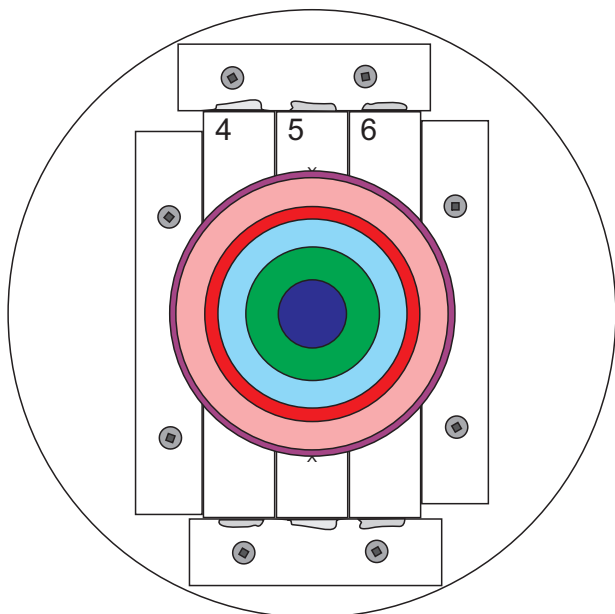
Cut four pieces of 20 mm thick wood to about the lengths of the four sides of the taped-together wood. Screw these four pieces to the faceplate while they are firmly against the sides of the taped wood. Apply dabs of hot melt glue to the ends of each piece of the taped up wood.



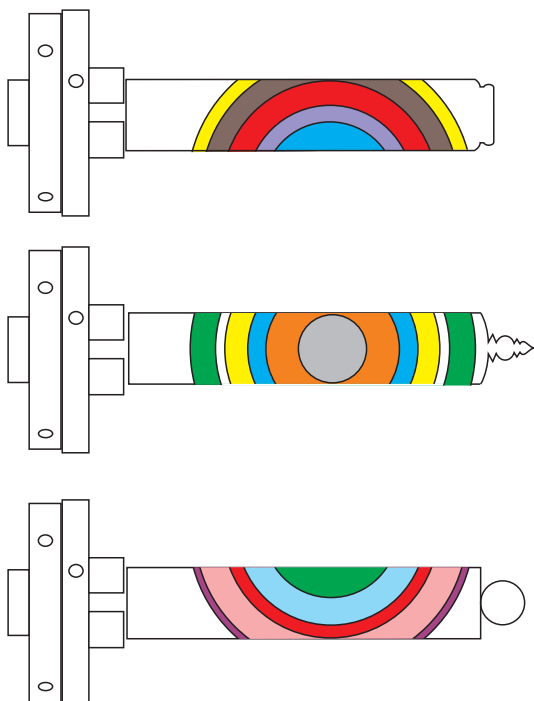
Remove the tape from the top and bottom of the wood. Draw an 80 mm radius circle at the centre of the wood and extending to the 80 mm marks you made earlier.

You can now turn, sand, colour, texture and finish all the decoration within that 160 mm diameter circle. Cut away the pencil circle as you turn. Don't make your decorative cuts too deep or you may not like the profile of the wood when it is rotated for the next face cutting.

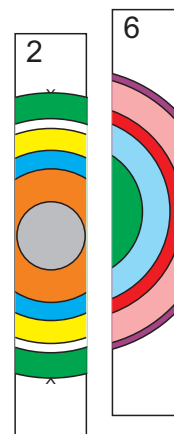
Triplets P2



Remove the hot melt glue and rotate the three pieces of wood to the next position shown in the initial design. Add hot melt glue as previously. Turn another design which is best done to be distinctly different to the previous one. Repeat this process for the remaining four faces. Ensure that the wood number order is always from left to right. When all four sides of the wood are turned and decorated disassemble the faceplate.



Mount each piece in a chuck and turn the top end to a finial or cup for dried flowers, a candle, or to be decorative. All three pieces may be the same or differ substantially.



Finally, cut the bottom end of each piece to the length of your choice. This may just remove the chuck holding marks or could balance the length of wood showing above and below the circular decoration. Finish the work with wax or lacquer.

