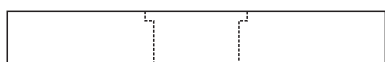
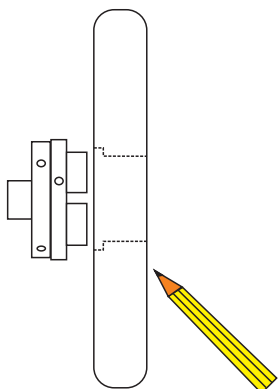


A Hand Wheel for Your Lathe

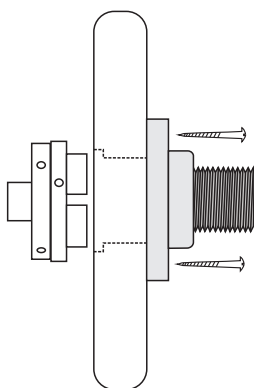
Every new lathe that I have met has a small steel handwheel with a left-hand thread on the outboard end of the head. These are almost too small to be useful but they do have screw holes for attachment of a larger piece for greater ease of use. This larger piece should be customwood, chipboard or plywood, not a whole piece of wood cut from a woodturning blank as that is likely to be unbalanced and will cause the lathe to vibrate. The process to make a handwheel may vary hugely depending on whether your lathe has a swivel head, a sliding head, can turn in reverse or other features. This page details a basic way to make a handwheel and you can work out potentially easier methods if your lathe can handle it. Check your lathe to see where power cords and other bits stick out of the outboard end of the headstock. Decide what diameter of handwheel you want to make. Thickness of the handwheel may depend on the material you have. 20 to 30 mm is ideal.



Mark the centre of your material. Drill a 54 mm diameter hole 5 mm into the material. Then drill a 45 mm hole completely through the material - this allows a knockout bar to be used. You may have to change these dimensions to suit your steel handwheel or if you are planning to use a vacuum chuck.



Mount the material on a 50 mm chuck used in expansion mode. Turn the material to be round and smooth. Measure the diameter of your steel handwheel and mark that diameter on the face of the material.



Screw the steel handwheel onto the material. You can now remove it from the chuck. Sand the edges of the drilled holes. Give the whole project a good coat of hard-wearing lacquer or varnish.