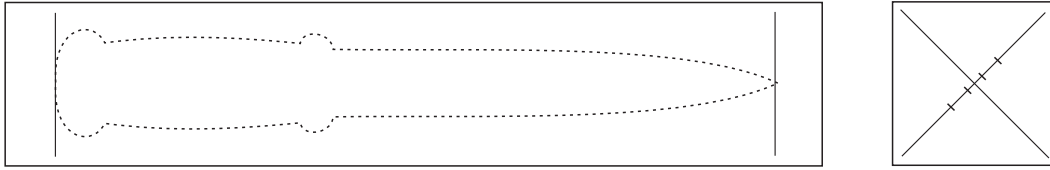
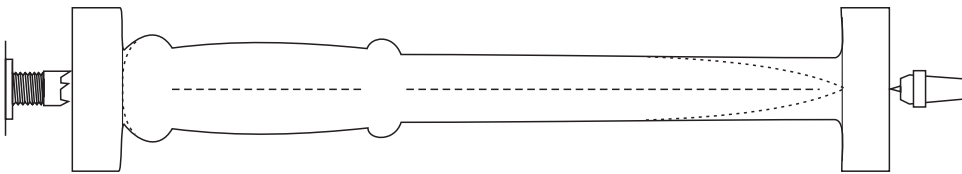


LETTER OPENER

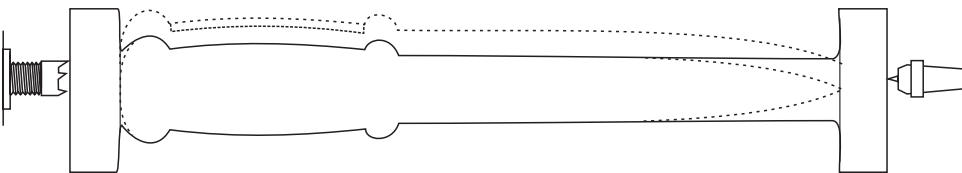
Start with a piece of wood 50 x 50 x 250mm. Strong wood with straight grain is best. The width of this wood may be reduced if you have a slim drive spur on your lathe.



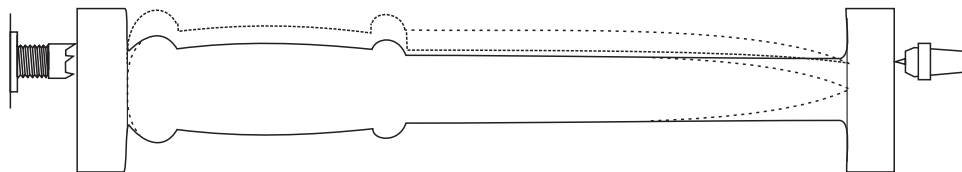
Mark up the centres and offsets at 3 and 10mm on both ends. Put lines around the wood at 15mm from each end. While the wood is whole and firm knock the drive spur firmly into the centre and each offset so that there are good indentations for later mounting. If the wood is hard, drill and saw these indentations.



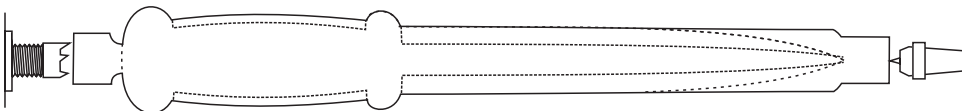
Mount on the central position. Keep the end 15mm blocks square unless you are sure they are not needed to support your drive spur. Round the wood off to the diameter of the widest part, the pommel or guard, mark the position of these parts. Turn the pommel, handle and guard to the required diameters and shapes. Turn the full length of the blade but only to the diameter of the widest point. While the wood is mounted on centres draw a line along both sides of the handle and blade in a position that is 90° to the offsets line.



Remount the wood on one pair of the 3mm offsets. Turn the handle only until the new cuts are down to about 2mm from the central pencil line. This will be less than half the height of the "ghosting". Repeat this on the other pair of 3mm offsets.



Remount the wood on one pair of the 10mm offsets. Turn the blade until the new cuts are down to exactly the central pencil line. Do not reduce the thickness at the tip. Repeat this on the other pair of 10mm offsets.



Remount on the central position. Cut away the spare wood at the ends and improve the shape of the pommel. Sand the blade lengthways and the handle, pommel and guard with the lathe rotating at low speed. Part off at the head end. Sand the blade tip to shape on a belt sander.