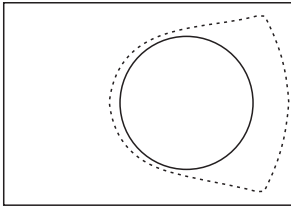


Wooden Rings

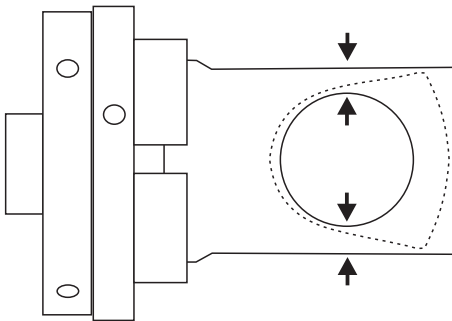
After an article by Mark Knize in American Woodturner, April 2012

Before beginning you need to know the size of finger the ring is to be made for, or plan to make a variety of sizes. See the Tips and Jigs sheet on Ring Sizes. Saw the wood to 35 x 35 x 50 with the grain along the long axis. Starting with wood 60mm long may make the first ring easier to make.

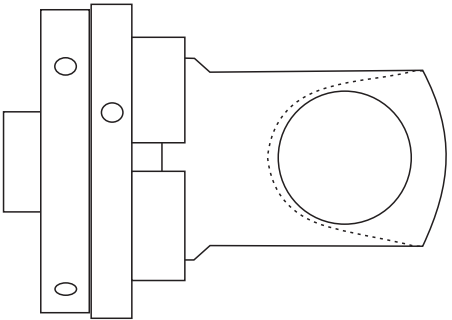


Choose which end of the block is to be the face of the ring. Drill a hole of the chosen ring size about equidistant from the face end and sides.

You may choose differing wood size and hole placement for your next ring.

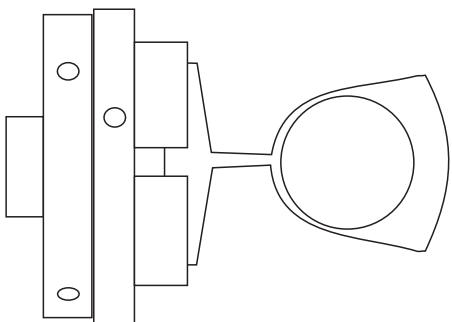


Mount the wood in a chuck and turn it to round. Check the wall thickness on both sides of the ring. If they are not equal then shift the wood in the chuck.

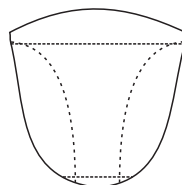


Now turn it down to the required diameter and cut the face to the desired shape.

If you plan to do some off-centre cuts on the face of the ring, or decoration with other tools, do that work now. Sand and finish the face of the ring and down the sides a little.



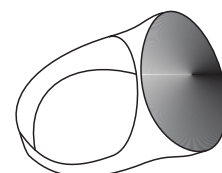
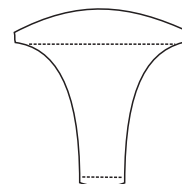
Cut around the ring keeping even thickness but then thicker at the bottom where it is weaker end grain wood. Part/saw it off.



Use a 25mm drum sander to remove the thin wood around the drilled hole and ensure that the lower half of the ring is not too wide.

Use a smaller drum sander to remove all the drill marks from the inside.

Add the finish of your choice.



Decorating Wooden Rings

Wooden rings may be left to show the natural grain of the wood or enhanced in many ways. Most of this work is best done just as soon as the face of the ring is finished and before the lower portion of the wood is reduced in size.



The face of the ring may be left perfectly natural. Or the natural grain may be enhanced with oils, light brownish stains, bleaching, sandblasting, or some other technique.



Patterns may be laminated into the wood or drawn, painted, or carved onto the face of the ring. Drawing may be best on lighter coloured woods. Or, the face can be stained and then carved through the stain.



The ring may be made square, or facets may be cut, by placing the ring against a sanding belt or disk.



The "dancing man" motif is achieved by offsetting the wood in the chuck, by about half the width of the face of the ring, while keeping the axis aligned between head and tailstock. The head of the man is done with a rotary tool burr.



The outer ring is made while the ring is in its central construction position. Then the smaller rings are made after the ring wood is tilted in the chuck.



The outer ring is made while the ring is in its central construction position. Then the smaller half rings are made after the ring wood is offset and tilted in the chuck.



Also, consider an inset of different wood, paua shell, or resin with something embedded in it. Try various stains, either alone or mixed.



A single slash through a coloured surface is achieved with one offset of the wood in the chuck.



What about the array of acrylics, or any other materials, which might be turned on the lathe? Just check the strength of the finished ring before making too many of a new material.