

Making a Plate

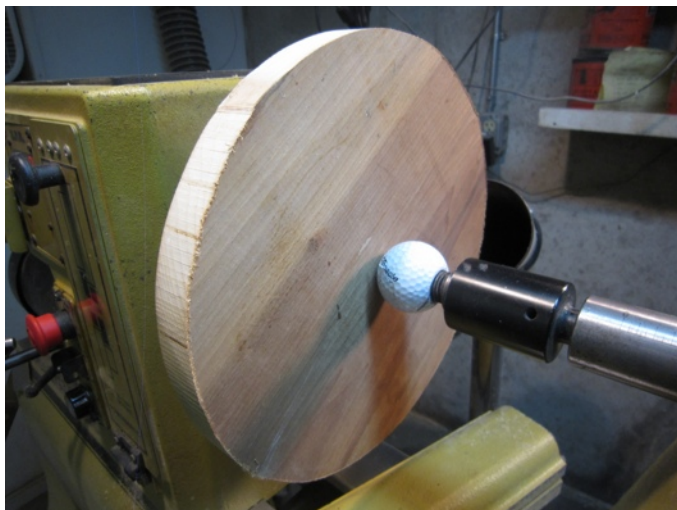
This is a simple project that only takes a few hours. What could be more practical than to have dinner plates that you turned.



I started with a dry piece of Poplar. There are prettier woods, but this was used because I have a 10" wide plank that has been in my shop for years. I use a compass to mark a 10" circle which I will cut on the bandsaw. (Notice the crack in the wood. I feel that the crack does not go all the way through so I have applied super glue. This plate will be painted later, so the crack adds character).

Next I drill a hole for my 1/4" screw chuck. This piece is light enough that the smaller screw chuck is adequate.

I would not use this plate as a dinner plate due to the crack, but as a decorative piece, the crack does not matter.



The piece is now mounted on the lathe and the tailstock is brought up for support. Notice the golf ball added to the live chuck. This prevents dimpling the surface

I turn the bottom side of the plate. I leave a base that is at least $\frac{2}{3}$ the size of the plate to give support when placed flat on a table. The plate can now be sanded to the desired smoothness. I sanded to 400 grit. Next we will work on the other side of the plate.



I'm going to use a jamb chuck to hold the plate while turning the other side. I have used a scrap piece of wood to jamb the plate against. The scrap has been trued and sanded.

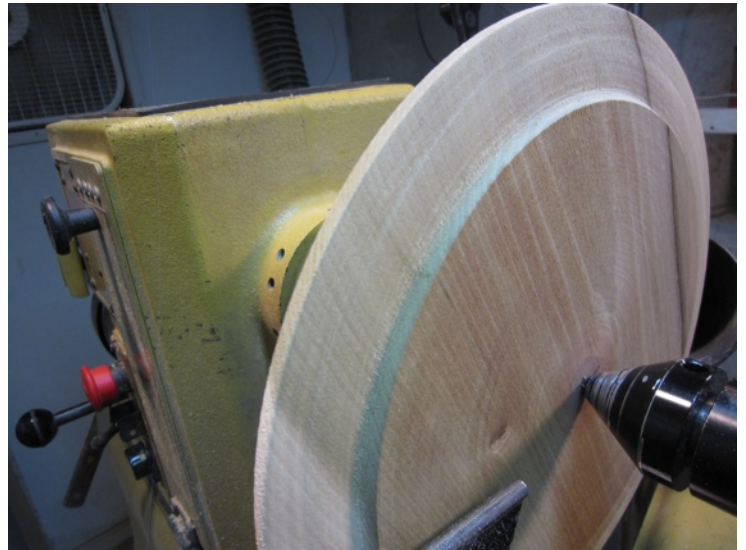
It's very important to use cushioning between the scrap wood and your sanded surface. You don't want to mar your sanding job.





The plate is brought up against the jamb chuck and held in place with the live tail center. Notice the cone attachment. It will fit into the drill hole used for the screw chuck and the piece should be centered on the lathe.

Now I begin turning the top side of the plate. I will turn right down to a small nib around the point of the cone tail center.





A small carving tool is used to remove the nub. Next step is to sand. I find it useful to mount a sanding pad on the lathe. Turn the lathe on to about 500rpm and hold the plate up against the sanding pad. Easier than trying to hold the sanding pad in a drill while sanding.



Plate is finished and signed.





Here is another poplar plate I turned. I had an artist friend add the painting. Nice finished product for a simple plate.