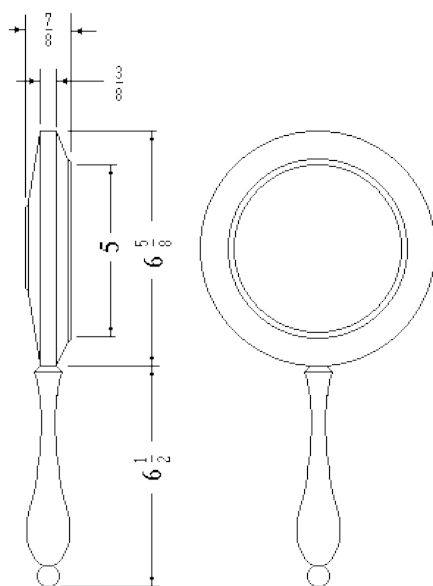


Palmetto Wood Turners Demo May 7, 2016 - Demonstrator: Pat Harris

Hand Mirrors have been around for a while and our fellow wood turners Brian Clifford and John Lucas Have written articles and conducted demonstrations at Clubs and Symposiums. They have been a real inspiration to me and most of what I do in making the Hand Mirrors are taken from their works.

This project is really a great combination of perpendicular and parallel mounted turning. Aka as side grain and spindle turning. My emphasis is on how to hold the mirror head in a recess cut to hold on a Screw Chuck by expanding the jaws into the recess. And to discuss other project that may be turned with this holding method.

I use three basic parts for making a Hand Mirror: The Head, Handle and Mirror. Some add a dowel to join the handle and mirror, but I don't. See diagram below of the components for a five-inch mirror. Today I will demonstrate a four inch one.



Dimensions in inches

1. Start with dry wood - 5 1/2 in square blank. 7/8 to 1 in. thick to hold a 4 in. mirror. Or a 6 1/2 to hold a 5 in. mirror.
2. Find the center of the face side of the blank that will hold the mirror. I like to draw X lines form corners.
3. Determine method to mount on lathe. Glue Block, Face plate, jam chuck, etc. I Prefer the glue block method.
4. If glue lock, make a 2 1/2 to 3in. square from 3/4 stock and drill a 3/8 in hole through the center. This hole is use to accept a dowel, drift punch or the 3/8 drill bit to align the glue block with center point of mirror blank stock.
5. I use CA glue and Activator to mount the block on the mirror blank. But you can use hot glue, or regular glue and paper between the glue black and the blank. Your Choice. Just remember you will have to take it off when you reverse chuck the mirror blank. Glue the block on the back side of mirror blank with grain of block and blank parallel.
6. Draw a 4 in diameter circle using center point of the mirror blank as center or the 4in. circle. Now using a parting tool Cut into the blank a little more than the thickness of the mirror to be use. Clean out the circle the same depth across Test fit the opening for the mirror. Allow a small amount of opening to compensate for wood movement by undercutting the outer edge of the circle.

7. Note if you don't have 4 inch jaws for your chuck, you need to cut a second recess in the center of the mirror Blank to fit your jaws. Probably for a No 2 jaw set about 2 ½ in. diameter.
8. Shape and sand the Mirror Head lip / band around opening. Time to play with beads, coves, embellishments.
9. Reverse Chuck now. and expand chuck jaws into the recess you created for hold the blank.
10. Shape the back side of the mirror, usually a gentle convex and round over of determine and shape the rim.
11. Again it is time to add any embellishments to the back i.e. beads, coves, inserts, texturing, pyro graphics, etc.
12. Locate where you want the handle and drill a 3/8th dia. Hole about 5/8ths to ¾ deep. In the center of the rim.
13. Now spindle turning: mount a 1 inch square by 8 to 10 in. long between centers and shape the handle with a 3/8th in. Tennon a little less than ¾ in long. You can always cut some off if it is too long for the hole depth you drilled.
14. Fit and glue hand into the Mirror Head. Use epoxy of regular wood glue. Do not use CA as it might break loose.
15. Sand and apply finish of your choice. BUT do not apply any finish to RECESS area where the mirror is to be mounted. Note: I have applied a thin coat of sealer here. I like to use Spray Lacquer as it is easy to repair after lots of use.
16. Apply 6 or 7 duplets of Clear Silicone Chalk to the wood recess area and place mirror in and rotate to set mirror.

That's It. Now go out and make a beautiful hand mirror for the ones you love.

Pat Harris

PS: Remember to push your creative side in the shape and designs of these mirrors, they don't cost much and Allow you to experiment, with so many turning techniques, designs, and embellishments. I hope you have as much Fun making these as I do. They are really cherished and a keepsake and used daily.