

# Making a Necklace Pendant

Inspired and Adapted from an article by  
[Nick Arnull](#)

An article by:  
[Hans Wunch](#)

A.K.A “[Hewunch](#)”



This tutorial was downloaded from

<http://www.penturners.org>

The International Association of Penturners

## How to Make A Necklace Pendant

There are several ways one could go about making a necklace pendant. This is my way. Feel free to take from it what you like and change what you do not like. In this tutorial we will discuss the jigs (also called backer boards) used to make the pendant, the selection of sizes, turning the pendant, making the hole for the string/cord and finishing.

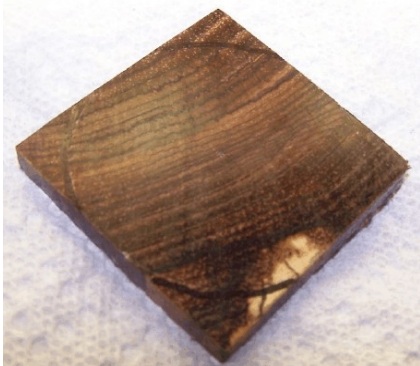
First let's look at the jigs used to hold the pendant. Basically you need a way to mount your wood blank to the head stock of your lathe. This could be done in many ways. You could use a backer-board and mount that to a screw chuck, an expanding chuck, a collet chuck, a drill chuck or a face plate. I wanted to make my backer board inexpensively, so I chose to make it out of Melamine. I started off using a screw chuck, but didn't care for how it was mounted, so I have since added a piece of 3/8" dowel and now use my collet chuck. Here are a couple pictures of my backer board (from the back with the dowel sticking up), collet chuck and with the board mounted to the chuck.



You will notice that on my backer board's face I have made a set of cross hairs. This helps me in placing the blank on the backer.

Next, I prepare the blank. I have found that a finished piece between 1 3/4 and 2 1/2 is pleasing to most women. Generally, smaller women like smaller necklaces. So more often than not, I start with a piece that is 2" x 2" and between 1/4" and 7/16" thick. In this tutorial I will be using a piece of endgrain rosewood that is 2x2 and a hair over 1/4" thick.

First, I use a compass to mark my circle which I will cut on my bandsaw. The before and after are shown in these two pictures.

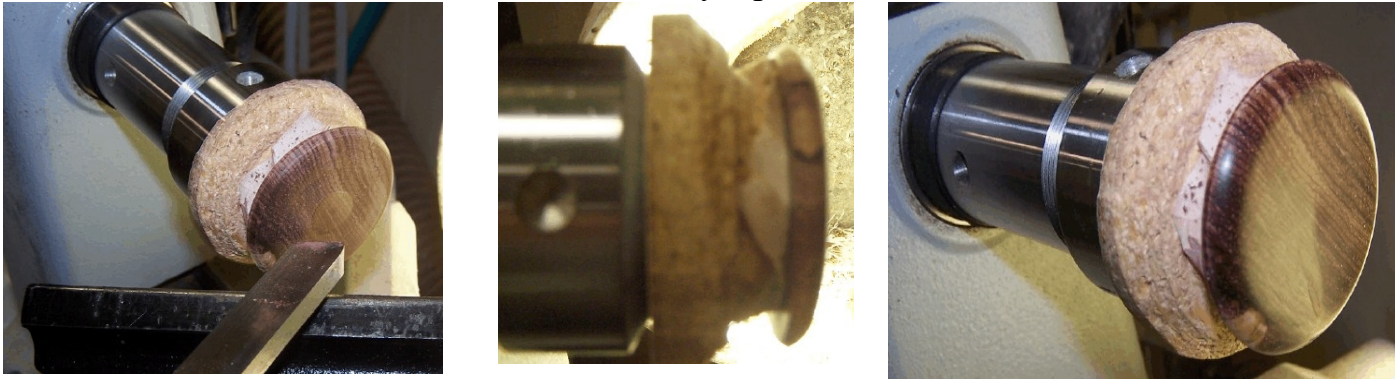


Next I mount the blank to my backer board using turner's tape. Now this is thicker and stronger than

carpet tape. In these next four pictures you can see how I mount the blank. First I put two pieces of turners tape on the backer board. The blank is then mounted. The last two pictures show the blank from the front and back. Notice that the backer is not as big as the blank. This is so I can round the back of the pendant so as to not have any sharp edges. Also notice I brought my tail stock up while rounding the blank. I used a scrap piece of wood to go between the blank and the tail stock.



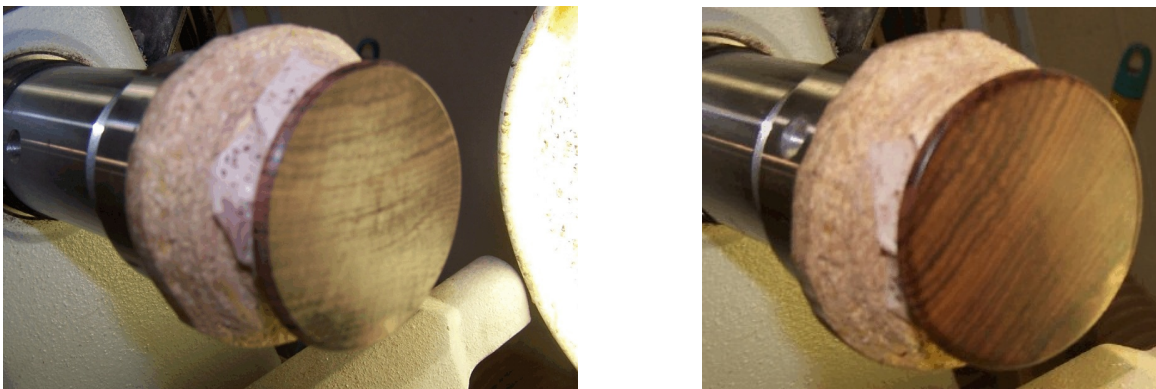
With the lathe set to a medium speed for the whole project, I first round the blank. Then I round the back edge. You can use whatever tool you feel most comfortable with. I use a roughing gouge to make this pendant. But you might like a scraper or a bowl gouge better. Then I remove the tail stock so I can get to the front of the blank. Here is a picture of the blank being rounded. Next is a picture that shows the back side is rounded too. Finally a picture of the face after it has been sanded.



Once I get the face round, I then sand the face and the edge using 220, 400 and 1500 grit dry paper. The picture to the right above is after 1500 grit.

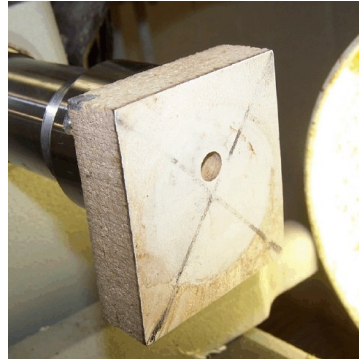
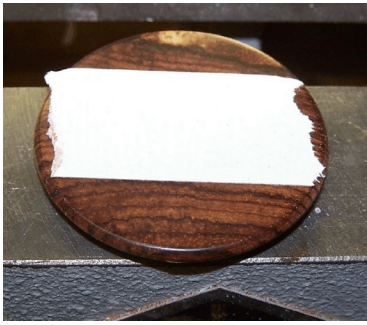
Now, I flip the piece over and sand the back. Then I apply my CA finish to the back and sand it out using Micro Mesh. At this point I do not have the lathe powered during the sanding. And I DO NOT turn the lathe on while applying the CA finish. More on how I put on the finish during the final steps.

Here are some pictures of the blank flipped over and then sanded with the finish applied and buffed out. Depending on how well the blank comes off, you may need another piece of turners tape. I would only use one at this point.





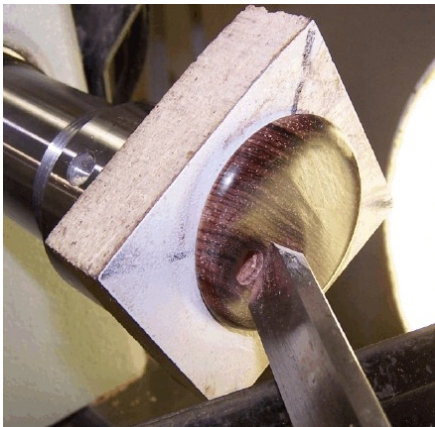
Now, I apply another piece of tape to the back of the blank and mount it to my second jig that will allow me to drill the hole for the string. Now, this second jig is made much like the first, Melamine with a 3/8" dowel. However, this time the dowel is not put in the center of the backerboard (jig) but rather up about 3/8" from the center (note the 2<sup>nd</sup> picture has the dowel just above the cross hairs. This allows the eccentric spinning needed for the string hole. When I mount the blank I try to center it on the cross hairs of the face of the jig.



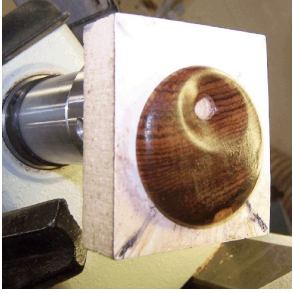
Next, I install a drill chuck in my tail stock. This allows me to drill a nice hole for the string to go through. I use a 5/16" bit. Depending on the size you want the hole, you might want one larger or smaller. Below are pictures of the bit installed in the chuck and the blank spinning. Notice the darker portion in the middle of the blank. This is where you will be drilling. The last pictures show the blank being drilled and the blank with the hole.



Now, I again turn to my gouge and I widen or soften, however you want to look at it, the hole. So that it flows better. Notice in the first picture my gouge is almost on it's edge. I think this keeps me from catching the wood as it spins. The second picture is the hole after it has been turned and sanded to 1500 grit.



Now, once I get the hole widened, I start finishing the piece. First I sand again 220, 400 and 1500 grit. This time I try to soften any hard edges where the hole starts. I do this with the lathe on, then I sand with the grain with the lathe off after each grit. Next I apply my finish. I like the look that a CA finish gives. I apply this using a folded paper towel. With the lathe OFF, I put a small puddle on my towel, about the size of a pea. Then I wipe the CA on the piece in a circular motion. Making sure I hit the outside edges. I usually put about 4 coats of Medium CA.



This is a picture of the CA applied but not buffed out.

Next, I buff out the finish using dry Micro Mesh. I go through all the grits to 12000. Here is a picture of the piece after it has gone through the micro mesh.



Finally, I use the Beall Wood Buff System on it. Using either just the first two or all three wheels (the carnauba wax is what I sometimes leave off). I think this adds to the shine of the piece and gives it a final pop. Here is a picture of the piece finished.



Thanks for reading the tutorial. I hope you will have fun with trying this out and I look forward to seeing your work in the future.

Hans

Inspired and adapted from Nick Arnall

<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp?p=594>

[www.pensbyhans.com](http://www.pensbyhans.com) All rights reserved for original content.  
All text and pictures may be reproduced but not sold.

6/30/09