

Turning Eggs

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Introduction

You can do this fun project on a mini lathe using typical turning tools. It is a great skill builder for using a skew!

Design

I like to make these eggs from bits of highly figured or spalted wood that might otherwise be thrown out. Eggs come in different sizes in nature so why should yours be any different! Dye, paint, texture or burn.

Wood

This project will require a piece of wood approximately 2" X 2" X 3 3/4" to yield an egg about 1 5/8" X 2 3/8". I find that scraps of green wood from cutting bowl blanks work great and generally have little cracking. Use a glue block for exotics to use smaller pieces.

Tools

- Four jaw chuck
- Skew
- Spindle gouge
- Egg template at end of this H.O.
- Small tool rest
- Spindle Roughing Gouge
- Optional embellishing tools: chatter tool, texturing tool or burn wire. Felt tip pens for coloring.

Steps

1. Mark centers on each end of the blank and mount between centers. Rough a cylinder with spindle roughing gouge and add a 1/4" tenon appropriate for your chuck jaws. A peeling cut with your skew works great.
2. Use the tenon to mount the rouged round blank in your chuck. Use a pencil to draw a line 1/8" from the end on the tail stock side to be able to turn away the mark from the live center. Then use the egg template to mark off the length of the egg approximately 2 3/8". My preference is to turn large end first on tailstock side.
3. Turn the egg using tailstock for support as long as possible. Mark the largest diameter with pencil. Use my template to get the right shape for the fat end.
4. After the large end is turned, sand any area to be textured before removing much wood on the smaller side. Chatter the big end if desired. Color the texturing with felt markers if desired. Start shaping the smaller end, but keep the supporting tenon at least 5/8" thick to support sanding and finishing. Sand through the various grits. I like to use an abrasive paste like Yorkshire Grit to polish the wood at this point if I

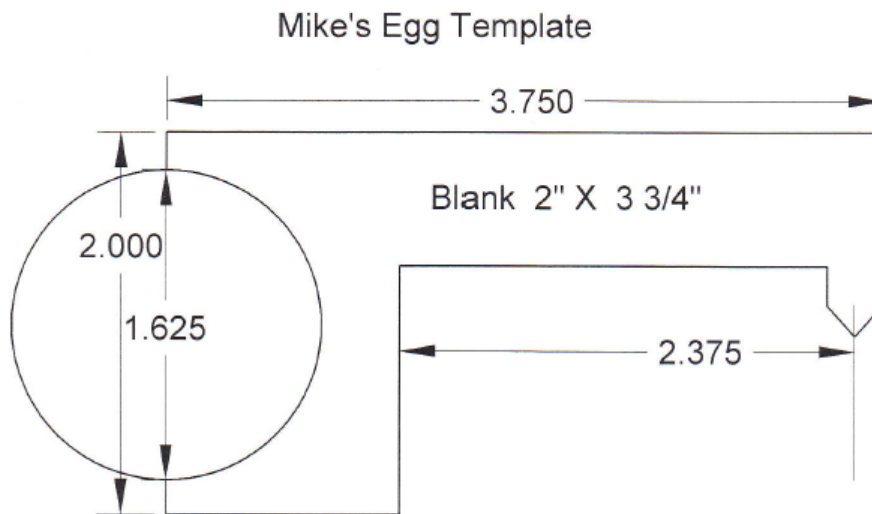
haven't textured. You can use a shellac based friction polish like Mylands at this point if you like.

5. Continue shaping the small end by reducing the tenon to about 1/4" before final sanding the small end.
6. Support the egg with your left hand as you part off the egg with a skew being very careful to cut away from the egg to prevent tear out. Use a fine tooth saw to part off if you prefer.
7. Finish sanding any bump left on the small end. Use a foam back sanding disk chucked in a drill or mounted on your lathe if you like.

Finish

Hand friction on some more friction polish to finish the very end. Other finishing options include Antique Oil, dying, staining, ebonizing, or liming wax.

Copy this template to some 1/4" plywood or hardboard and cut out with a scroll saw. Use the outside of the template to check the size of the rough blank. Use the inside to mark the length of the egg. Use the round end to check the shape of the fat end of the egg.



Use outside dimensions when marking and cutting rough blanks 2" X 2" X 3 3/4".

Finished egg should be approx. 1 5/8" X 2 3/8"