



Glue Block Basics By Capt. Eddie Castelin

As demonstrated by Joel Blazek at recent meetings, a glue block is a great way to hold a piece for turning. It makes for an efficient attachment, saves wood and allows for some unique turning possibilities.

Let's start with the basics, find a piece of hardwood stock which is very dry and not checked or cracked. Put it between centers and turn it round. Put a tendon on one end suitable for placing in your chuck of choice.

Now, put it in your chuck and retrue the piece and, if length allows, put a tendon on the other end. This gets you another ready for dressing. Part off enough to leave a 2" block in the lathe. (if you need more for a special purpose, do so.)

Now dress up the face of the block with a very sharp gouge. You don't want it flat, you want a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ " flat edge with a slightly concave center. (see photo)

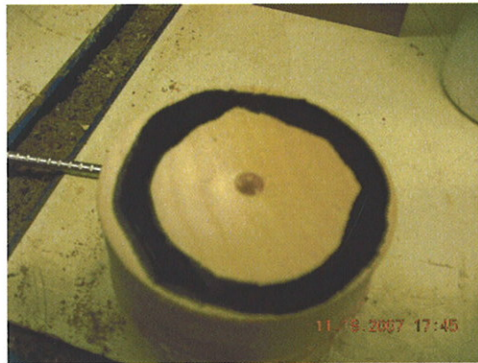


Using your hand drill, put a $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole in the dead center all the way through the block. Go slow, it must be dead center.

Now you have a block worthy of gluing. Get out your work piece and mark the center of where you want to mount the mark. Now using a piece of wire (I use a piece of ceiling support wire from the construction industry) put the wire through the center of the block and line it up with the mark. Do a dry fit and see if it's laying flat on the piece. (photo)



Now you are ready for gluing. Apply a ring of medium thick CA (superglue) to the flat edge of the block. No need to cover the entire block with glue, don't waste it.



Spray the work piece with a good shot or two of accelerant. Don't have the glue block near the accelerant, it will impact the holding power of the block.

Using your alignment tool (wire) find the center, drop the block and press it in place.



You are now ready to turn the piece. I wait enough time to put my alignment tool, glue and accelerant in their place. Then I turn.

Thanks to Joel Blazek for demonstrating this technique for The Bayou Woodturners.