



Turning off-centre pendants

Are you looking for unique gift ideas for your friends and family? **John Lucas** shows you how to make interesting off-centre pendants using a veneer stack

This article came about as I needed to turn some small gifts for friends, and I was trying to figure out what to do. They needed to be quick to make, eye catching, and ideally inexpensive. The answer and inspiration came in Nick Arnall's article on Jewellery, which was featured in *Woodturning* magazine last year. I found myself becoming instantly fascinated by the off-set turned pendants which he made and decided to try them myself using a

few different variations of my own thinking. They looked like they would fit the bill, but rather than copy them directly I decided to add my own touch. I used a chuck and removed two jaws so that I could shift the turning both up and down and out; this left the pendants thick on one end as well as off-centre.

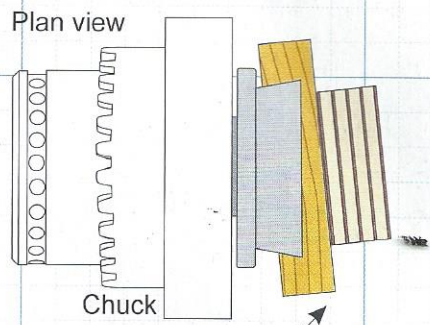
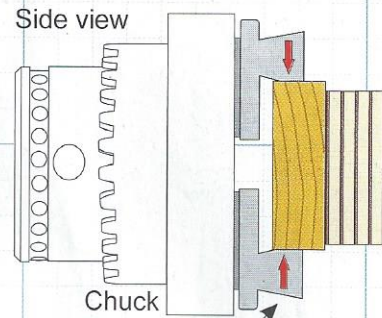
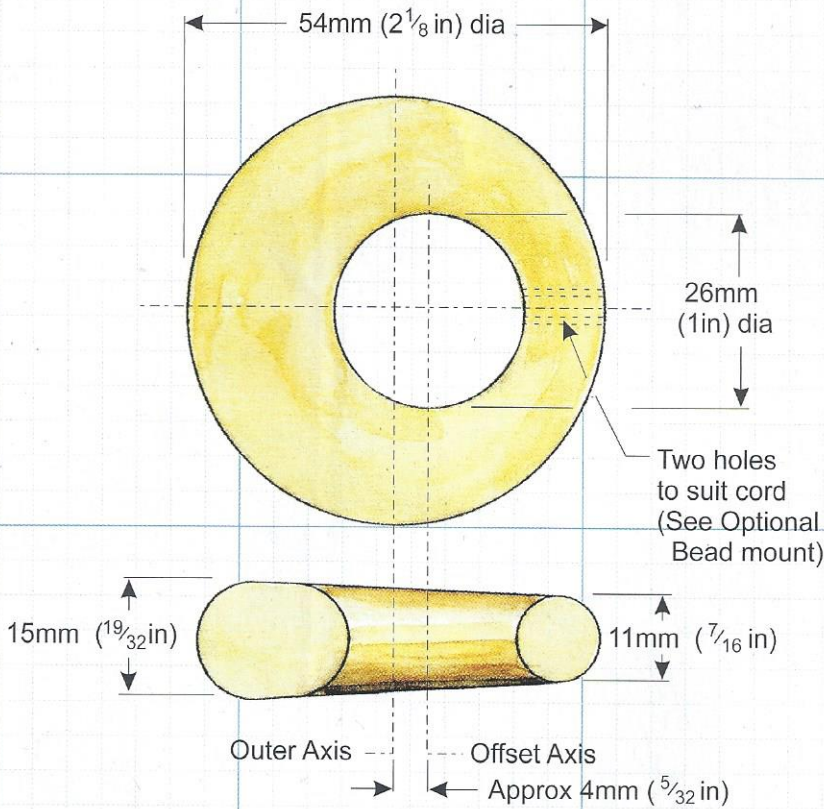
I have made pendants from at least a dozen different woods. I think just about any wood will work for this project, so use your imagination! In

the article I use purpleheart and pine for my veneer stack, as they were the timbers I had spare. Some of the other timbers I have used include, purpleheart and yellow heart veneer, oak, walnut, maple, and bamboo.

TOOLS USED

10mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) bowl gouge with the wings ground back a little further than normal, 10mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) detail gouge and a four-jaw self centering chuck with two jaws removed – I used a Vicmarc 100 chuck

OFF-CENTRE PENDANT DIMENSIONS



Optional Centre Bead:

This component is designed to provide an alternative method of stringing a Pendant.

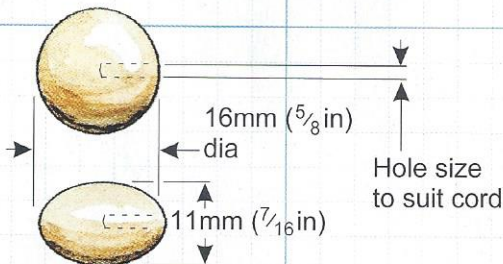


Fig 1. Drill two holes to accommodate the cord or thong.

Then pass the stringing through the, tie off, and glue (super glue would be ideal), the knot & the two tails* that will go inside the Bead.

* Ensure the tails are straight

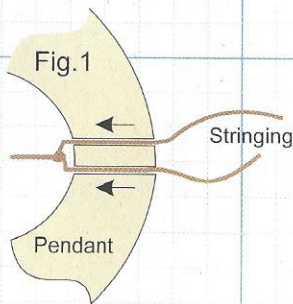
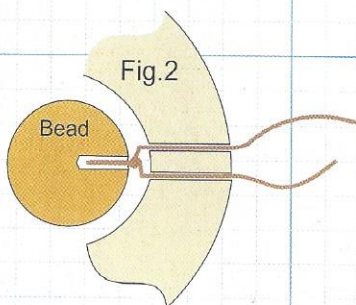


Fig 2. When dry apply glue to the hole in the Bead, and slide over the tails.

If using a leather cord, miss out the knot.



ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS

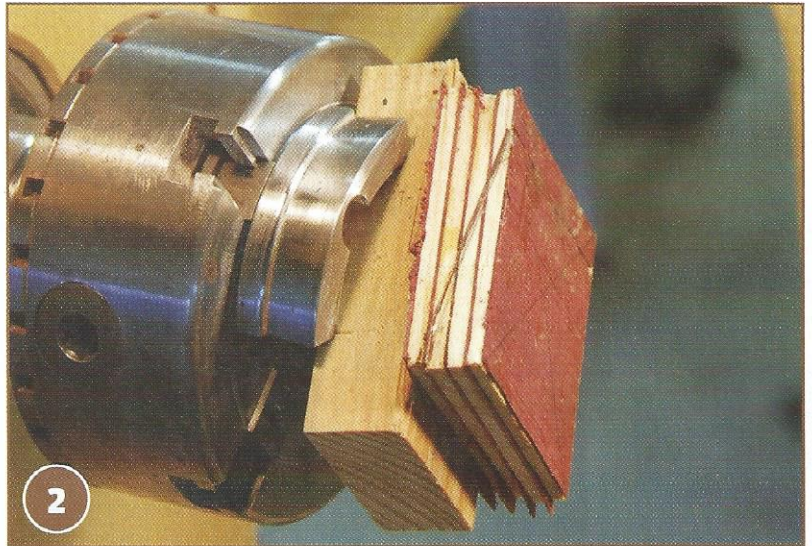
These pendants came out great but I decided to see what would happen if I inserted other wood or turnings into the hole in the centre of the pendant. My favourite so far is a mix of clear resin with gold leaf stirred into it. See next month's 'Fundamental' series where John Lovatt will be reviewing a number of off-centre turning methods

Handy Hints

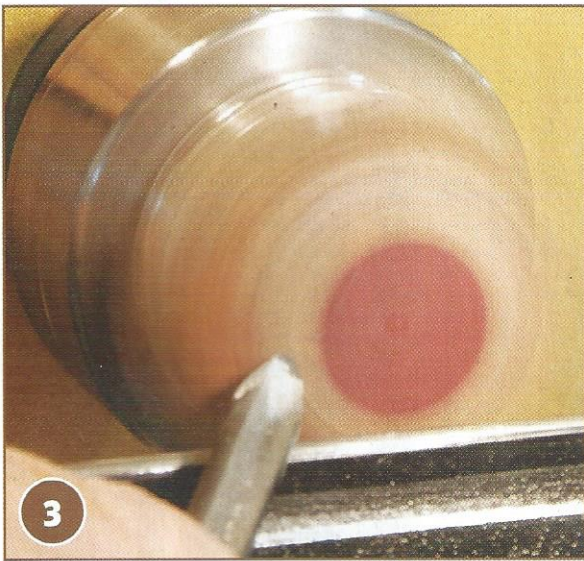
1. Turn the speed of the lathe up for this project
2. I normally don't run the lathe very fast, but an interrupted cut like off-set turning requires a higher speed on the lathe which will reduce the bounce of the tool
3. When rubbing the bevel use a light pressure. This also reduces the bounce you get from an interrupted cut.
4. If you do not like working with two jaws removed, create a block with a dovetailed back. Fit in the four jaws and plane the front to a canted angle of your choice, then use hot melt glue to position and reposition the laminate block as necessary



1 Firstly, make your own plywood by gluing stacks of veneer together, as shown here



2 Then, glue the veneer to the waste block using cyanoacrylate glue along with an accelerator. Using the accelerator makes the glue joint brittle, allowing you to easily break it later. Draw a line at an angle from the outside toward the bottom of the veneer stack, then mount the turning in the lathe and ensure that the block is centered correctly. Pull one end out of the jaws until the drawn line is parallel to the jaws of the lathe



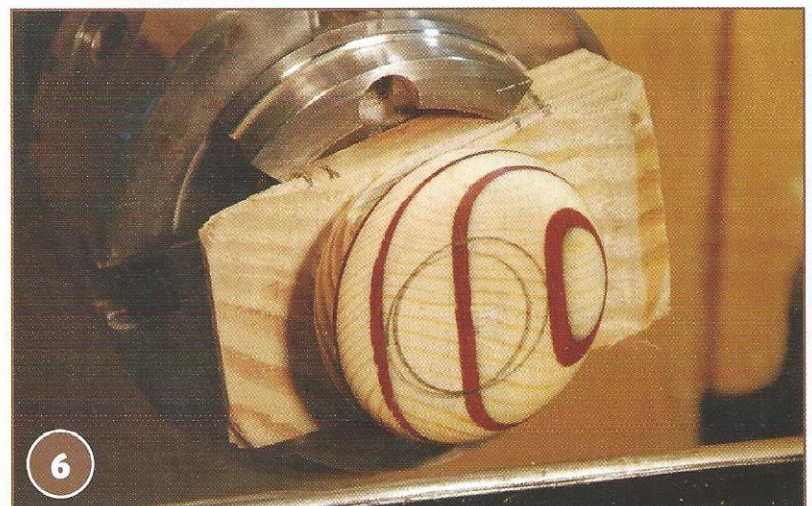
3 Next, face off the piece until you achieve a wedge shape, as desired



4 You then need to turn the outside and round over the outer edge



5 When turning, try to make the apex of the outer radius the same as the thin point of the pendant edge



6 Now, shift the wood in the chuck, keeping the outer face parallel to the chuck jaws. Draw a test circle with a pencil to see if the off-centre circle is where you want it, if not shift the piece and draw another circle.

SKILLS & PROJECTS

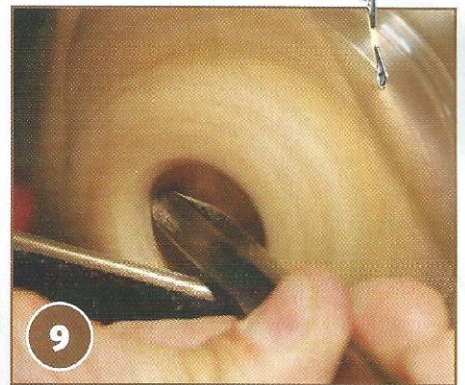
Off-centre pendants



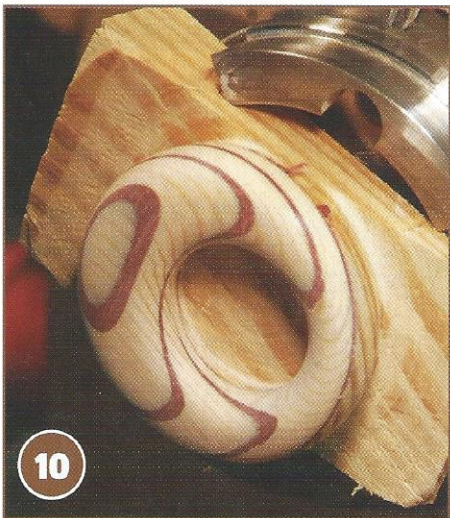
When you have it positioned correctly, hollow the inside using a bowl gouge



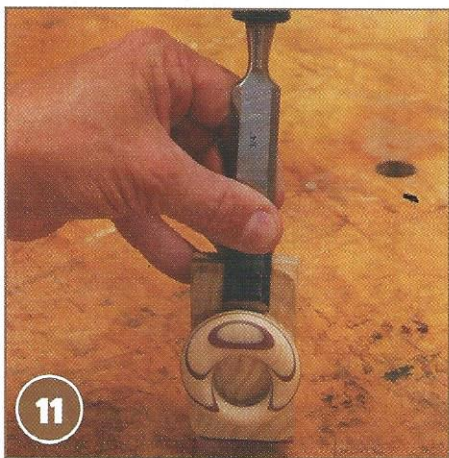
After hollowing, clean up the shape using the bowl gouge in a shear scrape position, cutting with the bottom lip of the gouge



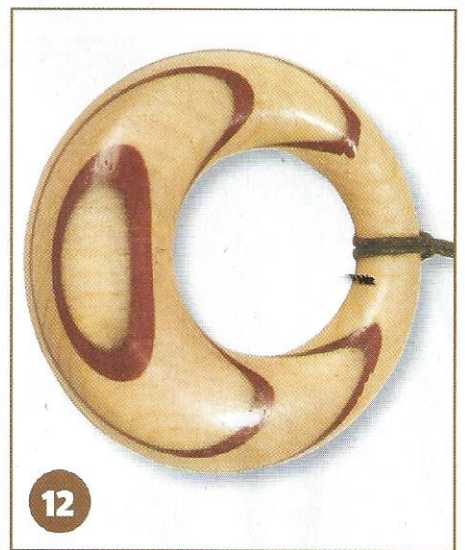
I think the pendants look better with the inner ring undercut, like a doughnut. You can do this with a detail spindle gouge



The finished and sanded piece waiting to be cut from the waste block



Separate the pendant from the waste block using a chisel and a sharp, quick, blow from the mallet. This breaks the fragile glue joint without damaging the pendant

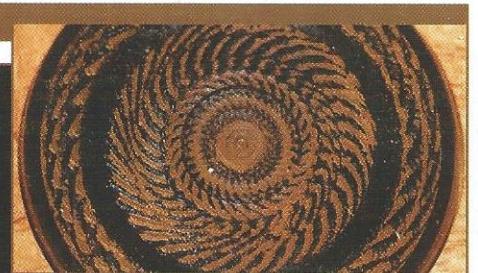


Here is the finished pendant

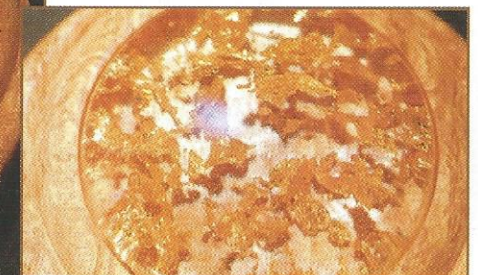
GOLD LEAF PENDANT



A pair of pendants, one gold leaf and the other ebony with gold wax



Oak with an ebony insert with chatterwork and then gold wax rubbed into the chatterwork



An oak pendant with gold leaf stirred into clear epoxy

DETAILS

Email: johnclucas@charter.net