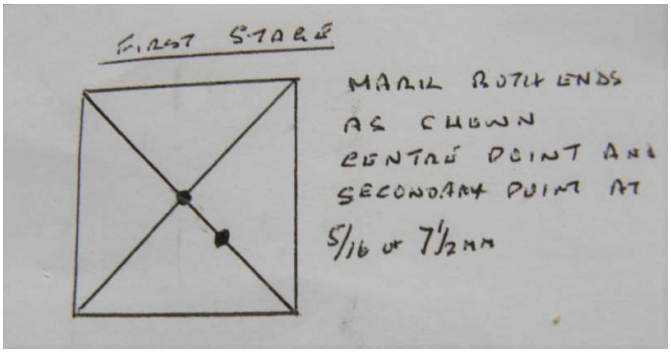
EGG TIMER

DESIGNED BY DON SMITH

What will be needed to make a Egg Timer.
Wood Square section or round as long as it will give you a finished diameter of 1 1/8 inches (32 mm) by 5 ½ inches long (140 mm). One 9/16 inch drill (15 mm) two pieces of scrap wood to make two Jam Chucks, your Egg Timer and a depth gauge. You will also need to make a marking jig.

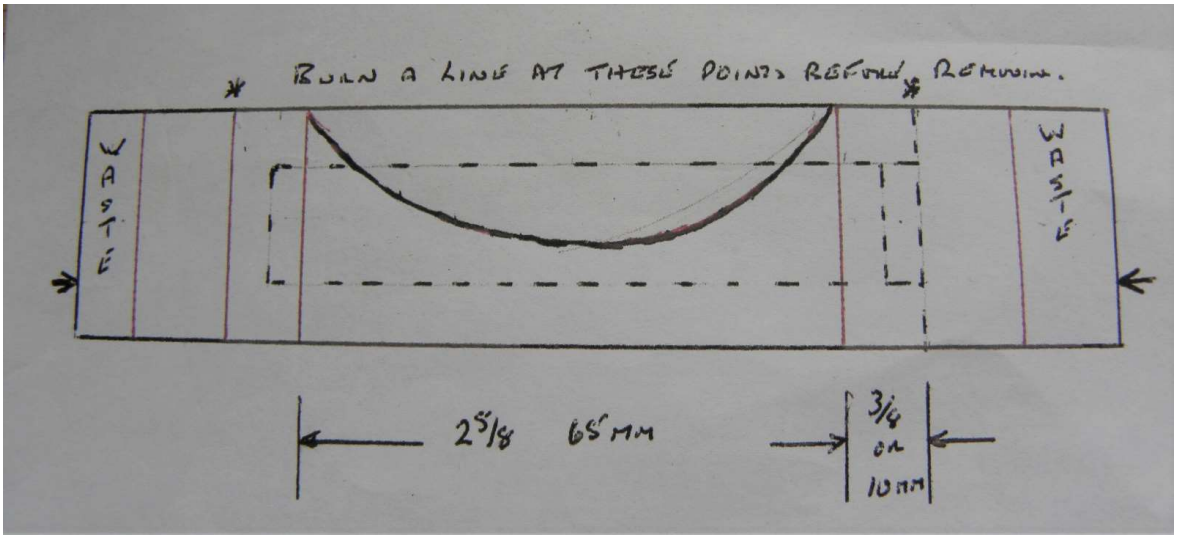
First Stage

At each end find the centre place in on your lathe between centres and turn a spigot on each end that suits your chucking system. Before removing the piece from the lathe draw a line from one end to the other this line is very important.

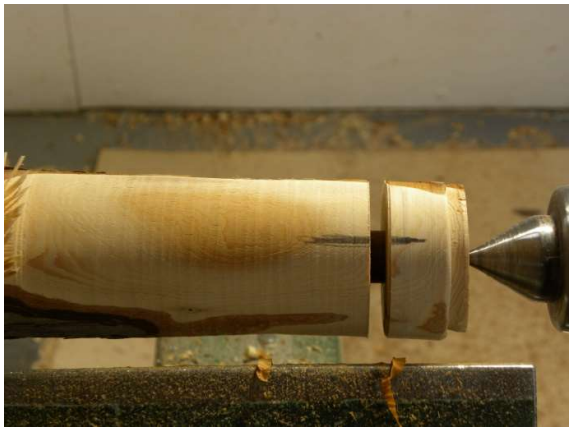


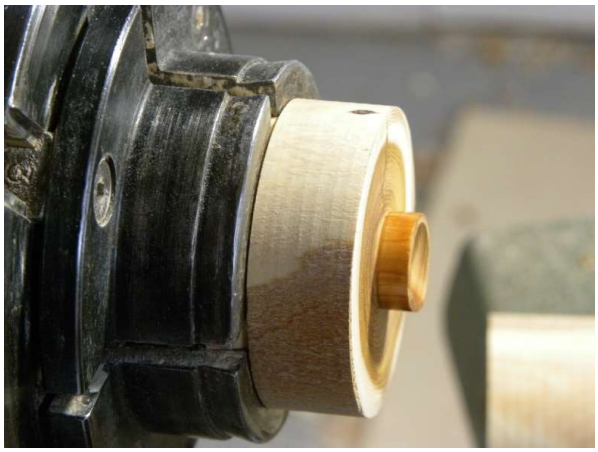
On each end draw a diagonal line from the centre point to the line that you drew on the length and do the same on the other end. Now mark on both ends another point 5/16 (7.5 mm) this is for your offset turning.

You are now ready to start turning attach your wood to the lathe using your chuck, centre it up by bringing the Tailstock up and tighten the chuck.
You will now need your marking jig to define the parting off point for you lid. Sketch below shows you the dimensions.



The first part of the operation is to part off the lid from the tailstock end. When you start take your parting off recess to a spigot diameter of 9/16 (15 mm) then part off leaving a small part of the spigot on the lid. You now need to drill the hole in the main body to a depth of 3 1/8 (80 mm) check the depth with your depth gauge if too deep reduce it or if not deep enough drill it a bit deeper.

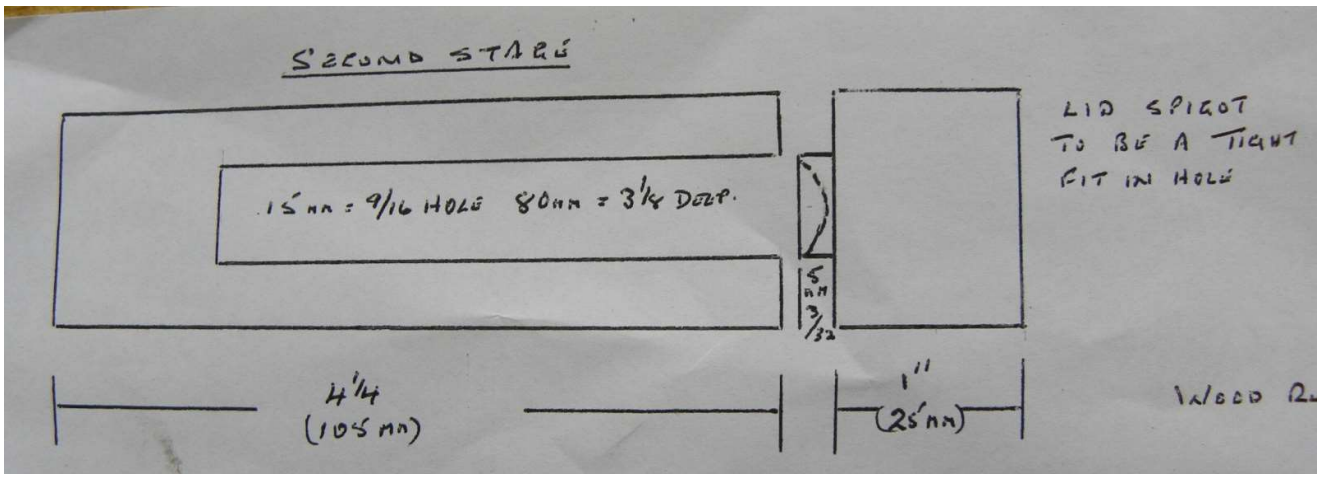




Remove the body from the lathe and attach the lid on to your chuck. You now need to turn the spigot to a depth of 3/32 inches (5 mm) so that you have a tight fit on to the body.(Note the dimple in the end of the spigot). Now this is again where the line you drew on the length comes into play. Line this line up before continuing to the next stage.

Once you have lined the lid up to the body using the line along the length remove from the chuck and put between centres on the centre point and reduce the whole piece down to 1 1/8 inches or (30 mm).

Lightly sand and then using the marking line marked burn line on the jig to the dividing line between the body and the lid mark your two starting points for your profile.

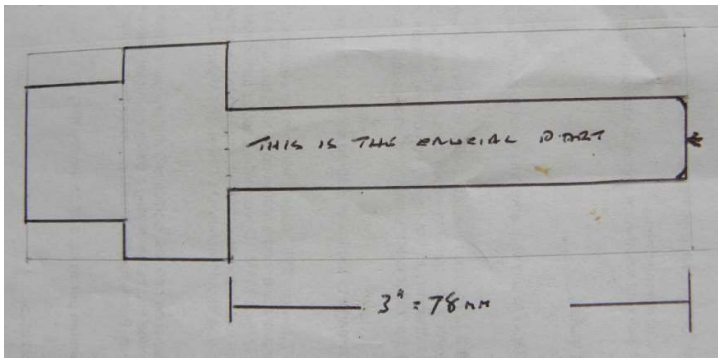


Now taking the piece realign it on the lathe using the offset points start turning from the centre your concave shape you will get a shadow just follow this until you are just half way of the full diameter ie: - 9/16 (15 mm). Once you are satisfied with the shape gently sand and remove any strands from the inside of the opening apply sander sealer to the inside and the curves dry and polish taking care as it is still running out of true. I turn this part at about 1100 revs.

Remove and place it back between centres on the centre point. Pick up your marking jig and mark the burn lines and the length of the piece ready for the next operation.

Before removing it from the lathe for the next operation I turn at each end on the finished size lines a small recess using my parting tool. It is then sanded and a coat of sander sealer applied and allowed to dry.

It is now time to make your first jam chuck which will enable you to turn off the waste on the main body.



Place a piece of scrap wood in to your chuck and turn the shape as seen in the drawing the spigot is 9/16 (15 mm) so that when you place your body on to it you have a nice friction fit making certain that the body is attached to the chuck right through the hole to the solid end. Bring the tailstock up and carefully turn off the waste.

Once the waste has been removed sand the end and add sander sealer, dry and polish.

To enable you o remove the Waste from the lid you will need another piece of scrap wood to make another jam chuck the photo shows mine.
I used 1 1/5 inch round and 2 1/5 inches long placed between centres and turned a spigot. Remounted on the lathe in the chuck and turned a spindle about ¾ of its length drilled a 9/16 (15 mm) hole just deep enough to take the spigot on the lid again a friction fit.
For safety sake I also brought up the tailstock as a steady and proceeded to remove the waste material as I did on the main body.

It is now time to check that the Glass Egg Timer goes into the body and the lid fits perfectly with just a small amount of movement on the glass tube moving up and down about a millimetre.
When satisfied that everything is OK I remove the glass tube and using my buffing system I polish both body and lid.
I use three buffing wheels the first one is with a Brown Compound the second is to apply Carnauba Wax and the third is just a pure buffing mop.

The last two photos show the third stage buffing wheel and the finished article.
The wood that was used in this project was English Yew.

Written and Photographed by Don Smith Woodturner and restorer UK.