

Sally Ault [sallyault@cox.net](mailto:sallyault@cox.net) [www.sallyault.com](http://www.sallyault.com)

## Turning wooden elements for jewelry

### Shapes

Rings  
Donuts  
Beads  
Twigs

### Wood selection

Use dry wood only.

Rings- straight, tight grain.

Beads-any kind of wood if hole is in stable part of wood.

Can be textured, colored, filled

Burls, cracked wood, etc.

Donut- any sort of wood. It is best if the hole is in stable wood.

Good use for burl, use interesting grain, texture, color

Can fill cracks with resin or crushed stone

A 6" Length of wood is about the max for stability in any turned element.

Twigs - Look for shape and size. Wood should be dry and stable.

### Tool Selection

Small and medium gouges...bowl or spindle.

Large and small skew

Spindle roughing gouge

Mini-parting tool

Thin parting tool

Kip Christianson parting tool (Henry Taylor)

#### Specialty tools

Point tool

Texturing tools

Sorby

Elf

Wagner

Ring making tool

Hook tools

## Chucks

Chuck jaws small enough to hold a pen blank with tenon

Chuck with 2' (or smaller) jaws

Jacobs chuck

## Other tools

Drill bits

Forstner drills

Calipers

Ruler

Bamboo skewers

Sandpaper

Sanding pads

Sanding sticks

Rotary tool and bits

## Turning Beads

Pen blanks are great for small beads or use anything you have.

Turn between centers to create a tenon.

Secure tenon into chuck...use Tail stock to begin.

Don't try to use a piece much longer than 4"...it will be unstable since you are holding it in a small tenon.

Mark length of bead and turn shape on TS side.

Remove some wood on HS side for clearance but leave enough wood for strength.

Remove TS and drill hole past planned HS end of bead.

Sand turned section.

Replace TS...use cone point in hole for support.

Turn and sand rest of bead leaving enough wood around hole on HS side for support.

Texture if desired.

Use sanding sealer if needed.

Put finish on whole bead as far as possible.

Cut away more wood on HS end to give room to cut away bead.

Back off TS and use skewer in Jacobs chuck to hold bead.

Use skew to cut bead off as cleanly as possible. Catch bead on skewer.

## Turning Donuts

Use any sort of wood in any orientation.

Start between centers.

Rough to cylinder and create tenon

Put in chuck.

Create shape on the TS side.

Cut away thickness on HS side to make room for cut but leave some support wood.

Sand TS side. Use sanding sealer if needed to stabilize the fibers.

You can create the hole now or later. Use a drill for a small hole or use a spindle gouge to make a larger hole.

Hole size is determined by design. Larger hole for cord...smaller hole for using wire.

If you want a large off center hole, lock spindle and use a Forstner bit to drill making sure the center of the piece is within the hole. Do the drilling now before cutting HS side.

If making a small hole, you wait until after you have cut the second side but now is easier.

Cut the HS side taking care to duplicate the TS side shape (if desired). Leave enough wood to support it while drilling if you haven't already made the hole.

Sand and finish. Use a sanding stick to help sand this side.

Cut off using skewer in Jacobs check to catch it.

If you made an off center hole, cut off very carefully using very high speed and a sharp small skew.

## Turning Rings

Pick proper wood...put blank between centers, round to cylinder and create a tenon.

Secure in chuck and true up.

Mark ring width...use a skew, point tool or bead tool to mark size.

Cut wood away on HS side to create clearance.

Use beading tool, skew, captured ring tool or spindle gouge to shape ring.

Use ring tool or hook tool to undercut from both sides...don't go all the way though yet.

Use sanding sealer if needed to strengthen the wood fibers.

Sand and finish as much of the ring as possible.

Cut loose using either the ring tool or a mini-parting tool

If you are careful you should be able to get 2 rings and a bead out of each section.

## Sanding

Beads and donuts

Use sanding pad with 240 grit paper in a Jacobs chuck and the skewer. Use the skewer to hold the bead and allow it to spin against the sandpaper.

Move to 320 and then 400 grit papers.

Put finish on sanded areas.

Buff very carefully

Rings

Use the oscillating spindle sander if available. If not, use a sanding tube in rotary tool.

On the sander, let the ring spin and move it up and down the spindle.

If more sanding is needed use fine PSA sandpaper wrapped around a round pencil or dowel (off the lathe) ...complete finish on sanded areas

Buff very carefully...rings can snap in half if you apply too much force.

## Finishes

Sanding sealer (I like Mylands Sanding Sealer cut 50% with lacquer thinner)

Cyanoacrylate...put on at high speed on the lathe.

Mahoney Walnut oil

Wipe on Poly

EEE (cutting agent, polish and wax in one...U-Beaut Polishes...Australia)

Dr. Kirk's Scratch FrEEE.

Renaissance wax

## Design

Select wood elements and match them to elements in other materials if you wish.

Chose the additional elements to either contrast with or compliment the wood.

Consider the size of the elements...size contrast is good but proportion is very important.

Create negative space to give interest to the piece. Think about the color of the elements and the metal to be use for findings.

## Assembly

Choose cord and/or head pin.

Rattail, braided cord, leather, linen cord, elastic, etc.

Cord size has to be right for the hole size in the beads.

Assemble component using head pins or cord.

Holes may need to be enlarged....use tapered diamond reamer.

Attach cord end findings or tie an attractive knot if cord is to be longer than 24" (to be able to put over head)

## Resources

Michaels

Hobby Lobby

Joanne's

Bead shops (check your local yellow pages)

Craft shops

On-line sources

Rio Grande supply ([www.riogrande.com](http://www.riogrande.com))

Craft Supplies ([www.woodturnerscatalogue.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalogue.com))

Penn State ([www.psiwoodworking.com](http://www.psiwoodworking.com))

Lee Valley ([www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com))

Packard ([www.packardwoodworks.com](http://www.packardwoodworks.com))

Dry Gulch Beads ([www.drygulch.com](http://www.drygulch.com))