

Turning a purse mirror instructions

By Neal DeVore

Select a blank of highly figured or burl wood approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ " wider than mirror size selected. I.e. 2" mirror should be $2\frac{1}{2}$ " or 3" wide and 3" mirror blank should be $3\frac{1}{2}$ " or $3\frac{3}{4}$ " at minimum. Any larger makes the rim look out of proportion. Blank should be $\frac{1}{2}$ " or more in thickness. When first starting, it may be advisable to turn a spindle and part off the desired thickness after turning the face.

If using a single blank, place in jaws of four jaw chuck, with best side facing to the rear. The side accepting the mirror is now faced off with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " spindle gouge. Measure the width of the mirror with dividers, and place them on the rest, slightly above center. Gently touch the face with left leg and mark so right leg matches the mark, but does not touch the wood. Measure after mark is made to check it is correct size of the mirror. Remove wood using a bedan gouge or straight edge scraper slightly more than thickness of mirror. (Approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick) Stop frequently to check depth. Make cut slightly dovetailed at the edge of cut to allow either a jam chuck or expansion of the four jaw chuck jaws when reversed. Make whatever faces decorations desired, such as burn lines, grooves, coves, beads. It's sometimes better to sand first from 120 to 400, so to preserve crisp lines and then light hit again with 320 grit after decoration. Apply friction polish and Renaissance Wax or wipe on poly. This step could wait until after item is completed and hand finished or Beall polished with Deft oil.

Take out of four jaw chuck and either reverse in expansion mode taking care to take small cuts and round edges and apply whatever decorations desired. Sand to 400 and finish as above.

The other method is to place a spindle in chuck, make a tenon to accept the face cutout by carefully sneaking up on size of opening using skew, parting tool or $\frac{3}{8}$ " gouge. Taper the tenon so it just fits the opening and leaves a slight burn mark. Then size rest of tenon and jam fit the blank and finish the back as above. Let finish dry, and place thick CA glue so it does not get to edge-accelerator on mirror and glue in hole. Beveled mirrors 064-6200 2" \$2.75, 064-6300 3" \$2.90, Craft Supply page 92 1 800 551 8876. Project bags 979571 \$.99 page 93

