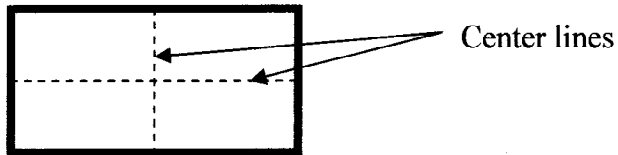


**RE: Off Center/ Oval Bud Vase (by Jake Niedling)**

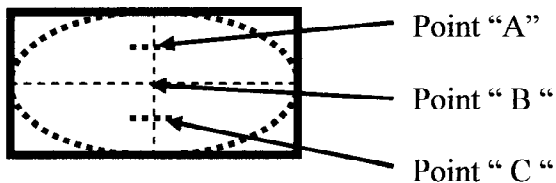
**This turning project incorporates working between centers on your lathe with multiple center points. This will enable you to turn an oval shaped bottom to your bud vase.**

**Select a block for your project size.**

**Carefully measure the center of each end and mark it with centerlines as shown below:**



**Using a compass layout the oval lines on one end of the block. See below for example. Mark the pivot points for the oval lines as this will become your work point on the lathe.**



**You are now ready to mount the block into your lathe. Use a drive center in the headstock and a live center in the tailstock. Mount the bottom end with the oval markings at the tail center end in point "A". Mount the other end ( top of the vase) in the center of the block ( point B ).**

**Safety Note: Adjust tool rest and hand rotate the block of wood to ensure no interference with the tool rest.**

**You are now ready to turn the block. Start the lathe on a low speed. The block will be out of balance. Adjust the speed to where you feel comfortable turning. Somewhere less than 1000 rpm's is where I start.**

**Use what ever tool you feel comfortable with, but I use a large ½" bowl gauge or 1" roughing gauge. Carefully begin cutting the blank from about the center of its length toward the tailstock end. You will be only cutting on half of the block, so you will need to be steady and not force your tool into the wood. Continue taking small amounts of wood off with each pass from the center to the tailstock.**

**Note: Stop the lathe often and check how close you are to the oval line you marked on the bottom of the wood block. You will take more of the end closer to the tailstock at the beginning.**

**When you have reached the oval marking on the bottom of the block, continue turning the side to get it all cleaned up to about the center of the block. Do not remove any more wood near the tailstock. When this side is all cleaned up and turned, remove the tailstock center from point "A " and repeat the process using point "C " in the tailstock. Do not change the headstock, leave it in the center position point "B". You can now remove the tailstock and reposition it in point " B ". This will put both ends on center.**

**Now that both sides matching the oval lines on the bottom of the block. You have 2 options to finish the turning: using a scroll chuck or between centers.**

**Option # 1 Between Centers Method:** You can now turn and shape the neck and top of the vase. You will need to sand before you cut off the piece. Sand the neck and top of your vase using your normal method. When sanding the oval base section, you will need to slow the speed of your lathe down to around 200 rpm. This slow speed will allow you to keep contact with the oval shape of the wood as you sand. Sand to the level of finish you desire. I usually go to 320 grit.

You are now ready to part off the turning near the top of the vase. I suggest you leave a small tennon or stub. Use this stub to locate the center of the top of your vase. Select a drill size that you want for the hole in the top and into the neck of the vase. Drill the hole in a drill press. Sand the bottom by hand or on a disc sander.

**Option # 2 Scroll Chuck Method:** With the piece mounted between centers, turn a tennon on bottom base end of the vase to fit your chuck. Remove vase and remount in the scroll chuck . Use tailstock for added safety and now turn the neck and top of the vase. Sand to 320 grit. Remove tailcenter only. Using a drill chuck in your tailcenter, drill the desired size hole into the top of the vase . Complete any final sanding. I would part off the base of the vase near the scroll chuck. Sand the bottom to complete.

Apply your favorite finish to complete the project.

Now Challenge yourself to make other items using this off center concept like candlesticks or oval box.

If you have questions, call me at 865-947-2827 or email [jakej@frontiernet.net](mailto:jakej@frontiernet.net).

Jake Niedling

March 31, 2010 Cumberland Woodturner's Demo