



Turn a Femisphere

Those of you who visit the World of Woodturners (WOW) website at My Family.com have no doubt seen Peter Rand's femisphere. It's a clever manipulation of a turning into a piece that sort of looks like a turning, but yet couldn't be turned in it's final configuration.

To turn a femisphere, start with a piece of wood that is basically a cube (Fig 1). If you start with a solid piece of wood you'll cut it in half after it's turned to glue it back together as a femisphere. I took 2 pieces of wood and fastened them with doublesided tape to form the cubic starting piece. Turn this to a cylinder and mark the centerline (Fig 2). This cylinder is then turned to a shape like that shown in Fig 3 and sanded. The curve needs to be smooth and symmetrical. The diameter of the piece must be the same as the length from point to point.

If you used a solid piece of wood, cut it in half lengthwise thru the points, flatten both flat sides on a disk sander or piece of sandpaper on a flat surface. Or separate the two pieces taped together. Rotate one of the pieces 90 degrees and glue and clamp the two pieces together as shown in Fig 4. The edges may not line up exactly, but once dry the discontinuities can be sanded away and the curves blended together. Apply the finish of your choice.

I understand they are called femispheres because if the curved surface is placed on a sphere, the femisphere will roll continually around the sphere, whatever that means! But these little guys do roll nicely on a flat surface, but not in a straight line! Try one. They are addicting. Then try one with 6 sides like the "hexasphere" shown in Fig 6.

Lowell Converse

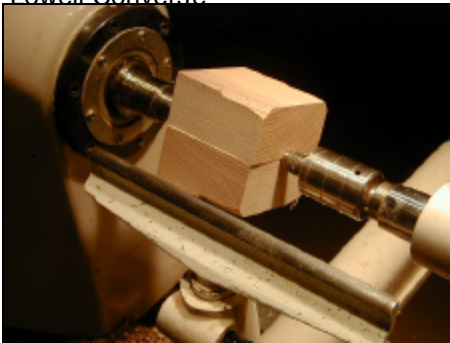


Figure 1

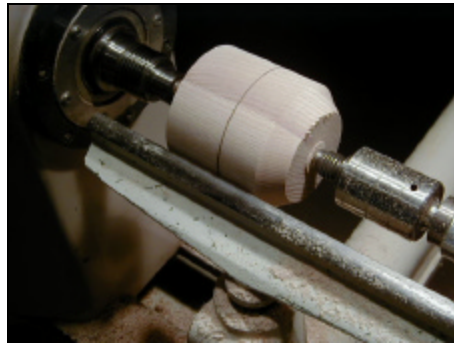


Figure 2

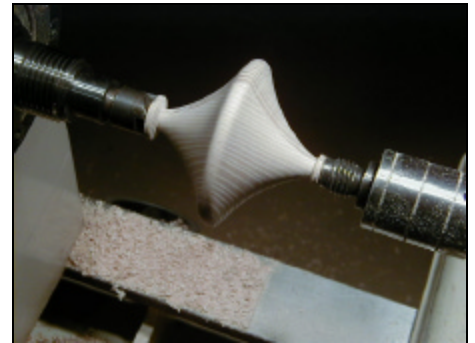


Figure 3

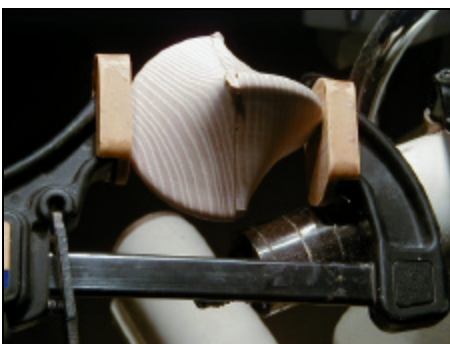


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6