

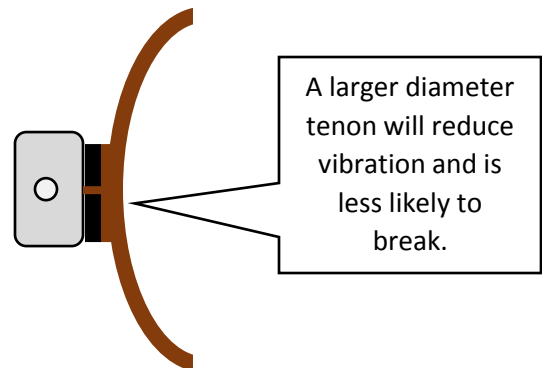
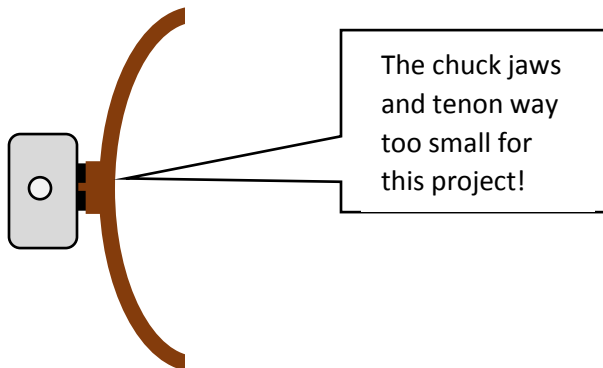
Turning a Safe and Effective Tenon

By: Don Geiger

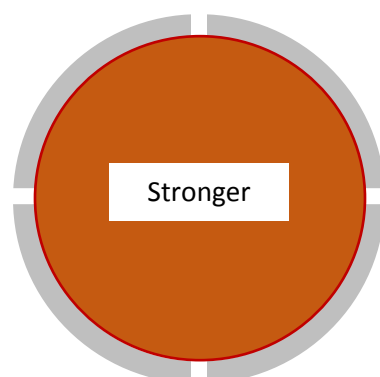
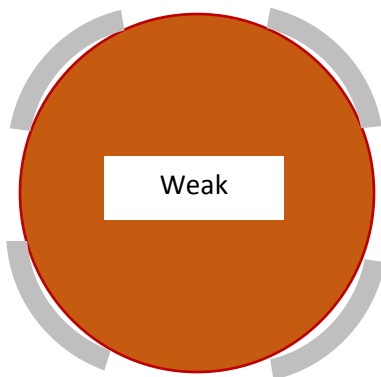
Although most demonstrators and teachers emphasize how to turn a safe and effective tenon, many turners still lose pieces off their lathe due to poorly turned tenons.

Below are five (5) common mistakes with suggestions on how to improve the odds in your favor.

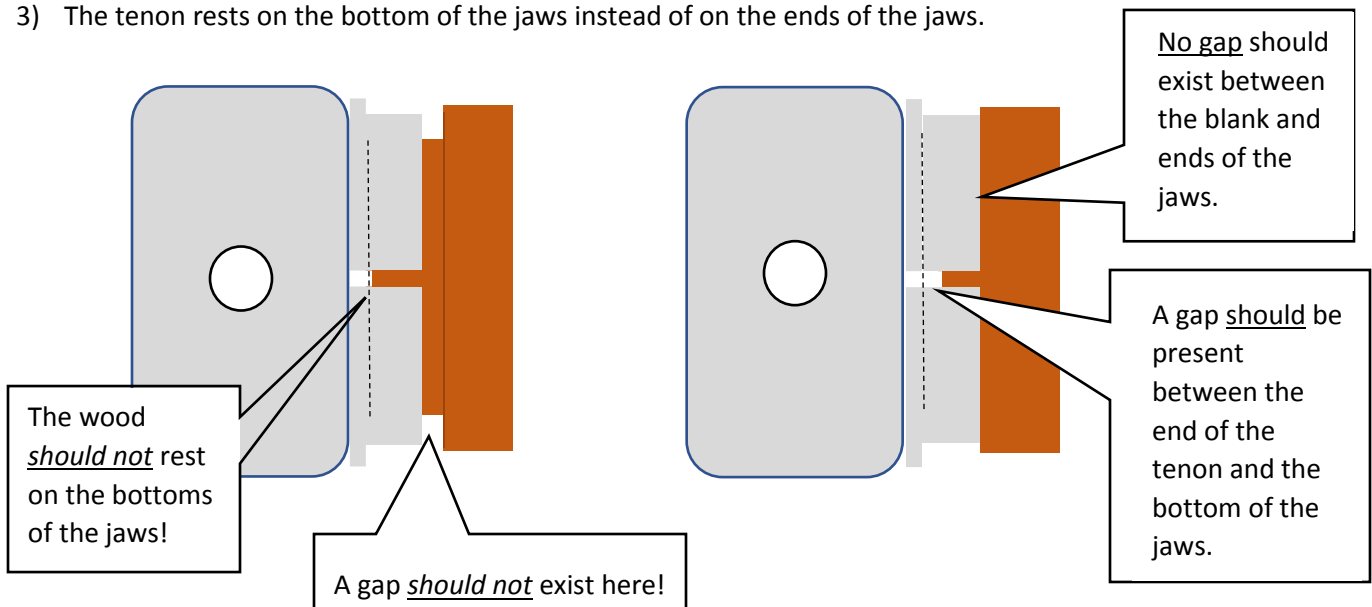
- 1) The diameter of the chuck jaws and tenon way too small for the project.



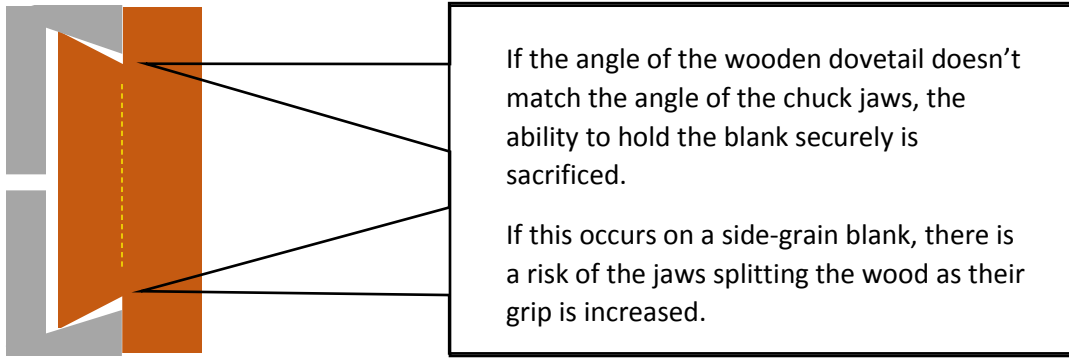
- 2) The turner produces a tenon too large in diameter to be safely held in the chuck jaws.



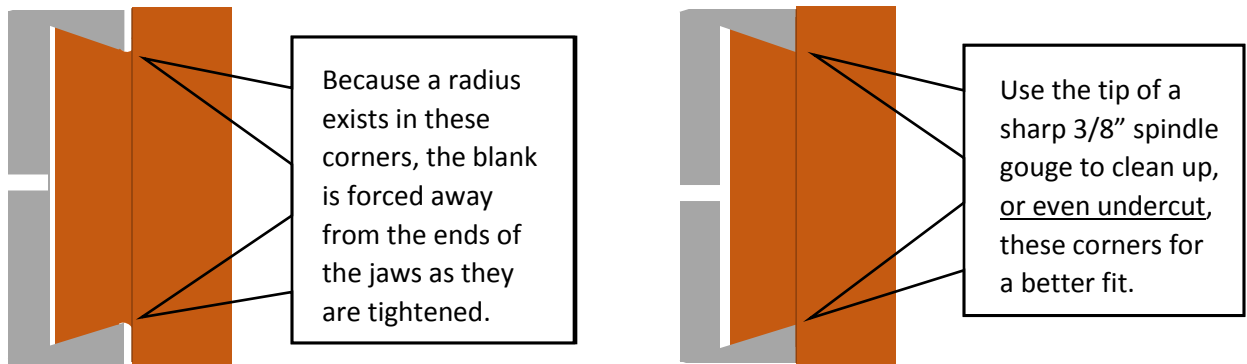
- 3) The tenon rests on the bottom of the jaws instead of on the ends of the jaws.



4) The angle of the wooden dovetail doesn't match the angle of the jaws.



5) A radius exists in the corner (indicated below) causing the blank to be pushed away from the ends of the jaws as they are tightened creating an unwanted gap between the blank and the ends of the jaws.



In summary; an *ideal tenon* should have the following features:

