

Hands-On Woodturners

With
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Necklace/Earring
Pendants

I was going to give directions for how to make a set of soft jaws for a Nova chuck but after taking pictures and thinking about it, the process would take up too long. So I will just give the hard part. I purchased some ¼" spherical magnets from; <https://www.amazingmagnets.com/p-376-s250b.aspx>. They were \$0.75 each, you will need 8 of them. I took the jaws off of my chuck and stuck a magnet to the top of the screw holes then took the stuff I was going to use for soft jaws and forced it onto the chuck with the tailstock (make sure to center the stock.) The magnets left indents that were visible and I used these marks to drill ¼" holes through the soon to be soft jaws. Drill through the center at this time also. I then put my pen mill into the drill press and used the it to recess the holes to accept the screw heads. The recess should allow only 4 to 5 mm of the screw to come through the soft jaws. I purchased 8 – 6 mm x 1 mm x 20 mm pan



head screws at Lowes to fasten the jaws to the chuck. You should then mark the blank through the center to be able to cut the soft jaws apart. Put the individual jaws on the chuck, it helps to keep track of where each jaw was originally so that any inaccuracy in the cut is minimized. Put a 1/2" pin in the center of the chuck and tighten the jaws. This is necessary to keep the jaws expanded against the chuck scroll to eliminate slop it also gives some room to close the chuck later if your blank is a little small. Determine what size pendant you want to make and mark the soft jaws with this diameter. Using the parting tool plunge straight in to a depth of about 1/8" then remove the remaining material to the center using a spindle gouge. I then use a 3 point tool to cut dovetail shape about 1/16" on the edge. This dovetail will be used to hold the pendant later.

Turning the pendant

I am going to talk about using a 2 x 2 x 6-inch piece of stock. Put the stock all the way into 50 mm chuck jaws, hold in place with the live center. Then tighten the chuck jaws and mark the tailstock end for a tendon. Once the tendon is cut reverse the piece and tighten the jaws, making sure that the shoulder of the jaws are touching the wood. You can then round off the end of the blank so that it is fully round, no flat spots. Then using a spindle gouge cut the end so

that you wind up with a convex shape. This is done by contacting the outside diameter of the blank with the gouge in a "CLOSED" orientation, make a line on the wood with the gouge then open the gouge about 5 minutes on the notational clock face. If closed is where the top of the flute is at noon then opening 5 minutes will have the top of the flutes pointing at 11 o'clock. Then all you need to do is push the gouge in while rotating your body slightly to get the convex shape, you should have to take 3 or 4 cuts to get all the way to the center. You should notice that you don't need much sanding. Next you will need to use the same technique to shape the outside edge to go into the dove tail you cut on the soft jaws. Start away from the edge and make 3 or 4 cuts to get all the way to the edge then part the end off of the blank.

Turning the back side of the pendant

Put the chuck with the soft jaws on the lathe spindle then put the pendant you just made into the jaws. You should not apply lots of pressure, you are only holding the pendant from turning. Now, starting near the middle start turning a concave shape the parallels the face of the pendant. You will need to make several passes to reduce the thickness to an acceptable thinness. Anything less than 1/8" should be acceptable. Again, not much sanding should be necessary.

Finish with a couple of squirts of clear acrylic or lacquer. When dry you will need to drill a small hole, about 0.040" to accept either a jump ring or clasp. The parts used to make jewelry are called "findings." They can be purchased at Michaels or Hobby Lobby. If you want solid gold be ready with your wallet? The one pictured here is \$8.63 each!



https://www.jewelrysupply.com/14k-Yellow-Gold-15mm-Shepherd-Hook-Ear-Wire-1-Pc_p_23455.html

