

Dennis W. Montville

"I will not live forever. But if I am fortunate enough to be granted a moment to reflect upon my life at my time of passing I hope I can look back and know that what I've learned will not die with me, but will live on in the minds of those I've taught."

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Proper positioning of a segmented turning assembly on the faceplate is critical for a successful piece. Here is a simple procedure for assuring that all of your hard work results in a beautiful piece of artwork.

Positioning may be better word than centering. The reason will be shown later in the presentation.





If this bowl wasn't properly located on lathe it wouldn't be nearly as nice.



Each step builds on the previous one. The process translates the lathe center onto the bench in front of you. Whatever is centered on the rotating

table will be centered on the lathe.



You will need:

•Rotating table

•Pointer

•Can be anything such as a dial indicator stand or a piece of coat hanger in a block of wood

•Faceplate with scrap wood attached with screws







Prepare faceplate:

- •Attach wood with screws
- •True surface
- •Turn concentric rings in surface
- •Draw circle with pencil near outer edge











Make rotating table:

- •Get small lazy-Susan bearing
- •Cut wooden top
 - •Outer diameter larger than largest faceplate
 - •Inner hole larger than faceplate neck
- Attach top to bearing
- Make base if desired







Centering faceplate on rotating table

Remove faceplate from lathe and place backside down on rotating table. The neck of the faceplate must pass through hole in table. Slowly rotate faceplate and observe the pencil drawn circle's movement. If it moves back and forth stop the table and move faceplate to reduce the movement. Repeat as needed until circle rotates without oscillating.





Once faceplate is centered you're ready to locate the segmented assembly on it. Do a dry run first then apply yellow glue and place it on the faceplate. Chose a detail to locate to and use same technique you used to position the faceplate on the rotating table.







Once you have the assembly positioned on the faceplate and glued in place put a weight on top and leave it for at least several hours or over night.



Advantages of this technique

- •Can position asymmetrical pieces
- •Does not rely on lathe to do the work (tailstock)
- •Simple and low cost