

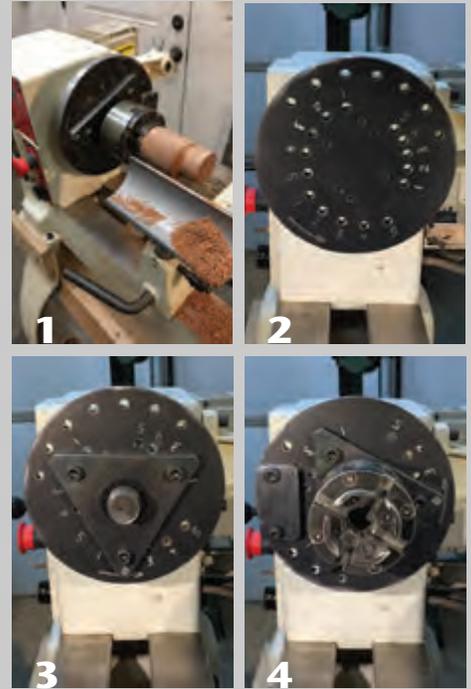
Heavy-duty offset chuck

I have always been fascinated by offset turning. I have explored offset spindle work and made light-duty offset “chucks” using wood and two-sided tape, but I wanted to do more. I realized if I made something that could hold a four-jaw chuck off-center, I could make larger offset pieces. The challenge was to do it safely, in a way that would maintain balance and stability during turning.

I came up with a design that uses a secondary spindle that can be securely positioned in varying degrees away from the lathe spindle (*Photo 1*). Like the primary spindle, this secondary spindle is threaded to accept a four-jaw chuck. Critical to this design is the ability to add counterweights to help balance the offset chuck.

There are four basic components: a steel faceplate threaded onto the lathe’s spindle; a steel baseplate with five sets of three offset, corresponding positioning holes and seven holes along the outside edge for attaching counterbalance weights (*Photo 2*); a secondary threaded spindle screwed and welded to a triangle of ½" - (12mm-) thick steel (*Photo 3*); and counterbalance weights (*Photo 4*). All of these components are bolted together for easy adjustability. Making this jig requires access to and the ability to use metalworking machinery, but the result is the ability to turn larger offset pieces at 700 rpm without vibration. Anyone interested in the design information can email me at leonolson@aol.com.

—Leon Olson, Utah



Craft foam protects bowl rim

I recently discovered sticky-back craft foam at my local craft store. It is ⅛" (3mm) thick with a self-adhesive back. I purchased a couple of sheets for future use and have now found a good use for it. I’ve installed it on the face of my jumbo jaws to protect a bowl’s rim when reverse-chucked.

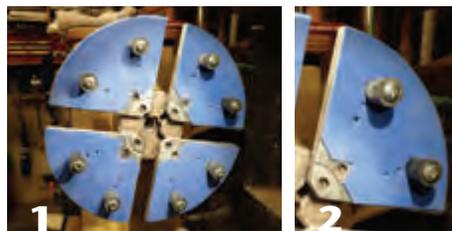
Simply remove the buttons from the jumbo jaws, cut the foam to shape with scissors, stick it on, and reinstall the buttons (*Photos 1, 2*). You can poke holes through the foam for various button placement as needed. I no longer need to fumble with trying to stick a paper towel between the jaws and my work when I’m concerned about damaging a finished surface (*Photo 3*).

The foam sticks very well but could be peeled off if necessary. I plan to leave the foam on the jaws indefinitely and replace it when it wears out.

Long ago, I also made my own buttons for my jumbo jaws out of some rubber corks that I purchased at the local hardware store. I drilled a hole

through the corks and attached them with longer machine screws (also from the hardware store). I really like this solution. The deep dovetail shape of the corks holds the work securely.

—Carl Ford, Connecticut



Craft foam adhered to jumbo jaws protects bowl rims.



The author’s Nick Agar-style bowl, reverse-mounted for finishing its base. In some cases, this method may be preferable to using a vacuum chuck, which could damage the paint on the inside.

Wax paper to the rescue

When my banjo begins to stick, or drag, on the lathe bed, instead of stopping what I’m doing to apply and buff off wax, I take a piece of wadded-up kitchen wax paper and give the ways a quick scrub. I can get back to work in seconds, with a noticeable improvement in the banjo’s ability to slide. The same method also works well on the tool-rest and along the length of turning tools that grab during cutting.

—Terry Quiram, Illinois

