

5 Section 3/4" Offset Christmas tree

Waukeene Vinson

5 sectionm 3/4" offset tree 7 sectionm 1-1/2" offset tree



INTRODUCTION

My career consisted of working in refineries and construction; first as a Pipefitter, Welder, later as a Maintenance Planner. My main hobby was fishing. I was an avid fisherman and pursued it regularly anywhere we vacationed. Any wood working I did consisted of repairs and remodeling around the house or for friends and family. At some point I acquired a Shop Smith and began playing around with the lathe. In 2008 preparing for retirement I joined a woodturning club. (Coastal Bend Woodturners, Corpus Christi, Texas) But when I retired in 2009, my time was spent remodeling the house and traveling with my wife. I still played with the lathe when I had time, in July, 2012 my wife bought me a 1624 Nova lathe. Everyone in the family got a turned pen for Christmas that year. I was hooked!

I began to attend woodturning symposiums and talk to other wood turners. This and trial and error made up the bulk of my early training. Wood turning videos from the club gave way to YouTube. As I gain experience, my woodturning education still relies on other woodturners and woodturning venues.

I am now rewarded with the joy of mentoring, teaching and demonstrating the art of wood turning at other woodturning clubs and woodturning hands-on retreats.

Demo Topic: 5 Section **Offset Christmas Tree**

My Goal is to teach turners of all skill levels to turn a 5 section offset Christmas Tree. This offset turning will be turned between centers with a Tenon and chuck instad of between centers with a 4 prong Drive.

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My wife had a small Christmas tree collection she collected over the years. I learned early to turn Christmas trees. This is a picture of her Christmas tree collection from last Christmas. These are trees I have turned for her.

They became very, popular in the family, all the ladies and kids wanted one. At Christmas we have around 50 family and friends over to our house for the Christmas celebration. My wife started putting trees on the tables for the table decoration. It's funny how we always come up short at the end of the day, so the next year she began by putting names in a hat and drawing names, for the trees. It's a big event at our house.

I saw an offset turned Christmas tree on Facebook a couple years ago and began working on ways to turn one. I did a lot of trial and error, gathering information, and sharing turning techniques with other Woodturners, We come up with turning this project between centers with a chuck and a Tenon between centers.

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Lay out for a 5 Section $\frac{3}{4}$ " Offset Christmas tree



#1 Bottom view of blank



#2 3-1/2" x 8" cylinder blank



#3 top view of blank

Illustration #1: This offset project can be turned from beginning to end between centers with a 4 prong drive.

If you're not comfortable turning offset projects between centers. My recommendation is to drill a 1" diameter recess 1/4" deep for a 4 prong drive, on the bottom of the blank.

However, as a safety precaution a Tenon is safer!! In this demonstration I will use a Tenon to turn this project between centers.

illustrations #3: On the top end of the blank, find the center and mark it #3. From the center point mark two points above and two points below the center mark $\frac{3}{16}$ " apart each and label them 1 through 5.

I had always used the 4 prong drive to turn offset pieces between centers. In this project, you start the turning at point #1, finishing up at point #5, leaving all your marked points on the of the blank, because you have to come back to point #1 to part off the waste, so the tree will stand leaning. With a Tenon and chuck it's not so important if you turn point away point #1. When you're cocking the Tenon in the jaws of the chuck, going from point #1 to point #5, when you bring it back to your original Tenon cut it will be at point #1.



Set Up on point #1 to turn Tenon & bottom section of tree.

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#4 Turning section #1 (Tenon, Tree Base and Lower Tree Branch's)

Start by turning at section point #1, turn Tenon, Tree Base and lower branch section with top set at point #1 as seen in Illustration #3

***If sanding is needed, sand at this time before moving to the next section point.**

***I started out turning these between centers without a Tenon. One day, not paying attention to procedure, when I was turning section #5, I turned off point #1, without point #1; I wasn't able to set up back on point #1 to part off the waste block in the lathe.**

***With a tenon turned at point #1, you will always have the tenon face up on the face of the chuck jaws, with or without point #1**



#5 Tenon is Beveled on Both Ends to Swivel in Chuck Jaws



#6 Nova 35mm Spigot Jaws

5 Section $\frac{3}{4}$ " Offset Christmas tree



#7 Set Up On Point #2



#8 Set Up On Point #3



#9 Set Up on Point #4



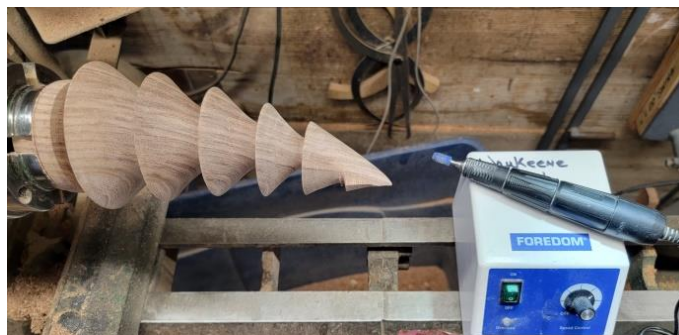
#10 Set Up on Point #5 Minimum turning required on the tip. Trying to turn the tip to finish will look inappropriate with the bend of the tree. You have more control of the bend of the tip by sanding, grinding, carving the bend of the tip



#11 Set Up on Point #1, Saw the tip off to angle desired.



#12 Carve, sand, grind to form tip as desired.



#13 Set Up to power carve tip or 2" or 3" sanding disc can be used on a power sander

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#14 Power carving tip



#15 Tree top completed, part off Tenon back on point #1



#17 Part tree off the Tenon back at point #1



#18 7 Section 1-1/2" offset & 5 section 3/4" offset

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#20 4 Section Tree, Tip Turned On The Lathe



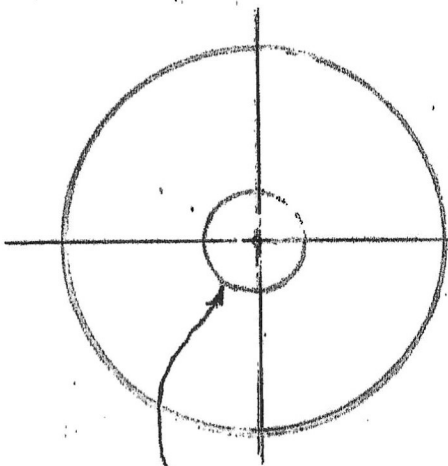
#21 5 Section Tree, Tip Power Carved

5 SECTION OFFSET CHRISTMAS TREE

LAY OUT ON A 3-1/2" DIA. X 8" LONG BLANK

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Illustration #1



1" Dia. recess 1/4" deep

Illustration #2

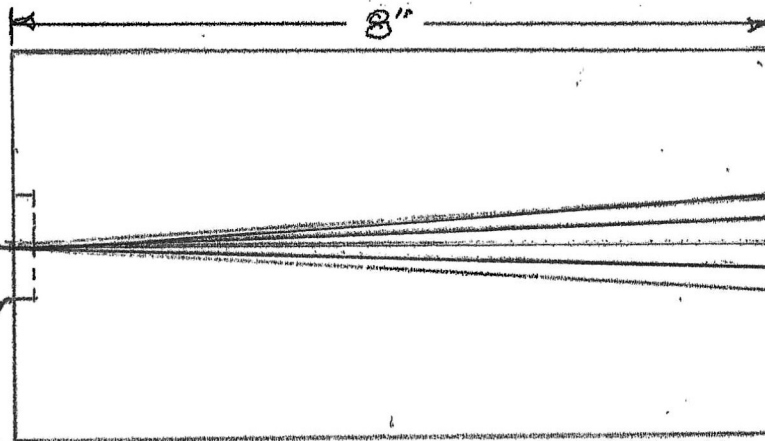
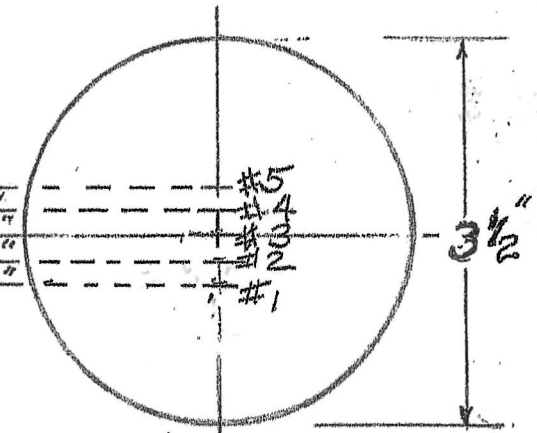


Illustration #3



1. As most offset projects are turned between centers, this one can also be turned with a tenon.

However, as a safety precaution a tenon is safer!!

NOTE: Recommendation is to drill a 1" Dia. recess, 1/4" deep for a 4 prong drive on the bottom end of blank. As seen in Illustration #1 and #2

NOTE: I started out turning these between centers without a tenon. One day, not paying attention, I turn off point #1 and didn't have point #1 to go back to finish parting off the bottom on the lathe. With a tenon, cocking tenon in the jaws of the chuck as you proceed, you don't have to keep point #1.

2. On the top end of the blank, fine the center, mark it point #3. From center point #3 mark two points above and two point below 3/16" apart. Marking them #1 through #5

As seen in Illustration #2 and #3

3. Start by turning section #1 (tenon, tree base and lowest branch) with top point set at #1,

As seen in Illustration #4. *If sanding is needed, do it at the end of the turning of each section.

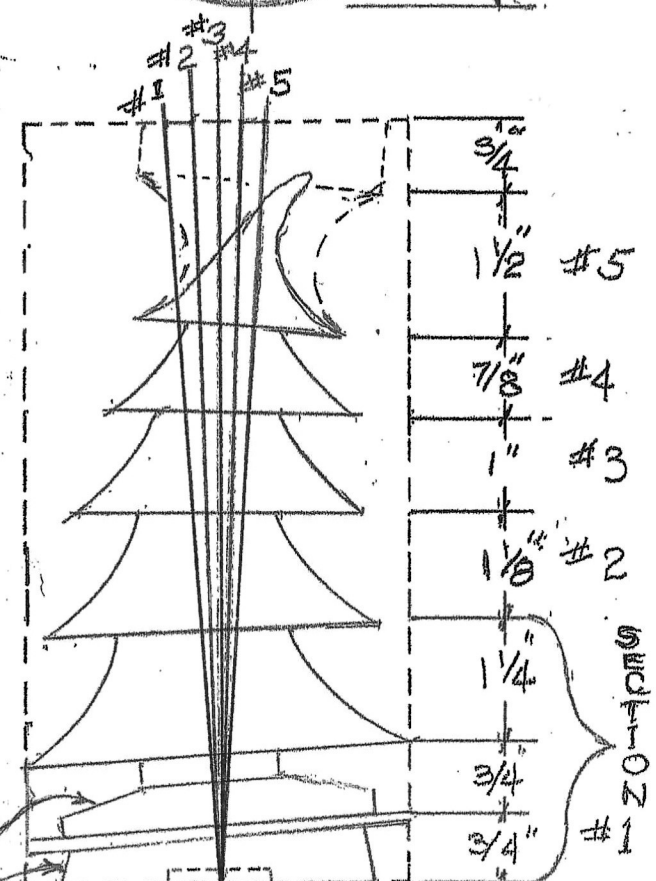
4. Turn section #2, #3 and #4 as desire. As seen in Illustration #4

5. When turning section #5, leave upper section marked point #1 - #5, so you can come back to point #1 to part off the tree from the tenon

6. After turning most of section #5, set back up at point #1 to part off the tree base from the tenon.

NOTE: Need to leave enough wood in section #5, to sand, hand carve or power carve to shape the top of the tree to looks like it's tipping over in the wind. You cannot get this effectively

by turning the top of the tree on the lathe. As seen in Illustration #4



1" Dia. recess 1/4" deep

Illustration #4