

Baby Rattle

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Baby rattles are fun! Adults and babies alike enjoy them. It is a quick gift that babies know how to play with and use them for teething. DO NOT use wood from nut trees because babies might have an allergic reaction to them. All finishes are supposed to be food safe after drying but babies need more caution than normal so be sure to use a finish which is labeled Food Safe. Avoid oils made from nut trees. Baby rattles can come in many shapes and sizes. The most common is the baby bar bell with rattles on both ends. I have chosen to make an egg with a handle on it. The handle needs to be small enough so that the baby can chew on it for teething purposes but large and blunt enough not to hurt them. I chose cherry wood for the one shown in Figure 1. Another good option would be maple or some other wood with a tight grain. Beware of adding color on the rattle mostly to avoid toxic materials.



Figure 1 - Completed Baby Rattle

As part of the class I have provided 2 blanks and 2 templates. The blanks have been milled so they are $1\frac{7}{8}$ "x5"x $\frac{7}{8}$ ". This was to ensure that you have enough wood to hollow the egg portion of the baby rattle to accept the BBs. The red depth gauge is to aid in measuring the hollowing.



Figure 2 Class Supplies

Take the template and lay it on top of one of the wood blanks. Use the markings on the template to mark the center of the egg on both blanks.

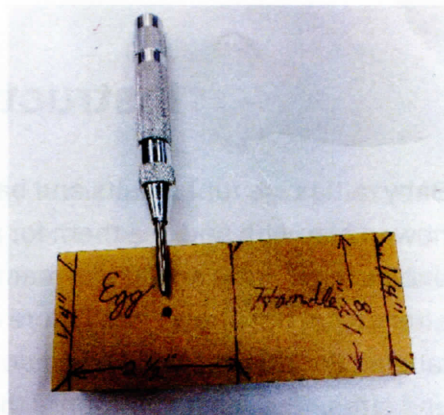


Figure 3 Baby Rattle Template

Remove two opposing jaws from your chuck and place the tail stock so that the live center point fits into the punch mark for the center of the egg. Then tighten the chuck.

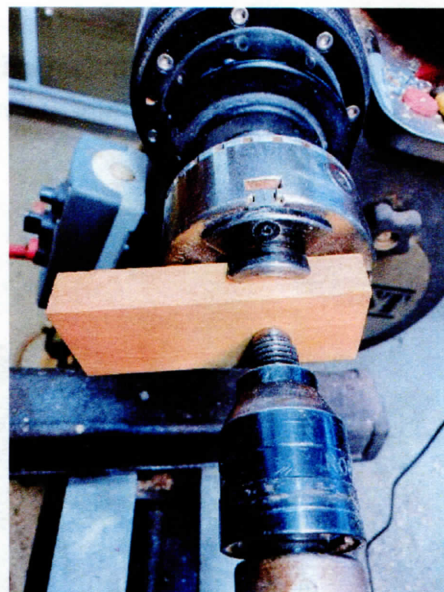


Figure 4 Chucking the Project



Figure 5 Marking the Hollowing Area

As shown on Figure 5, you will mark at least two circles approximately an 1-1/4" in diameter. This will aid you in hollowing to get the correct diameter. When turning be careful to keep your hands away from the spinning wood.



Use a 3/8" bowl gouge and hollow inside the circle until the line on the depth gauge matches the depth of your hollowing depth. You can finish with a round nose scraper to finish the inside of the egg. Repeat all steps on the second blank.

Figure 6 Hollowing Depth



After the blanks have been hollowed, sand the surfaces so the glue joint will fit perfectly.

Figure 7 Surface Sanding



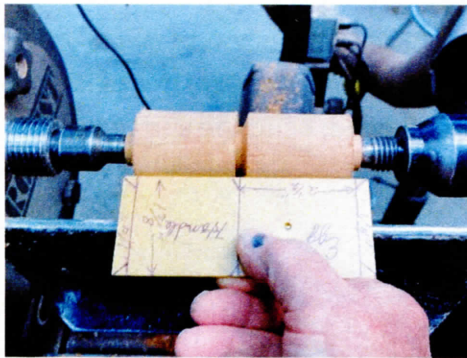
After surfacing the blanks, add approximately a dozen BBs in one of the hollowing and apply a thin coat of glue on both blanks. Too much glue will squeeze into the inside of the rattle and prevent the BBs from rattling.

Figure 8 Glueing



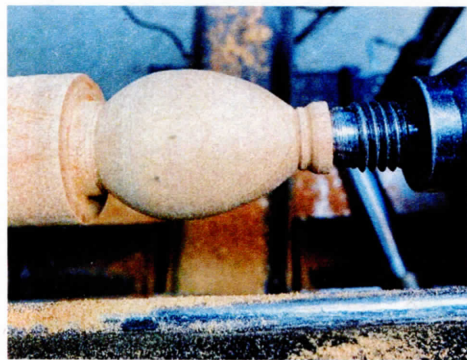
Use enough clamps to keep the two blanks from slipping in any direction. Be sure to use two clamps for the end of the baby rattle. Let it dry for a minimum of 30 minutes. Remove the clamps and place between the centers on the lathe.

Figure 9 Clamping



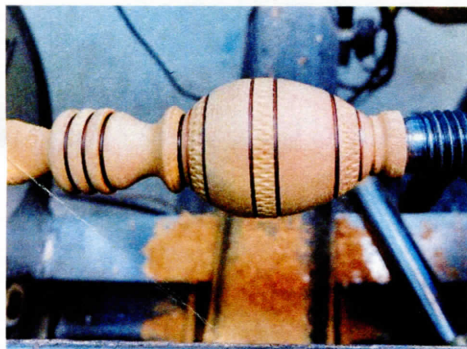
Turn the project to the first round so that it is as large as possible (no less than 1-3/4" in diameter). Using the template, mark the center between the handle and the egg. Part it down to 1" in diameter on the inside.

Figure 10 Measuring



Shape the egg so that the largest part is slightly behind the center of the egg as shown.

Figure 11 Turning the Egg



Finish shaping the egg and handle. Sand it and apply any texture or beading that you would like. Apply desired finish. Part each end. Hand sand each end to finish the project.

Figure 12 Finishing