

Turning an Owl By Paul Howard

Turn a Sphere about 4" (100 mm) diameter this is a good starting size.

To turn a sphere select a piece of timber just a little larger than the overall size and cut to an approximate length of 4.5" (112mm) Next glue on scrap blocks each end as shown below, this so we do not waste expensive good timber.



Hot melt glue is normally used to hold scrap wood onto the cube of timber.

Turn a cylinder 4" Dia x 4" long (100mm x 100mm) and mark a centre line.



Next we turn a rough shape for the sphere, if you multiply the diameter by 0.297 1.18" (29 mm) and mark a line in from each end and down on each end face we can turn between these lines to remove the waste on each side of the sphere.

Finish turning the sphere with a jig or using templates.



After sanding cut the stubs off with a saw leaving sufficient material to turn the finished sphere.

Trap the sphere between cup chucks and remove the stubs, again sand the sphere rotating it between the cup chucks so as not to sand in one orientation for too long.



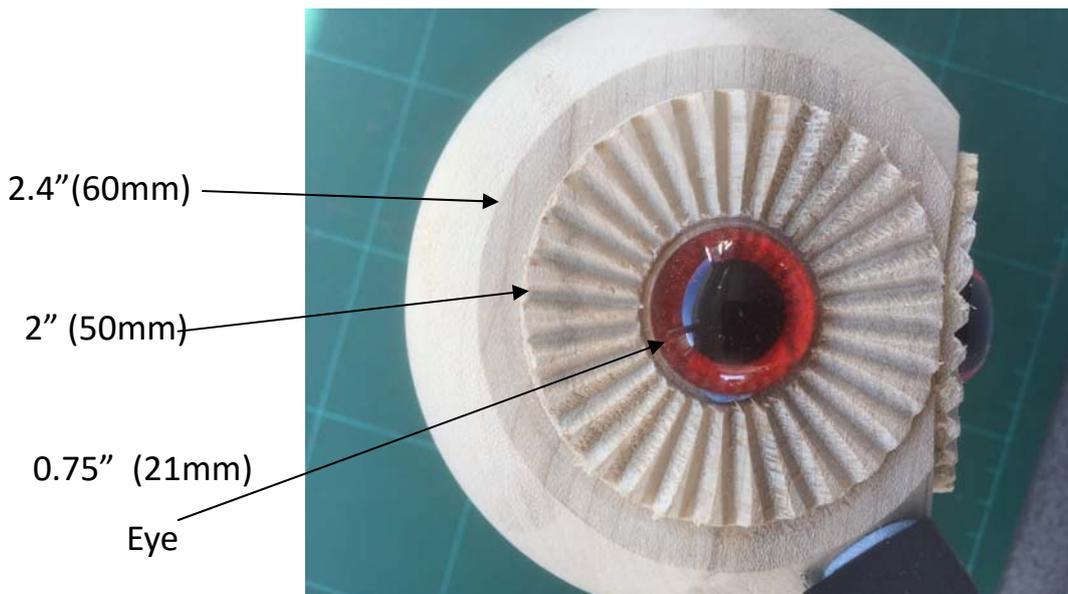
Sphere trapped between cup chucks. I use a bowl gouge to turn off the stubs.

Marking Out The Eyes



Set a pair of dividers to just over the radius of the sphere 2.2" (55mm) and mark two points on the sphere. Take into account any interesting grain of features.

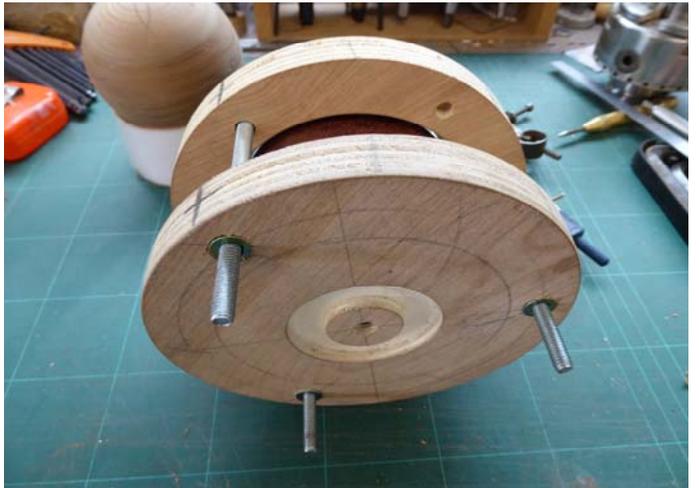
Draw two intersecting circles approx. 2.4". (60mm dia) on the centre points so they overlap by about 0.25" (5mm). Next draw two more circles about 2" (50 mm) for the fluted part of the eye.



Eyes buddycrafts.com

Trimits safety Toy Eyes 21mm Amber #TC321A

Turning the Eyes



To turn the eyes the sphere can be held in a vacuum chuck or a simple chuck as shown above. Centre the sphere on one of the marks made with the dividers and drill a 0.25" (8mm) hole. Turn the first face as shown in the picture, then rotate the sphere to turn the second face.

The decoration around the eyes can be routed with a suitable jig carved or even beads could be turned.

After the decoration bore a shallow recess for the eye, make this a little larger than the eye. Finish sanding the owl and apply your preferred finish before gluing the eyes into place.



The beak can be made from a piece of Ebony about 0.75" (20mm) Square and sanded to shape. The base is about 2.4" (60mm) dia at the base and tapered up to the top about 2-3" tall with a dish in the top to accept the shape of the sphere.

Have Fun www.paulhowarwoodturner.co.uk