

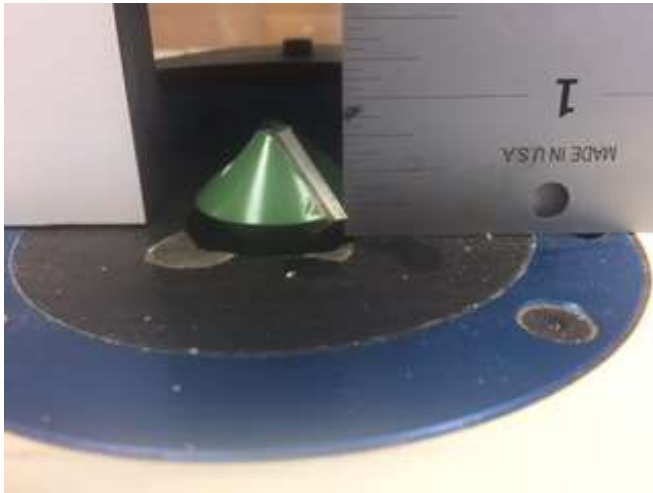
Birds Mouth Bangles

By Skip Wilbur

For basic knowledge on the birds mouth router bit and it's usages I recommend going to YouTube and search for Birds Mouth Router Bits by David Henry. He has a number of excellent videos on its usage (mostly flat work) and his introduction Video will get you comfortable with using it.

The two bits you probably will use will be the 8 sided and the 6/12 sided (makes both 6 and 12 sided items). I purchased both from Lee Valley, however you may find a better deal on Amazon or EBay. No matter where you get your bits I recommend going to the Lee Valley web site and downloading their PDF file "Birds-Mouth Joinery Bits" (lots of good info).

David Henry explains in one of his videos that the "perfect height" for the 6/12 sided is $11/32$ " (9mm), that is the height from the router table to the point on the bit and the "perfect height for the 8 sided is $3/16$ " (5mm).



Yes you must use a router table, do not attempt to do this free hand.

I will cut the staves on the router table in about 3-4 passes taking small bites until there is about a $1/16$ " ledge on the outfeed side of the table. This is important – make sure there is an edge on the outfeed side router bit, this gives support to the stave as it passes the bit. Remember this will be turned off later.



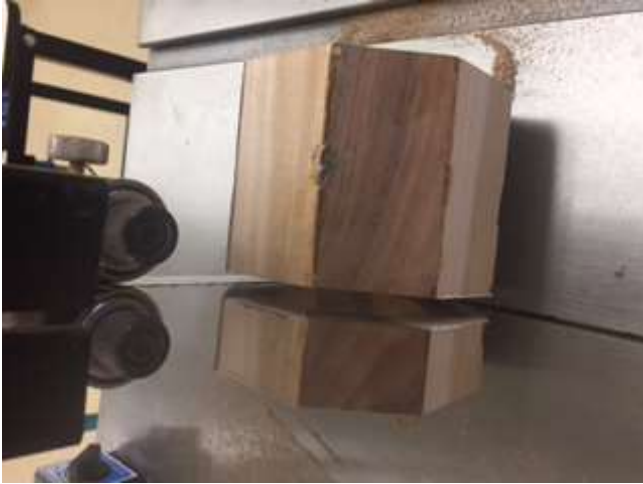
The average size woman fits with a 7 ½ bracelet and slightly larger woman with a size 8. To make a 7 ½ size bangle the inside diameter is 2 ½" and for a size 8 it is 2 5/8". The wood for the bangles are all ¾" thick and for the 8 sided bangle size 7 ½ I cut the staves to a width of 1 3/8" and for the 8 side size 8 cut the width to 1 1/2".

On the 6 sided bangle I will cut the width to 2" for a size 7 ½ and 2 1/16" for a size 8.

I use Titebond for the glue up and hold with either an elastic band or hose clamp.



Once dry I cut the cylinder in about 1" thickness in preparation for turning.



I use the step jaws on a Talon chuck, plunging to the inside to get the correct diameter with either a bedan or Easy Wood tool. Be very careful as you are turning very close to the jaws.



Once the inside is the same diameter I put the blank on a different step and simply turn it to final shape (just a bead). Sand and finish of your choice.