

Materials Needed

- Wood Blank - Rough blank size: 2 1/2" x 3/8" (Approximate)
- Faceplate or 4 Jaw Chuck
- Drill and drill bit (approx. 5/16" or larger recommended) and a countersink bit
- 2" Double Faced Fiberglass-backed tape. (I use Henkel available at Ace Hardware)
- Compass
- Turning Tools (I use 1/2" AND 1/4" bowl gouges plus skew if desired)
- Sandpaper (typically 150, 220, 320 grits)
- Friction Polish (I like Hut gloss sticks)
- Small wooden beads (available at places like Michael's crafts)
- Thin leather (or other type) cord also available at Michael's)
- (For Earrings, I use inexpensive gold findings and split rings. Again, available at places like Michael's or like craft stores)

Prep:

I begin with a wood blank that's approx. 2.5" x 3/8" square and find it's center on it's best side. Using my compass, I draw a circle as large as the blank will allow. I like to rough out it's circumference on the band saw to make turning easier. (It's gonna be held on by tape remember...)

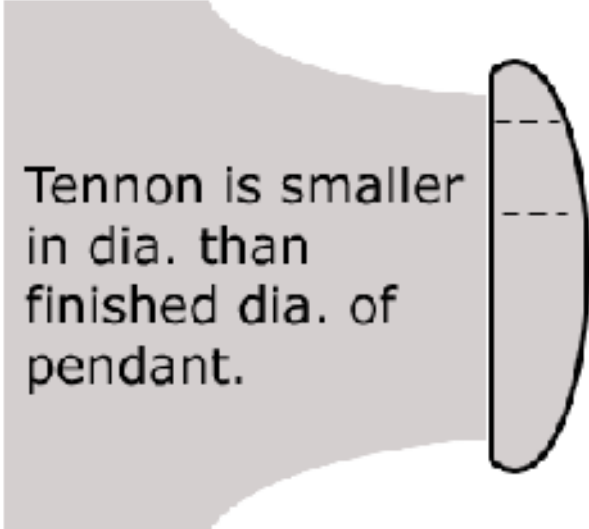
I then decide on it's orientation (determining which part will be the top of the pendant).

I then drill an approximately 5/16" hole through the blank, centered roughly 1/2" from it's top (inside the drawn circle) edge. I then flip the blank over and use a countersink bit to put a small chamfer in the hole. (This gives a finished look to the back of the pendant without having to go back to it later.)

**Making the Backing Tennon (Tape Chuck):**

To make the tennon that the blank will mount to, I turn a waste block that I hold in my chuck that is somewhat larger than my pendant's finished size and approximately 2" proud of the chuck jaws. I then remove some material from the very end of the waste block so it's just slightly smaller than the finished diameter of my pendant. (Usually allowing it to be 3/16" undersized all around.) This will allow me to round the back of the pendant without having to turn it around.

*****Make sure that the end of the tennon is FLAT, not concave and certainly not convex. You will need all the surface area available making contact with the blank.***



Tennon is smaller
in dia. than
finished dia. of
pendant.

I then use a piece of the fiberglass-backed double faced tape to affix the face of the blank to the tennon end. It's enough to get it roughly centered, it doesn't need to be perfect. Really. Close is just fine. Trust me.

Fire up the lathe and sand the back of the blank, going through the grits. Don't worry if it's not round, we're just getting the back prepaed so we don't have to go back later...

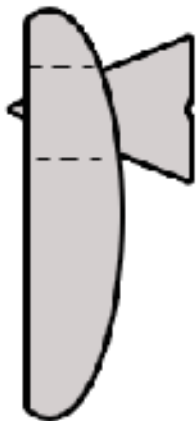
Apply your friction polish to the back of the blank and get it shiny. Stop the lathe and remove it from the tennon.

Turn the blank around and re-mount it to the tennon, this time using your tailstock center in the hole the point of your compass left in the center of the circle to align it perfectly. (And you were worried about not centering it before... Ye of little faith...). I like to keep the tailstock live center up against the blank to keep it securely against the tennon while I turn it to round. This results on less strain on the tape during the roughing process.

Once it's round and at the diameter you marked earlier, ease the edges around to the back like the figure above shows. Remove the tailstock and gently begin to round the face like is shown in the figure above. (Remember to go easy as it's only held on by tape. (I like to shear scrape with my 1/2" gouge as it cuts lighter and has the added bonus of keeping the cutting pressure against the tennon.) Sand through the grits, apply friction polish and buff.

Remove the piece from the tennon, peel off the old tape and apply a new piece. (Trust me.) Now, using the point of your tailstock's live center in the 5/16" hole of the piece, center that hole on the tennon.

This will ensure that the hole will be centered on the tennon while the piece itself will be offset. (Eccentric)



use tailstock
to center
hole on chuck
when
repositioning

Using my 1/4" bowl gouge I **CAREFULLY** chamfer the inside edge of the hole. (Remember, not only is the piece turning eccentric at this time but it's also thicker in places than others so proceed GENTLY until you have a pleasing teardrop-shaped bevel going into the hole.

Sand this bevel, polish and remove from lathe.

The pendant is done. Now to string it.

Stringing the Pendant:

I use some thin leather cord (I'm guessing it's about 3/16" thick) that I get from Michael's Crafts to string my pendants for necklaces.

Begin with a length of cord that when looped around your neck, puts the pendant at a pleasing height. (err on the side of being long as it's easily shortened)

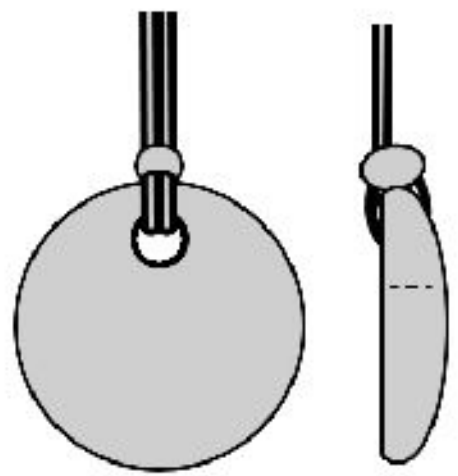
Tie the ends of the cord together using a square knot. (Use whatever knot you like but a square knot looks nice to my eye.) Trim the ends.

Hold the cord at the knot and find the point on the loop opposite to the knot. Squeeze that point together making it as tight as possible that it may be threaded through your wooden bead mentioned in the parts list.

I use this small wooden bead (that I also get at the Craft store) to bind the loop of cord to the pendant. I generally have to ream out the hole in the bead just a bit before trying to thread the doubled cord through it. You can do this with a small drill bit just bigger than the existing hole and winding it in by hand.

Push the doubled up part of the loop through the hole in the bead and let it come through roughly 2".

Push that doubled up end loop through the hole in the pendant from the front side. Take the long end of the loop (the bit with the knot) and bring it over the top of the pendant and poke it through the small loop in the cord.



Pull to snug the bead down onto the top of the pendant making sure to keep the cord from twisting and you should see something like this.

Hope this was helpful.
Thanks and good luck.

Jim