

# Shop Notes

## TEMPLATE FOR TURNING SPINDLES

■ When turning a spindle on the lathe to match a pattern, all you really need is a ruler and caliper.

But, if you're making multiple spindles, like the four legs for the Book Stand on page 6, it's simpler and more accurate to first transfer the pattern to a full-size template. Then turn each leg following the template, and they will all be identical.

**TEMPLATE.** The template I use

is a piece of 4"-wide poster board cut the same length as the finished leg, see Fig. 1. What makes this template a little different is that there are marks along both edges.

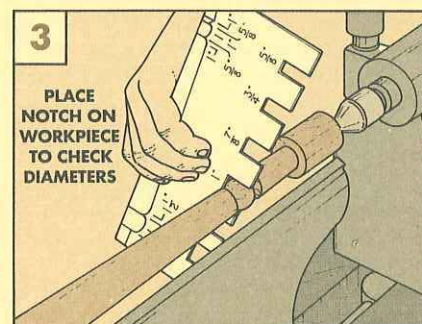
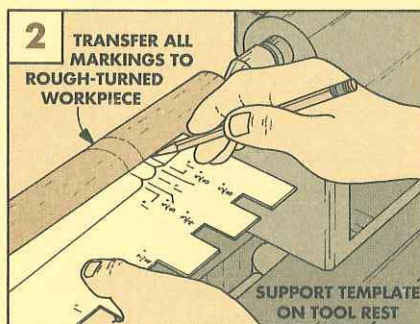
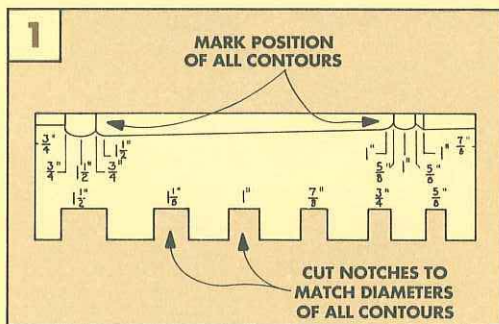
Along one edge of the template is a line of "tick" marks that serve as a ruler for laying out the pattern. The other edge of the guide has a series of cut-out notches used like a caliper.

**PATTERN SIDE.** The pattern side of the template shows where the different contours of the leg pattern are to be positioned along the length of the workpiece. By holding this side of the template against the spinning blank, the position of each contour can be marked with a pencil, see Fig. 2.

**CALIPER SIDE.** As the spindle is being turned, the other edge

of the template works as an indicator gauge. It shows when you've reached the correct outside diameter of beads, tenons, and tapers, and the correct inside diameter of coves, fillets, and V-grooves, see Fig. 3.

A template like this helps ensure all spindles turned from the same pattern look identical. Because they're all made using the same template.



## BAND SAW "DRIFT"

■ Sometimes the blade on a band saw will "drift" when you resaw a board into thinner pieces. This can happen if you're using a fence on the table, or not.

**MEASURING DRIFT.** To determine if your blade is drifting, try resawing a piece of scrap wood. First draw a pencil line along the top edge of the scrap piece to give yourself a cut line to follow with the blade, see Fig. 1.

Now, as you feed the piece through the blade, swing the end of the workpiece in one direction or the other to keep the blade cutting along the pencil line, see Fig. 1.

Note: If your blade is cutting perfectly, you won't have to swing the end of the piece at all.

**ELIMINATING DRIFT.** If the blade is drifting in one direction, you'll notice that you will be

pushing the workpiece across the table at a fairly consistent angle. Once the cut follows the pencil line for a couple inches, turn off the saw and hold the workpiece at the new angle. This is the "drift angle" of the blade.

Now draw a pencil line on the table along the inside edge of the workpiece, see Fig. 2. Then pull the workpiece off the blade and clamp a fence down on the line.

(In Fig. 3, we're showing the micro-adjustable fence from page 13 with a tall auxiliary fence attached to it.)

Next, try cutting another piece of scrap along the fence. Even though the fence is at an angle, the blade should cut straight along the line. The important thing here is to find the correct angle, clamp down the fence, and stay with it.

