

ITEM #BANKNUT

Banksia Nuts

Required Accessories for turning a desk clock or vase:

- 1-3/8" Forstner Bit #FB138
- 1-3/8" Expanding Collet Chuck #CXC or any appropriate wood turning chuck

Turning Instructions:

You have just received a bag containing some of the wonders of nature. These nuts are the fruit of a small tree, 5 to 10 meters in height, which grow in the Jarrah Forests in the remote deserts of Western Australia. The nuts are hard and solid. They are easy to turn but create a fair amount of flying seed and chip dust, therefore the use of a dust mask is recommended. Nuts will vary in size from 4 to 9 inches in length. These nuts have been dried for years after being picked from the trees.



You have a choice of final products and a multitude of designs you can achieve with these nuts. Most popular are the desk clocks and vases, but use your imagination to create many projects, utilizing the natural variations in size and shape of your individual Banksia nut.

To prepare the nut for turning, cut the end square with a band saw perpendicular to the axis. Then slice the nut to the required width parallel to the first surface. Choose one end as the base of the vase or the front of the desk clock and center punch. Drill a 1-3/8" hole with a forstner bit to create a flat bottom hole approximately 5/16" deep. Center punch the opposite end. Next, mount the blank on the collet chuck or wood chuck on the lathe. Support the other end with the live center in the hole. Tighten the setup, and turn to the profile of your choice. Sand the nut, leaving a few rough edges for a natural appearance and feel. For best results use a liquid polish to avoid clogging the eyes of the nut.

If you have turned a vase, use a spade drill of a proper diameter to avoid cracking the neck.

If you have turned a desk clock, use a disc sander to make a mounting surface. Tilt the base to 15 degrees and sand a portion of the nut to make a flat bottom to sit on a desk. Then insert a mini 1-7/16" fit-up clock into the hole.