

Baseball Bat Turning

1. On the rough log mark 34" then cut on the bandsaw to length.
2. Mount the log to be turned on the lathe.
3. Begin by turning the stock and removing the bark and any bows in the tree. You should have a smooth log with no twists or bark on the log. The log should be completely round and symmetrical
4. Using the calipers turn the blank so that is 3" in diameter.

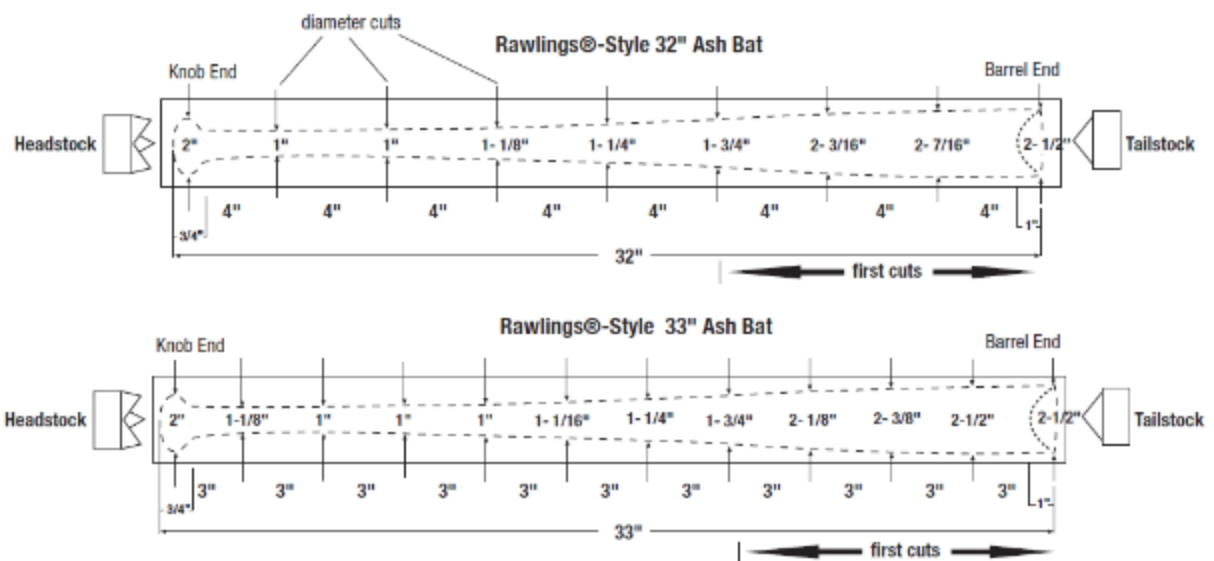


5. With a pencil mark in 4" increments along the entire length (use 3" increments for the 33" bat). See the diagram below.

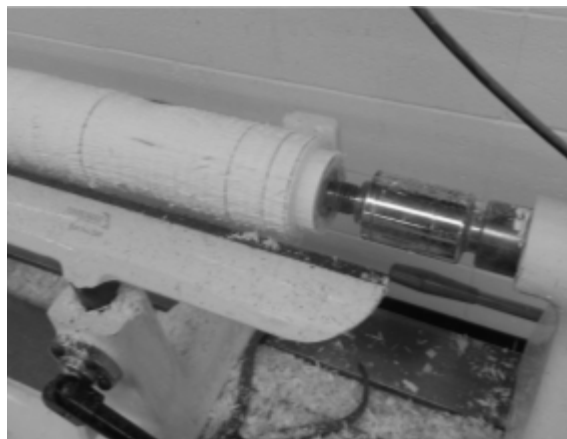


Bat Diameter Measurements

From a Rawlings®-Style 32" Ash Bat		From a Rawlings®-Style 33" Ash Bat	
Increment	Diameter	Increment	Diameter
Knob	2"	Knob	2"
4"	1"	3"	1 1/8"
8"	1"	6"	1"
12"	1 1/8"	9"	1"
16"	1 1/4"	12"	1"
20"	1 3/4"	15"	1 1/16"
24"	2 3/16"	18"	1 1/4"
28"	2 7/16"	21"	1 3/4"
32"	2 1/2"	24"	2 1/8"
		27"	2 3/8"
		30"	2 1/2"
		33"	2 1/2"



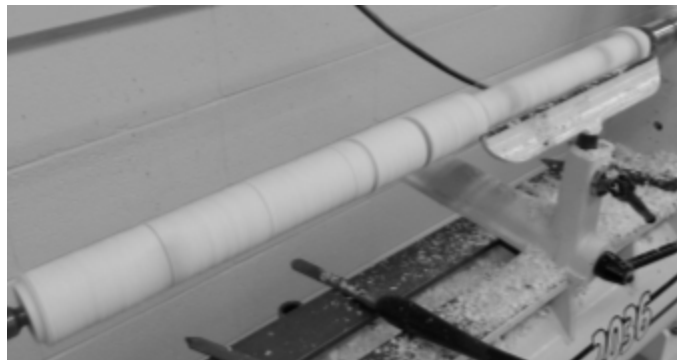
6. After you are finished marking the 4" increments for the 32" bat cut down at the end of the barrel and handle so that you can clearly see where the bat is starting and finishing. Be sure to mark your knob on the handle as you do not to cut it off.



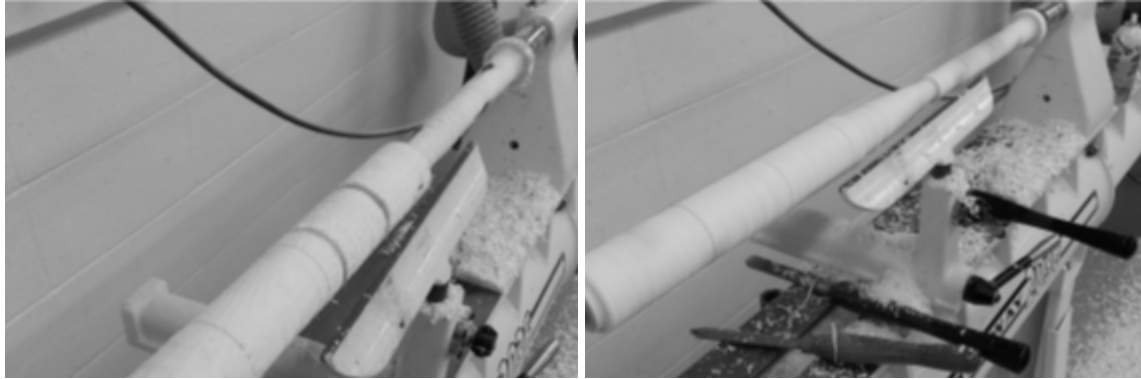
7. Start at the barrel end with the diameter cuts for the first 12" as shown. To make a diameter cut, take your parting tool and cut a groove, taking off a little bit at a time. Stop frequently and use your calipers to measure the diameter of the groove.



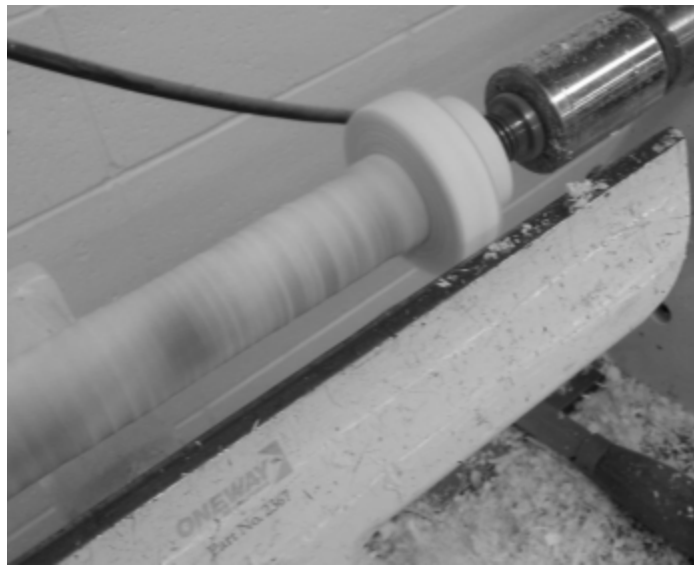
8. It is a good idea to reduce the thickness of the handle as you work your bat to size. This will avoid the handle from being too big when you are tapering the transition from the barrel to the handle.



9. To begin the taper between the barrel and the handle you want to adjust the tool rest to the angle of the taper. You should have equal spacing at the top and bottom of the taper. Again, you may have to use the gouge and reduce the stock from the handle area. This will allow you to cut the taper easier because you will have less material to cut. Make sure not to go thinner than the desired handle diameter.



10. Measure the desired total length of the bat from the barrel end. Make a mark at that spot. This is where the knob of the handle will start. To make the knob, leave about 3/4" from the very end and use your skew chisel to round off the end of the knob just like you did to round off the barrel. From about 3/4" in from the end of the knob, take your parting tool and go in taking off just enough so that you can get your skew chisel in to round the other end of the knob. After both ends are rounded, use your gouge to blend the handle into where it meets the knob. The knob diameter should still be around 2". The handle is up to your own personal feel.



11. Do not part the bat from the lathe until completing the sanding and finishing steps. First you need to complete a sand in both forward and reverse direction. After finishing the first sand you will be left with cross grain scratches from sanding while the bat is spinning. The last sanding is done by sanding the bat on the lathe without the bat spinning. Sand with the direction of the grain to remove the cross grain scratches.



12. Part the bat from the lathe. On the bandsaw cut the top and bottom waste sections by rolling the bat.