

Using CA glue to move a center point

Have you ever put a block of wood with flat faces between centers only to find that when you get it mounted, the faces are not perpendicular to the lathe bed because you didn't measure the center points carefully enough? Sure you have. Maybe you want to move one (or both?) of the center points about 1/16". So little? Yes, it turns out that a small differential between the center point locations on the front and back of the blank can cause a pretty significant wobble. You probably don't want to flatten the sides in this orientation if they're already flat. The trouble is, after measuring more carefully, you may find that you can't reset the center point that close to the hole you just made with your tail center or spur/steb center point because the two holes will merge together, and the point will probably slip back into the first hole.

What to do? CA glue to the rescue! First, just spritz the errant hole with accelerator and drip in a drop or two of medium-viscosity CA to fill it. This will avoid the problem of the glue at the bottom of the hole not curing. Drip it in from a small height so as not to touch the tip of the applicator to the treated wood. You'll probably find a bubble in the center of the hole. Prick it with a pin or needle. Then squirt some accelerator on top. With this double whammy, the glue should dry pretty quickly throughout. Scrape any excess off flat with the surface of the wood with a flat chisel (or a skew will do if you have one handy).

Now measure more carefully (!) and find the real center point. Use a spring-loaded punch to indent the correct location for your center point. Put the blank back between centers, and you're running straight and true. Problem solved. Is there any end to the uses for CA glue? I doubt it.

*Always use common sense. Things that work in one situation may not work in another.
Follow all Safety Rules. If it feels wrong, it probably is; stop and rethink.
Your **Mileage May Vary***