

## Spray Paint

I use an electric chain saw to round up my bowl blanks from a rough billet, and I like to get the maximum possible diameter. I prefer them to be fairly round for good initial balance on the lathe, and I want to know where the center is. I have found a very simple way to accomplish this – a way that also works with a band saw. I have a set of plywood circles cut at various diameters such as 12", 11", 10", 9", etc., that have a small hole in the exact center. These could equally well be cardboard. In use, these are centered on the billet as desired, and a rattle can of old, unused spray paint is used to mark around the periphery and through the center hole. This makes it very easy to see where to cut, regardless if the wood is holly or walnut, and also where to start the spur center or live center points. Pencils and pens are not generally visible on walnut or other dark woods (this is an old piece of mulberry), and, regardless of the color of the wood, felt-tip markers become clogged and ruined very quickly if you are trying to mark over a coat of wax-emulsion sealer (don't ask me how I know). The spray paint is quick, easy, cheap, and quite visible when making the rounding cuts and setting the centers.



Additionally, I also use the spray paint for marking the extent of the center of a log that needs to be chainsawed out to remove enough of the pith so the half rounds will hopefully not start getting pith cracks right away. I used a folded newspaper as a mask, as well as to keep the paint off the patio. This is very helpful on any wood (such as this cherry), but particularly on dark woods like walnut where other types of marks are not very visible.



*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*