

Centering on a Glue Block

If you want to move a partly-turned form to a glue block, say because of a sudden need to save wood or achieve otherwise unavailable access (as in too close to chuck jaws), you have to have a pretty accurate method of centering it on the glue block, or you'll be doing an impromptu multi-axis turning and probably not achieve the desired result. The trick is to have a center point in your glue block. First flatten the face of the glue block and make it just slightly concave so you don't squeeze all the glue out. Drill the center with a fine bit the size of a round toothpick. Insert the toothpick and cut it off to leave the tip just barely proud of the surface. This will fit right into the dimple left by the center point of your live tail center used to rough the piece. Make a few pencil circles on the face of the glue block to give you an idea of roughly where you want to be. Apply medium CA glue sparingly to the work piece (in areas you're not going to turn away!) and spritz the glue block with accelerator. Put the former on the latter, feeling for the toothpick tip to enter the dimple. Press and hold briefly. Hit the periphery with more accelerator. Done. You now have a centered piece to continue turning.



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