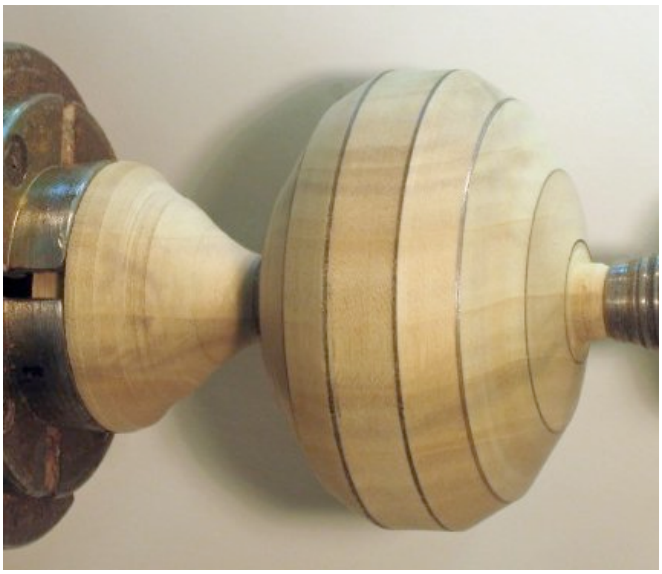
Your Mileage May Vary (Gary Guenther) **Tips** **Hints** **Ideas** **Clues**

Design Graph for Oblate Spheroids from Dennis J. Gooding
Last month, guest author Dennis Gooding provided us with a simple, practical, graphical method for determining the dimensions for marking cuts to convert a cylinder into a sphere by cutting off the corners in a series of successive, mathematically calculated approximations. It's a quick, easy, and effective way for turning a sphere without the jigs, shadows, and frustrations of multiple iterations.

Dennis has now extended this valuable technique to the creation of oblate spheroids. "Why would I want to make an oblate spheroid?", you ask. How about because that is an ideal shape for the globe portion of tree ornaments!

On the WoodCentral Turning forum, Dennis has provided the new graph and directions for using it:
www.woodcentral.com/woodworking/forum/turning.pl/page/2/md/read/id/494299/sbj/spheroids-anyone-long/

Here are two images showing how it works from the 16-sided approximation to final shape:



Note: This example was a test of the method for turning the outside shape. For a real ornament that will be hollowed, I recommend leaving more meat in the chuck-end connection for stability until after the hollowing is complete.

Thanks again, Dennis!

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. ***Y****our* ***M****ileage* ***M****ay* ***V****ary*