Creating a Human Form

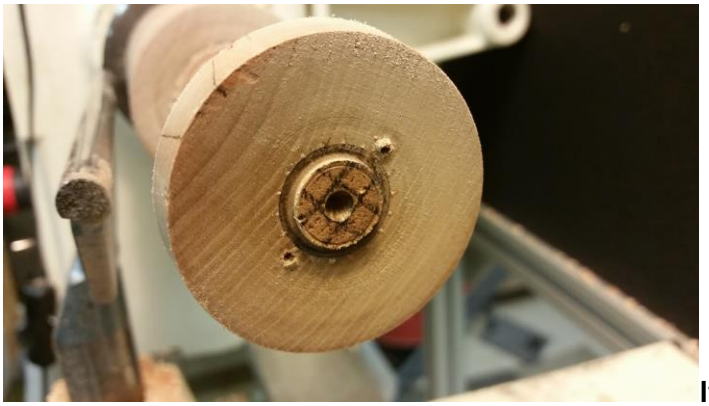
Material List

1. **Prepare a box blank.** 11” x 2.5” x 2.5”.
2. **Face shield.**
3. **Thin kerf hand saw (optional)**
4. **¾” spindle roughing gouge**
5. **1/16” narrow parting tool**
6. **1/2” spindle gouge or detail gouge**
7. **Vernier calipers (optinal)**
8. **Cup drive center (Safety Drive)**
9. **Finish of choice**
10. **Black poster board**

Method

Mount the blank between the centers and rough into a cylinder. Face off the blank at the tailstock. Mark two additional centers equidistant from the center. All three centers should be in a straight line. If you desire the grain direction to run from the front to the back of the form, align the centers with the grain direction (as shown below). The head will have ovals along the sides suggesting ears. If the centers are perpendicular to the grain direction, the ovals on the head will be on the front and back suggesting a face on the form. Any other center alignment will cause the grain direction to be askew to the form.

For the sake of convenience, number the three centers. The origional center is number 1. The center at the front of the form is number 2. The remaining center, the one in the back of the form, is number 3.



If you have a definite shape in mind, it's helpful to sketch the major elements (exact head location, diameter of knees, etc.) Use the sketch to locate the major elements and associated axis numbers on the blank. The cuts are generally from the base of the form to the top of the form (tailstock to headstock.) The cuts are also generally from the larger diameter to the smaller diameter. Axes are shifted as required on the tailstock.

It's often useful to place a black posterboard beneath the turning in order to better see the eccentric horizon to be turned. The edge of the revolving axis will appear as a blur. Light cuts are helpful here. There

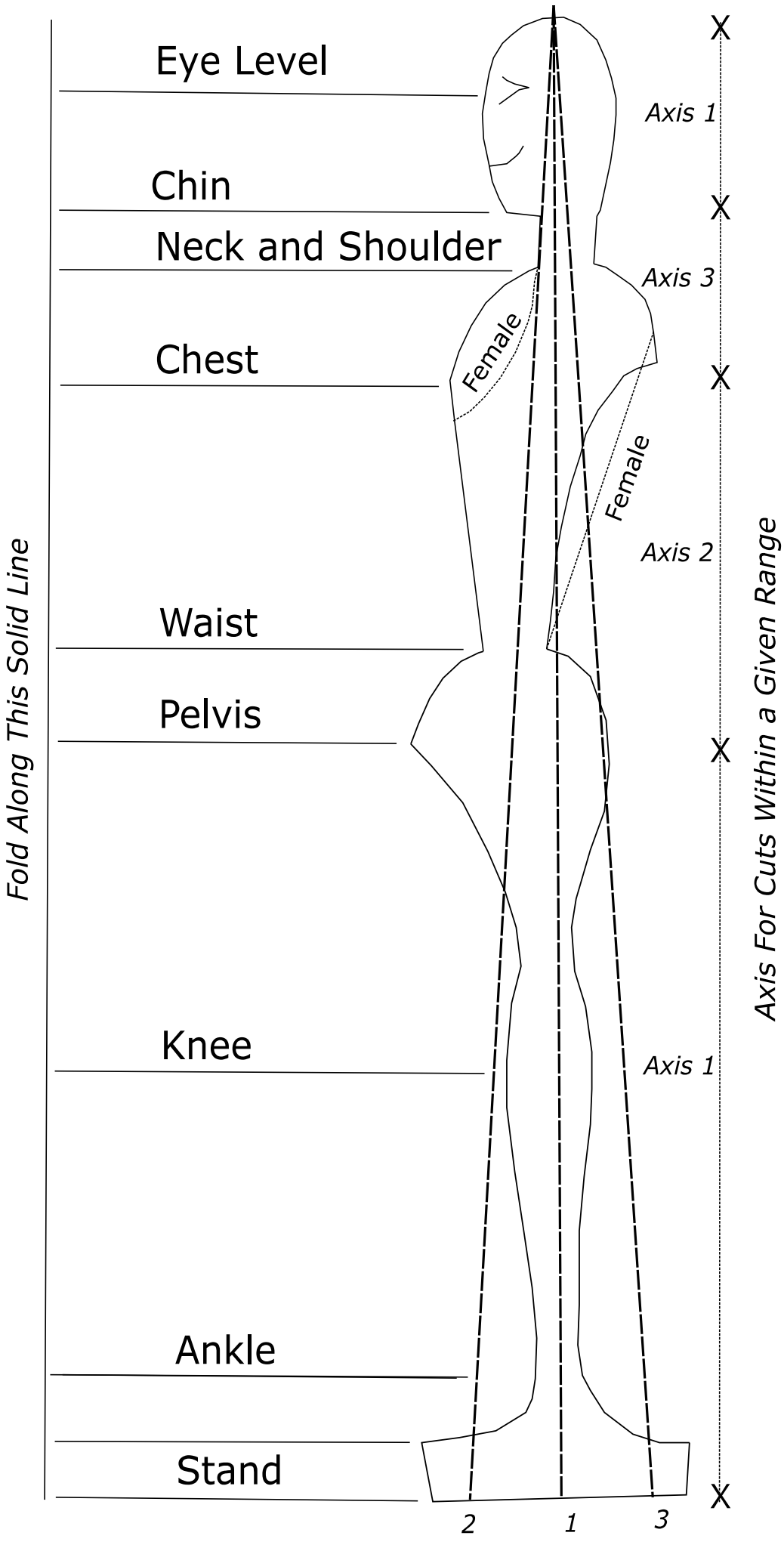
will be areas where the front of the form will be on a different axis than the back of the form. Take your time and analyze the layout before cutting.

Sanding should be done in the current axis before moving onto another axis. A couple areas may require hand sanding.

The last areas to be cut are the thin ankles and the top of the head. After you are satisfied with the form, cut the form from the top of the head and finish with hand sanding.

Finishing is by the turners choice.

Basics of Woodturned Human Form



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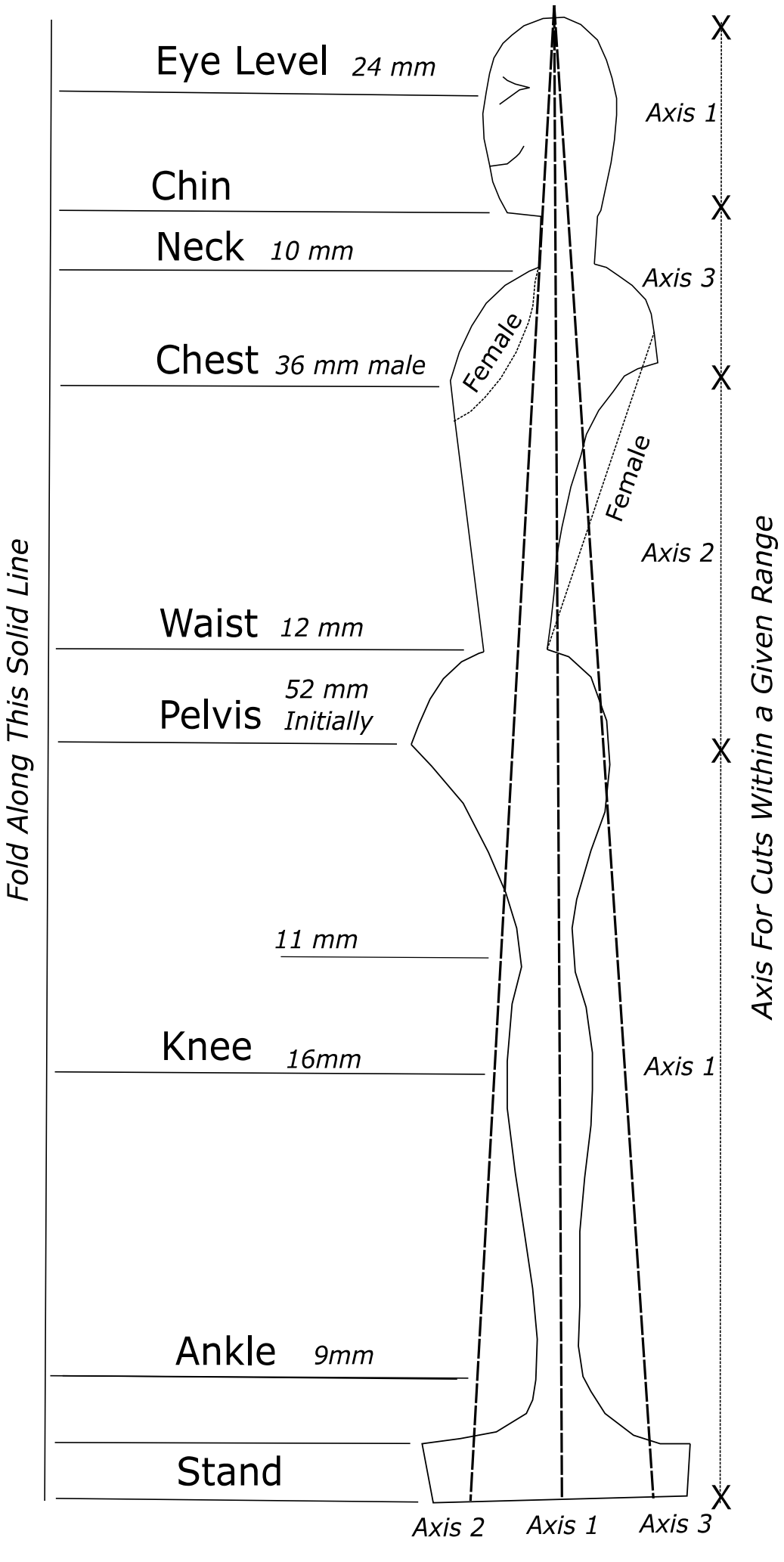
Basics of Woodturned Human Form (With Initial diameters at key points)



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