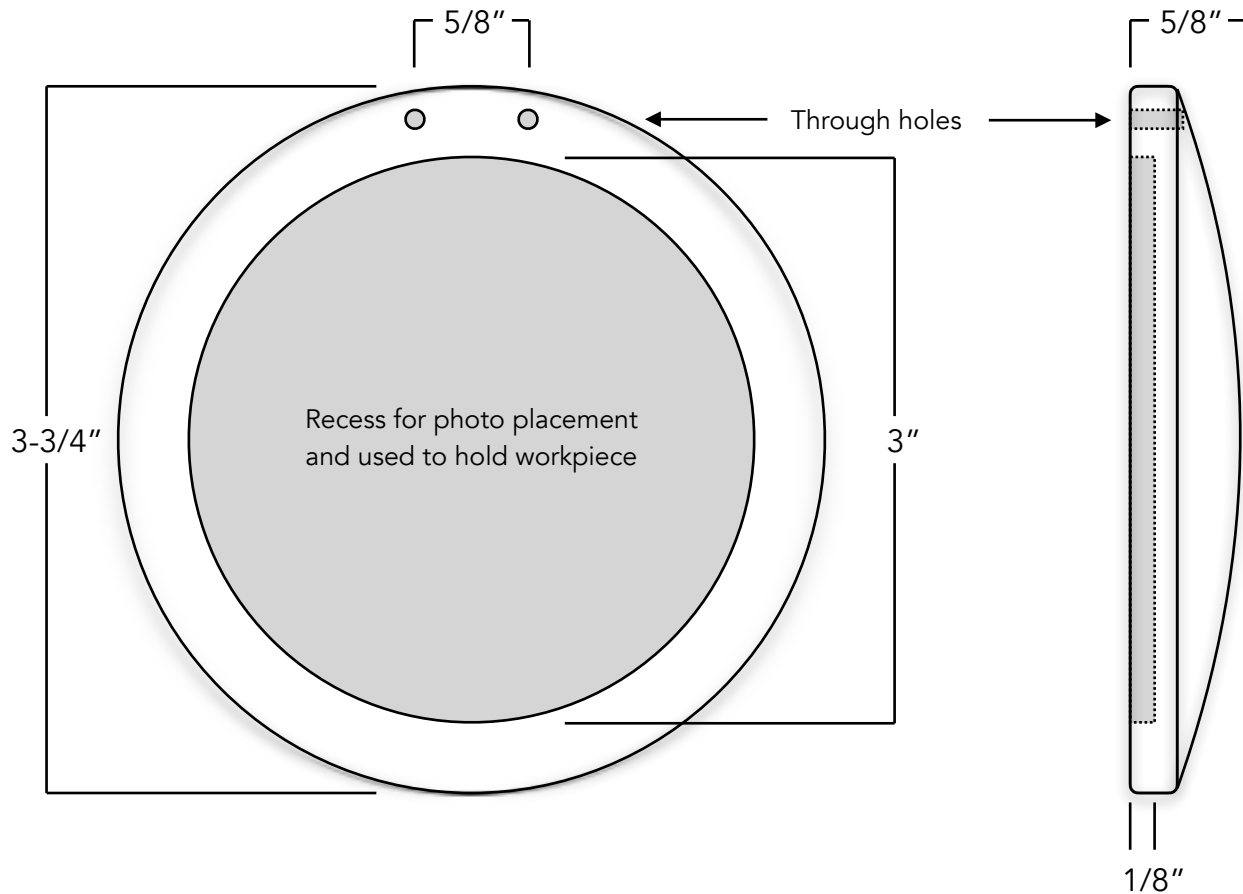


Turning a Photo Ornament

A fun and simple project to learn facegrain turning techniques, production workflow processes and try out some new embellishment ideas.

Demo by Phill Sikes
phill@phillsikes.com
phillsikes.com
[@phillsikes](https://www.instagram.com/phillsikes)



Recommended Tools and Supplies:

- Photo
- Facegrain Wood blank (4" square by 3/4-1" thick)
- String or wire for hanging
- Scissors or means to cut the photo round
- Drill and bit for the string
- Awl or pointy marking tool
- Faceplate or drive plate
- Revolving Center
- Chuck and jaws to match the photo recess
- Bowl gouge
- Scraper
- Spindle gouge
- Decorating tools
- Sandpaper and finish
- Spray Adhesive

The Process:

1. Cut or trim the desired photo to shape using a pair of scissors, circle cutting tool or circle punch. The example is cut to a 3" circle.
2. Mount the blank on a faceplate with short screws, or a drive plate, and bring up the tailstock for support. The screws shouldn't penetrate deeply, as the holes will need to be turned away later. Use a revolving center in the tailstock to keep the blank securely held against the faceplate.
** Use bowl turning tools to complete this project. DO NOT use spindle tools, such as a spindle roughing gouge or skew.
3. Using a bowl gouge, roughly flatten the back of the workpiece and create a tenon. The tenon should fit your set of chuck jaws securely.
4. Remount the workpiece in the chuck using the tenon you've just created. Flatten the front and round out the sides of the work piece.
5. Mark the recess to be cut on the front of the piece using a set of calipers or the photo as reference.
6. Create a recess about 1/8 of an inch deep and flat across the bottom using a bowl gouge or scraper. The walls of the recess should be straight sided or slightly undercut. You'll use this recess to turn the back of the piece. You can make the recess deeper or more undercut if you prefer, but this may change the look and reveal of the photo once it's in place.
7. Make sure your photo fits the recess!
8. Finish turning the front face and sides to the desired shape you'd like.
9. Sand the bottom of the recess to about 180 grit and be sure NOT to apply any finish to the bottom of the recess, as this may prevent the adhesive from working properly later on.
10. The sides of the recess, and front of the piece should be sanded and finished now, as it may be difficult to sand and finish the front once reversed.
11. Remove the piece from the chuck and use an awl or pointy object to mark the holes that need to be drilled for the string or wire to loop through.
12. Use scrap blocks to support the workpiece and hold it level while carefully drilling from the front. Go slowly to avoid the drill skipping and ruining the finished surface.
13. Secure the workpiece in the chuck using the recess on the front. Don't over-tighten the chuck as it could easily break the piece if too much pressure is applied. Feel free to use the tailstock for extra support if you'd like.
14. Roughly turn the back and the sides using gentle cuts. Remember, the piece is being held in a small recess and taking large or aggressive cuts isn't recommended.
15. Add any embellishment you choose. Go wild! Add some beads, textures, spirals, colors, basket illusion or any other technique you've been wanting to try. This is the perfect canvas to try something on a small scale.
16. Once you are happy with the turning, sand and finish the back and sides.
17. Remove the workpiece from the lathe and make sure it's completed to your liking.
18. Using a spray adhesive, double sided tape or other appropriate adhesive, attach the picture to the work piece. Double check your orientation before the adhesive sets.
19. Thread the string, wire or other hanging device to the workpiece and the project is complete. Enjoy and share!