

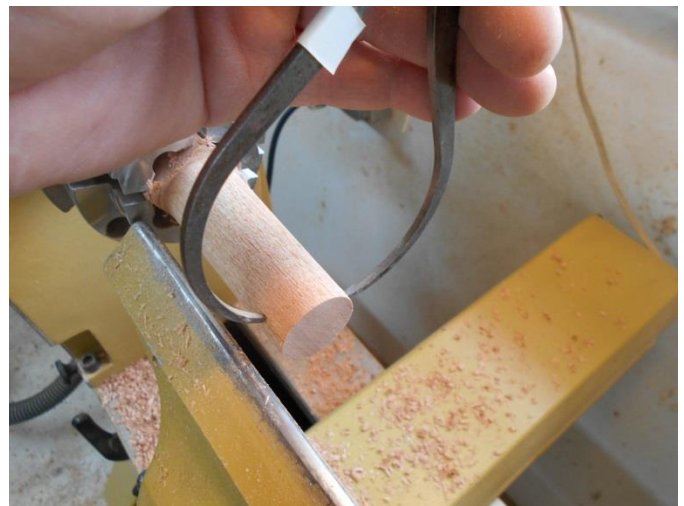
Turning and Carving Flame Finials

by Terry Landry

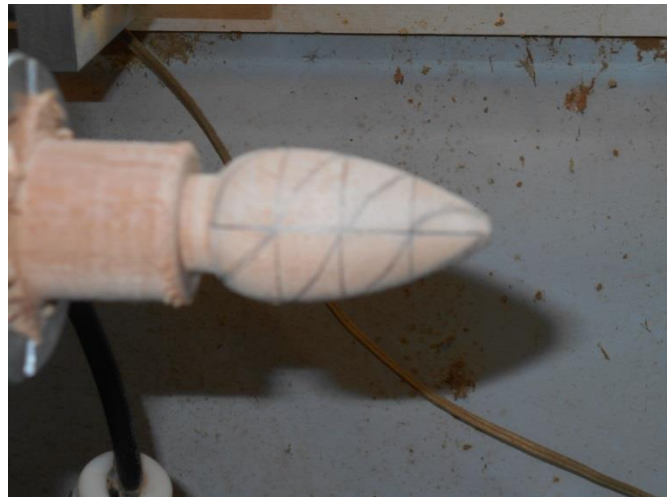
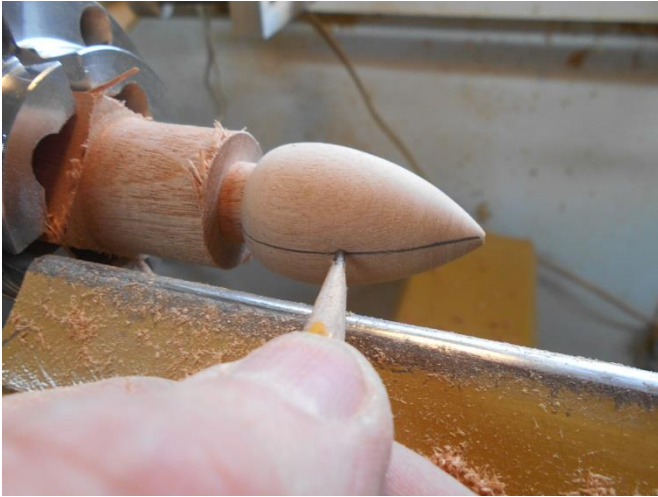
I received an order for making the top sections of bed posts that had somehow gotten lost in a move. We estimated the missing pieces to be about 13 inches in length. I did a little research to determine what the pieces probably looked like and did a full size drawing for the owner to view and approve. We knew that they were topped off by a flame finial and the process of making those is what I will describe in this article. The main section was first turned and holes were bored in each end. The pictures below show the completed sections with the flame finials attached, as well as my drawing and template.



The 1 ¼ inch square blank is mounted into the chuck, turned round and then to a sort of plumb bob shape.



Once turned to the proper shape, guide lines are drawn. First the circumference is divided equally into 4 sections. Next, the length is then divided into 4 sections as well. With those lines in place, I now draw a flowing line starting at the large end (bottom) moving to the small end (top) and crossing each intersection of the vertical lines and the circumference lines. Repeat the process four times starting at the bottom end of each vertical line. These “flowing” lines become guides for the carving gouge. This is very similar to the process of marking out screw threads, for instance, if you were to carve a wooden vise screw. I might add that an indexing head stock makes this layout, as well as the carving process, very easy.



With guide lines in place, It's time for the carving gouge. It's finished up with round rasps and sandpaper and a small tenon is turned on the bottom end.

