



A Southeastern Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Addendum to

Turner's Tips and Tidbits

by Irv Miller

Safety Precaution

On page 7 of the February, 2007 newsletter, I described how I make laminated blocks. One of my methods included cutting a cylinder into 3 cylindrical sections. Although a bandsaw is a relatively safe tool if you keep your fingers away from the blade, some operations require extra precautions. One such operation is sawing a short cylinder where you cannot hold it sufficiently to prevent it from rotating. **Cylinders should not be allowed to rotate while sawing.** If you happen to be using a re-sawing blade with just a few large teeth per inch, a slight rotation can result in a catch (yes, a catch on a bandsaw) and throw the cylinder back at you. In the process it could hit you in the face or break a finger. This is because once the rotation starts, it is further powered by the saw which then tries to take a big bite out of the uncut edge that is rotating into it. Proper restraint of rotation is all that it takes to prevent such a catch. I use a wooden clamp as in the picture below. During the cutting, my right hand is guiding the clamp, but for this picture, it is on the camera, taking the picture.



Safe turning.

Irv