

STEPS IN MAKING A PLATTER

Ervin R. Stutzman

Central Virginia Woodturners

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Select a slab of wood that is stable

Close-grained woods work best

Kiln-dried is preferable

5/4" or more in thickness is helpful for large platters

Cut out a round piece the desired size of your platter

A compass is helpful for drawing a circle

Mark the center clearly for reference in the next step

Mount the rounded piece on the lathe with a face plate or chuck screw center

Be sure to center it on the piece, which can be tricky with a face plate

I use a 11/32" drill bit to receive the Oneway chuck screw center

Jam chuck the piece with a live center for extra security

Turn the bottom side of the platter first, beginning with the foot

The foot should be about 1/3 of the overall diameter

Turn an inset to receive a reversed chuck

Add decoration as desired (beads, buttons, surface enhancement, etc.)

Turn the bottom side of the platter from the foot to the outside edge of the platter

Think carefully about the design for the curvature and surface decoration

Add beads, surface decoration, etc.

Sand the entire back side (I use at least 8 different sandpaper grits)

I generally reverse the direction of rotation each time I change grits

I alternate at times between hand sanding and machine sanding

Begin to turn the top side of the platter (either in the same position or reversed)

Reverse the platter and fasten with a reverse chuck

Use jam chuck for initial stability

Remove tailstock and finish shaping the entire front

Sand the top half (I use at least 8 different grits)

Apply your signature or other information

Apply finish coats

I sometimes use grain filler for open-grained wood

I use water-based Enduro Var to stabilize or fill loose grained wood

If this is the final finish, I use micro-mesh sandpaper to make a very smooth finish

I prefer to wipe on tung oil or Arm-R-Seal for the final finish

Enjoy your finished product