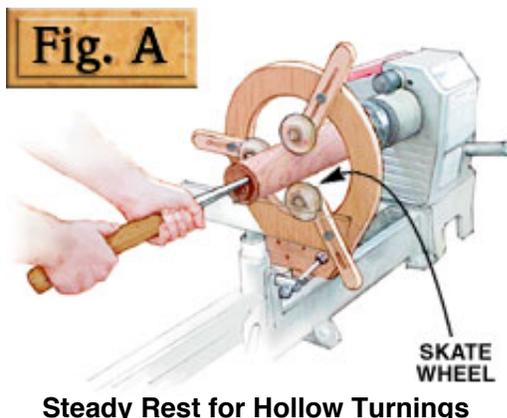


# BLUE HIGHWAY TIPS

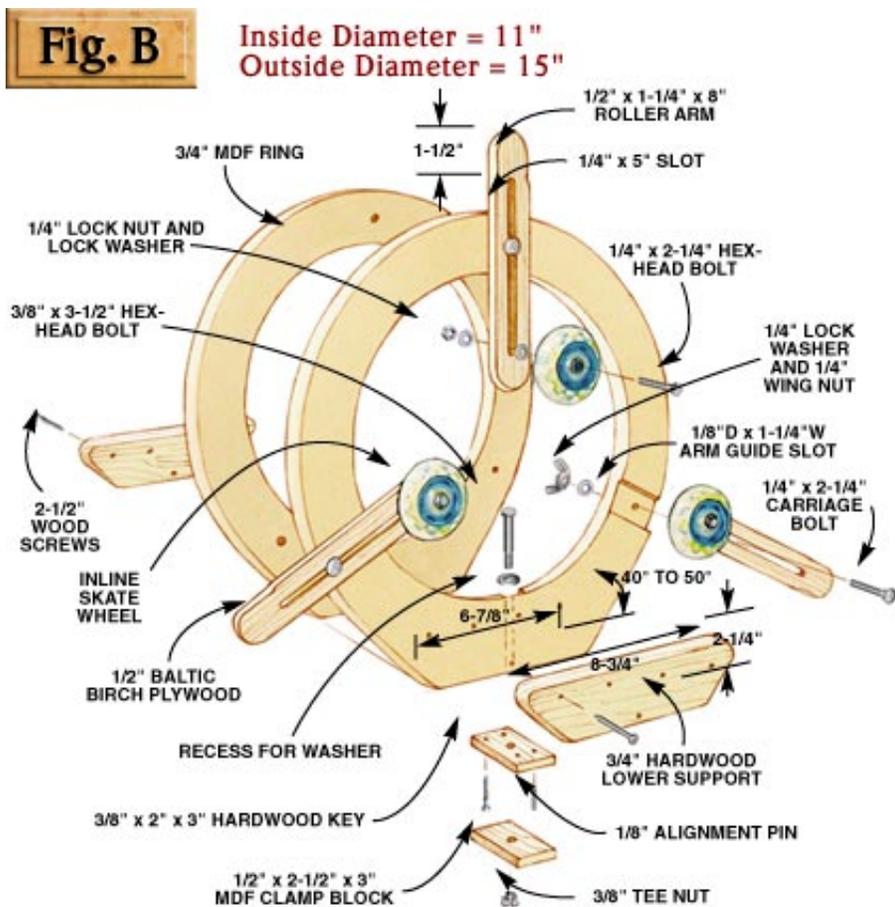
by Sam Satterwhite

## HOLLOW TURNING STEADY REST

If you've conquered turning spindles, legs and bowls and are looking for a new challenge, Dan Henry's jumbo lathe steady rest will help expand your horizons. It allows you to shape tall, hollowed-out pieces like vases by using non-marring inline skate wheels to steady the unchucked end of the piece while you hollow it out. Unlike normal steady rests, it's not designed for supporting very thin spindles.



Steady Rest for Hollow Turnings



Steady Rest Dimensions

**Step 1** Laminate two pieces of 3/4 in. x 15 in. x 15-1/2-in. MDF together for the main ring of the jig. The outer shape of the ring is a 15-in. circle. The tapered base is formed by 40-degree angles coming from the 6-7/8-in. flat base. Cut the outer shape and the inner 11-in. circle with a bandsaw.

**Step 2** Ease the edges on both sides of the ring with a 1/4-in. round-over router bit. Then, on one side of the ring, cut 1/8-in. dia. x 1-1/4-in. wide guide slots for the roller arms.

**Step 3** Cut 1-1/4 in. x 8-in. roller arms from 1/2-in. Baltic birch and rout a 1/4 in. x 5-in. slot in the center of each. Make each slot a bit oversized to let it slip easily on the 1/4-in. bolt. Round the ends of each arm and drill a 1/4-in. hole for the roller bolt.

**Step 4** Place the roller arms in their slots and drill 1/4-in. holes in the ring for the carriage bolts that hold the arms in place.

**Step 5** Shape the 3/4 in. x 2-1/4 in. x 8-3/4-in. hardwood lower supports. Attach each support with five 2-1/2-in. flat-head wood screws.

**Step 6** Install the 3/8 in. x 2 in. x 3-in. hardwood key (sized to fit your lathe) in the center on the bottom of the base. Drill a 3/8-in. hole through the center of the base for the 3-1/2-in. hex-head bolt that clamps the jig to your lathe.

**Step 7** Make the 1/2 in. x 2-1/2 in. x 3-in. clamping block (sized to fit your lathe) and install the 3/8-in. tee nut. Secure an alignment pin (a wood screw with the head cut off works) in the key and drill a companion hole in the clamping block.

## Materials List

- A** 16 x 30-in. piece of 3/4-in. MDF (medium density fiberboard)
- B** Three 1-1/4 in. x 8-in. pieces of 3/4-in. Baltic birch plywood
- C** Two 2-1/4 in. x 8-3/4-in. pieces of 3/4-in. hardwood
- D** 3/8 in. x 2 in. x 3-in. piece of hardwood
- E** Three inline skate wheels
- F** One 3/8-in. tee nut
- G** Three 1/4 in. x 2-1/4-in. carriage bolts
- H** Three 1/4 in. x 2-1/4-in. hex-head bolts
- J** Ten 2-1/4-in. flat-head wood screws
- K** One 3/8 in. x 3-1/2-in. hex-head bolt
- L** One 3/8-in. flat washer
- M** Six 1/4-in. flat washers
- N** Three 1/4-in. locking washers
- P** Three 1/4-in. locking nuts
- Q** Three 1/4-in. wing nuts

## Travel Log

When American Woodworker hit the road earlier this year to visit one on one with woodworkers, we confirmed a suspicion we often entertain: woodworkers are anything but selfish! In city after city and shop after shop, every woodworker we met enthusiastically shared their best ideas with us and each other. The best example of this occurred in Dallas at a meeting of the North Texas Woodworkers Association. At this meeting, about 50 woodworkers spent over two hours sharing their latest shop lessons and inventions. It's also where we found Dan Henry and the lathe steady rest you see here. Clearly, it pays to get involved in your local woodworking club. So,

**Step 8** Attach the rollers to the roller arms with the 1/4 in. x 2-1/4-in. hex-head bolts and use a flat washer on both sides of the arm. Attach the roller arms to the ring with carriage bolts and wing nuts.

if you're not a part of one already and want to grow your shop skills, get on the Internet or ask folks at local woodworking stores for contact information.

Major funding for this special project from Ford Motor Co. To learn more, visit [www.ford.com](http://www.ford.com)



**AW**

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