

Turning a Cheeseboard Tile

Supplies Needed

- Timber disc 12" dia. X 1 1/2" thick
- 6" Marble tile
- Self-centering chuck
- Sandpaper & finish
- 0000 Steel wool
- Flexible adhesive
- Eye and ear protection

Preparing the Blank

1. Take the timber blank and decide which side is going to be the top. Try to arrange the blank so that the finished turning follows the natural direction of the growth rings.
2. Fasten a faceplate to the top of the blank, or drill a 1/4" x 3/4" hole to receive the screw Center faceplate. Either way should securely hold the blank.
3. Mount the blank on the lathe and check the tool rest clearance by rotating the blank by hand. The lathe speed should be about 600 R.P.M.
4. Trim the rim true, using a bowl gouge. Now, bring the tool rest around and trim the base and edge surfaces flat and true.
5. Cut in where the foot will be. Mark a 5-3/4" diameter for the foot. Cut in an 1/8 inch or so with a parting tool to mark this area.

Shape the Underside of the Platter

1. Use a bowl gouge to form the sweeping curve of the underside of the platter. Try to make long, flowing cuts to get a smooth curve with the shape you want. Clean up any irregularities or tool marks with a heavy round nose scraper.

Cut the Dovetail Recess in the Base

1. Mark out the recess in the base to a diameter of 1/4" or so less than the maximum diameter of your scroll chuck in the expanding mode. The recess will be around 2 3/4" in diameter, but check your chuck capacity. This will leave a foot ring 5/8" or so wide.
2. Mark the recess diameter and cut in about 1/4 inch with a parting tool.
3. Remove the wood inside the recess with a 3/8 inch spindle gouge.
4. Use a skew chisel flat on its side to form the dovetailed sides to the recess. Make sure the recess is flat or slightly concave to allow the chuck to seat into the recess accurately.
5. Decorate the recess with a little detail if you wish to add interest.

Sand and Finish the Underside of the Platter

1. Sanding sequence is normally started at 80, then 100, 150, 220 and 320. The preferred method is to seal with a coat of deft lacquer, brushed on. Final finishing can be either an oil such as waterlox, or a lacquer finish.
2. The final coat is wax applied with 0000 steel wool, then buffing with a soft flannel cloth.
3. Remove the platter and reverse onto the chuck.

True the Face and Mark the Recess for the 6" Tile

1. Initially, the recess should be a little smaller than the tile.
2. Use the parting tool and cut in about 1/8".
3. Remove the wood in the recess area with a spindle gouge.
4. Stop the lathe and check the fit with the tile.
5. Gradually enlarge the recess until the tile will sit in the recess with about 1/32" to 1/16 gap all around the tile, to allow for wood movement.
6. Once the fit is what you want, deepen the recess, until the tile sits about 1/16" above the surrounding wood.

Detail the Rim

1. This is individual preference, but is best done when the platter is thick with plenty of support.

Hollow out the Platter Shape

1. Use a gouge, working downhill from both sides.
2. Leave a 1/2" or so of wood around the tile.
3. Try to get the wall thickness of the rim uniform yet a pleasing curve on the inside.
4. Final finish cuts can be made with the heavy round nose scraper with light cuts and handle well up in the trailing position.
5. Sand and finish as you did the underside of the platter.

Glue the Tile in Place

1. Use a flexible silicone type glue so when the tile is set the glue will remain flexible and absorb any wood movement.
2. Squeeze out drops of glue around the recess area.
3. Place the tile on the glue, press down and rotate the tile back and forth to seat the tile, leaving equal space all around the tile.

