

## Off Centre Pendants

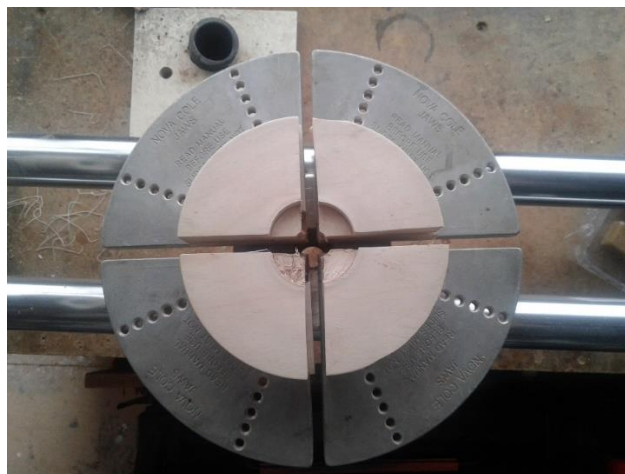
By Ian Elliott

Last week I watched [Colwin Way on Axminster's website via Youtube](#). Over 5 days he gave 5 interesting 45-minute real time demonstrations. On Thursday his demonstration was of an off-centre Pendant; this was something I had never tried before. Having 8 granddaughters between 14 to 25 I thought I would give it ago-possible presents.

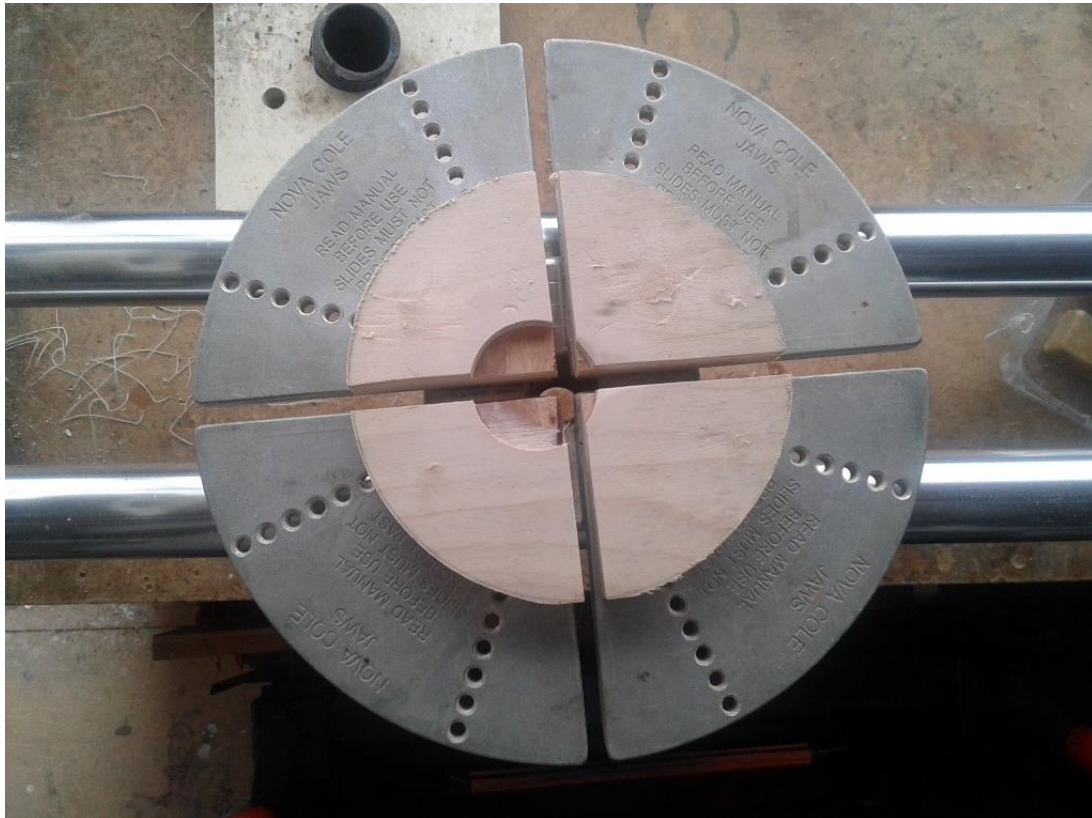
But Colwin used plywood jaws on Axminster "Wood Jaw Plates" (A set of pre-drilled steel quadrants onto which self-made wooden jaws of your own design can be mounted using wood screws). My problem was that my chucks are all either Nova/Record or Robert Sorby the jaws are interchangeable between these makes, but not with Axminster chucks.

So, when I went into my shed, I started looking at what jaws I had, to see if I could make something work (safely). After a bit of head scratching, I thought Wood Plate Jaws are just like my Coles Jaws without the buttons.

Off came the buttons, cut two 18mm Birch plywood discs about 150mm dia. With the Coles Jaws open to about 8mm, I wood screwed from the back of the jaws into one of the plywood discs 2 screws through each plate (using the existing machine screw holes for the buttons). With the chuck on the lathe I drilled a 40mm dia. hole about 8mm deep in the centre of the plywood, removed the disc from the plates and cut it into quarters, not through the centre line but 4mm off centre both sides of the centre line. This maintains the 8mm gap when the quadrants are re-fixed to the plates. I numbered the quadrants to correspond to my numbers on the plates prior to unscrewing and cutting. I did drill a 10mm dia. hole in the centre for the dowel, but this was lost in the cutting into quadrants, so had to re-drill when reassembled. (you need to watch Colwin's demo to know what the dowel is for)



With the other disc screwed to plates as before I marked it off and numbered the quadrants, then 12mm off centre along one of the lines I marked a centre point. Removed the disc from the plates. Then on my pillar drill I drilled an 8mm deep x 40mm dia. hole at the off-centre point. Cut as before into quadrants maintaining the 8mm gap.



This will all make more sense if you have watched [Colwin's demo](#). But I just wanted to tell you how I solved a problem, not how to make off-centre pendants. Two new sets of jaws acquired and not a penny spent. It's also got other possibilities in the future.

The Axminster Wood Plate Jaws are probably more substantial than my Coles Jaws, so though my solution worked for a project of this size, I would not consider using it on a lot larger project. I would also make a larger diameter plywood disc next time, as I was only able to get 2 screws per plate. If I had made the disc a little larger, I could have got 4 screws per disc. Also watch your speed with Coles Jaws.



My first two attempts, I tried slightly different design on each side. American Black Walnut and Spalted Beech. Both from cutting. I will be making more. If you haven't got Coles Jaws and you know or can come up with a different solution, let us know.