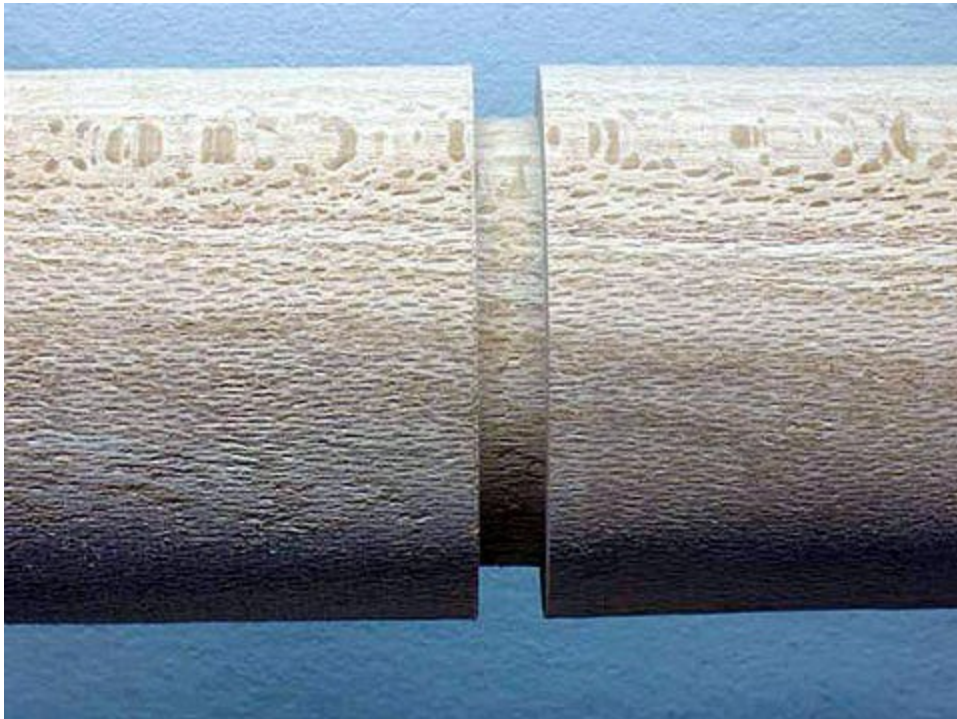


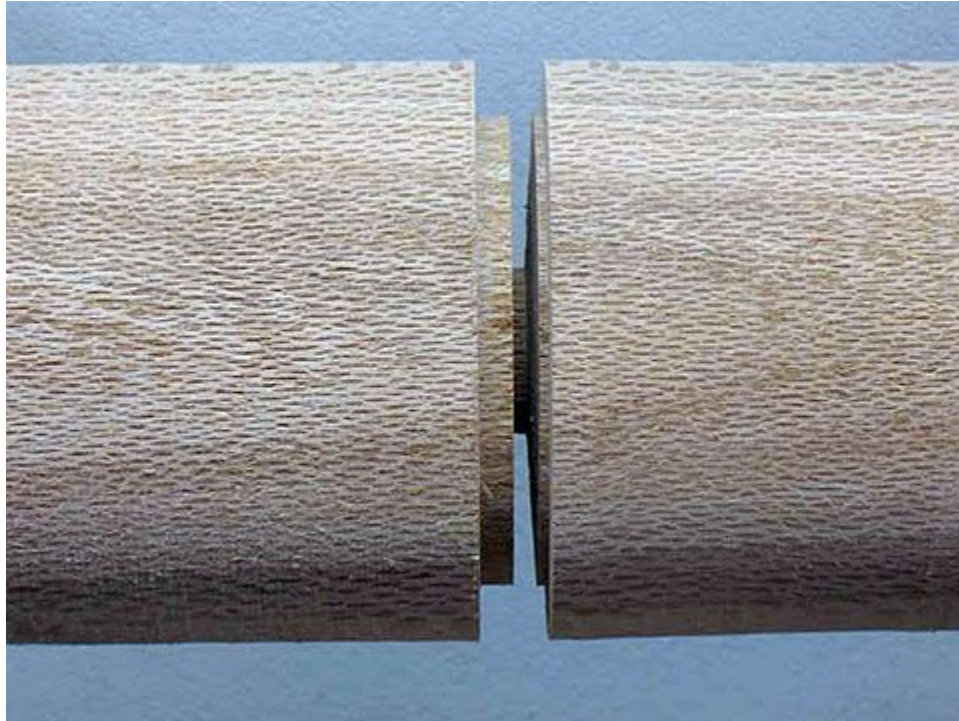
I recently learned how to make an oyster shaped box on the lathe. I used Silky Oak for this demonstration. Here's a step by step version of how: Make a cylinder about 6 to 7 inches long and about 3 to 4 inches in diameter, as shown in the next picture.



Approximately in the center of this cylinder, cut a groove about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep and about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide. See next picture.



Then cut another groove near one side of this groove. As shown.



The spigot on the left will slip into a bell that you will cut into the piece on the right. The tiny spigot that remains on this piece will serve as a reference for the size of the bell that you will cut into it.



Now I cut the ends to fit into my chuck. You could also use a pair of jam chucks and glue the pieces into them. Now you can take the entire piece out of the lathe and cut it through the remainder in the middle. You could also part it off if you want.

Now put the piece with the spigot back into the lathe.

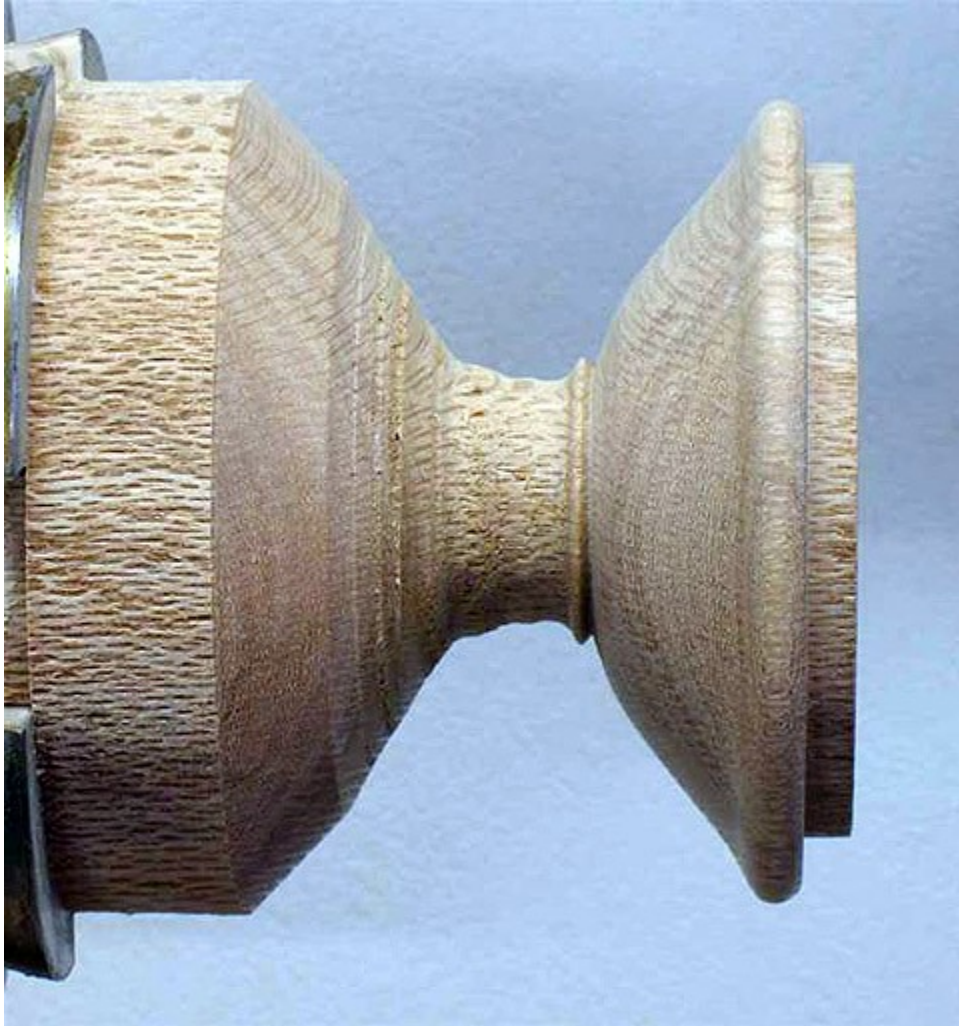


As you can see, it has the spigot facing out.

Next you need to turn a dish into the end of the piece. The time to put your finish on this is now.



Next you need to cut a radius on the edge and cut the back of the piece most of the way down. Try to maintain a constant thickness.



Now you part off the piece. It will look something like this. It will be put into the next piece to finish it.



Turn a recess for the spigot to fit into. This will be your jam chuck so make it a tight fit.

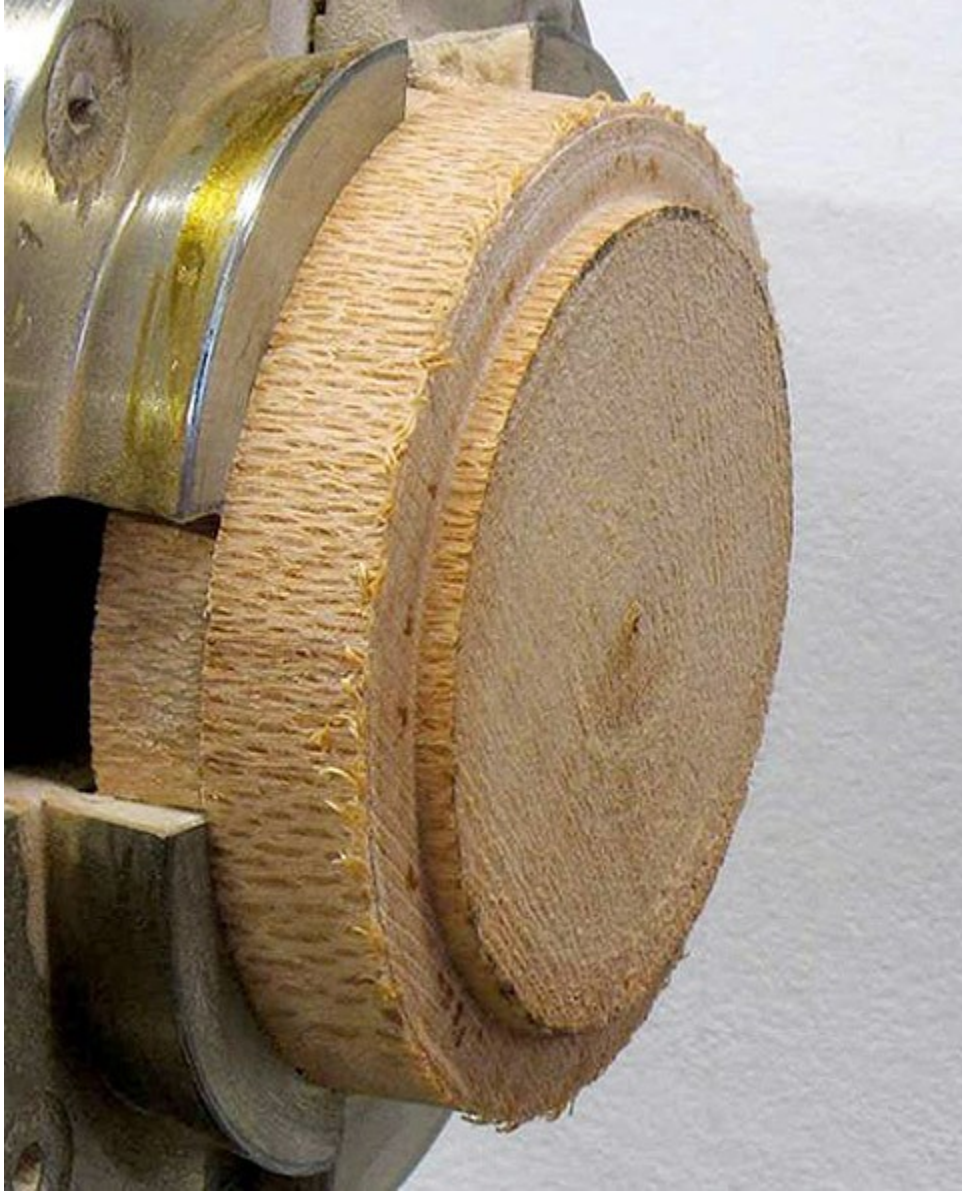


Finish the piece. Remove it from the jam chuck. Now you are ready to turn this into the other half of the box. Remove this half from the jam chuck. Start on the other half.

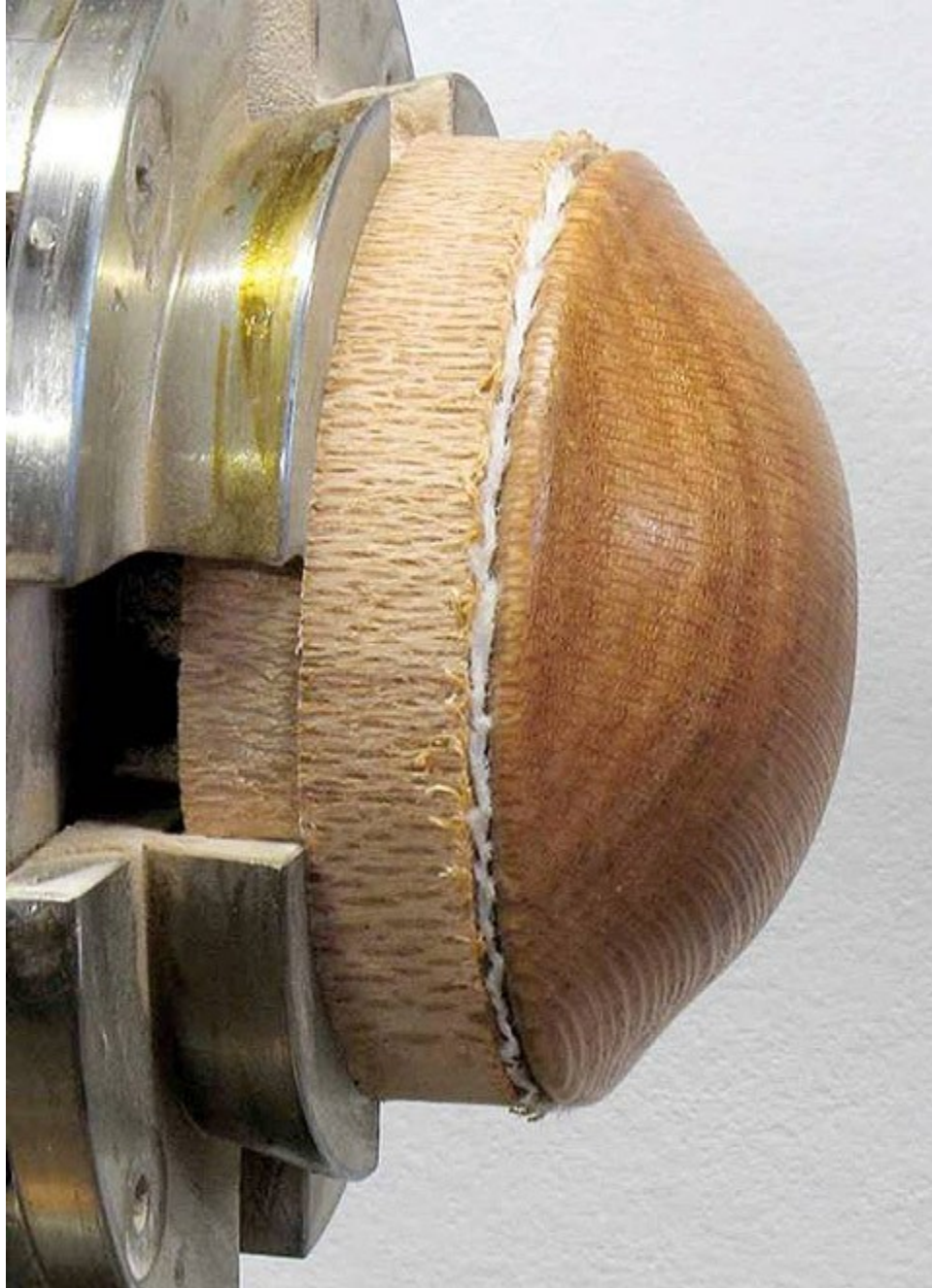
Turn the dish into it and turn the back of it as you did on the first one. You can put the spigot half back on to check for uniformity of shape.



When the piece looks right, part it off. Now you need to turn another spigot to use as a jam chuck to accept this piece so you can finish it.



Mount this piece onto the jam chuck as shown in the next picture.



As you can see I cut a little too much off the jam chuck spigot, so I used a sheet of paper towel to get a tight fit. Finish the piece now. When the pieces are put together, they make an oyster shaped box, as shown in the next picture.



And here are the two halves. One with a bell and one with a spigot. The fit on these mating halves is critical. Too tight and they won't go together. Too loose and they won't stay together. Be very careful with this.



I need to put a couple more coats of finish on this box. I was in a hurry to get the pictures taken, so it only has one quick coat of wipe-on poly on it.

These are fun to make, but they waste a lot of material. You end up with only about 3" of the 6" you started with. But the ladies love them. And that is reason enough to make them.