

# Woodworkers of Central New York, Inc.

## Turning Rattles

Demonstration by Robert Love & Ed Siegel – April 12, 2022



Rattles are one of the earliest toys to which children are exposed. Rattles can be the kind with just rings on a piece of wood or they can be balls with some sort of material captive inside the balls that makes noise. Robert Love demonstrated the later type and since we had time, Ed showed how he makes rattles with captive rings.

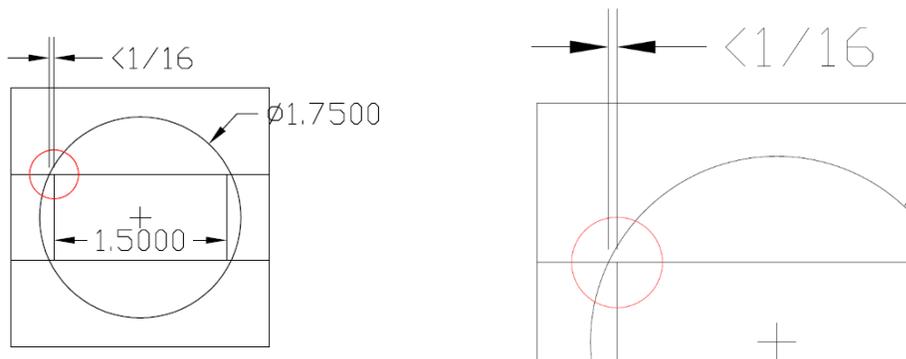
### Key Information:

- ✓ SIZE – Toys like rattles for babies should not be smaller than 1¼” in diameter and 2¼” in length. If it fits through the hole in paper towel roll, it is too small!
- ✓ FINISH – Use a very natural finish like mineral oil, natural oils, bees wax or even keep plain. Do not use a film finish that can come off while being chewed on!
- ✓ WOOD – Babies will chew on the rattles so avoid spalted woods, oily woods (many exotics), and generally use hard woods, not soft pine. Walnut can be an irritant for some people so you may want to avoid using it also.

### Challenges:

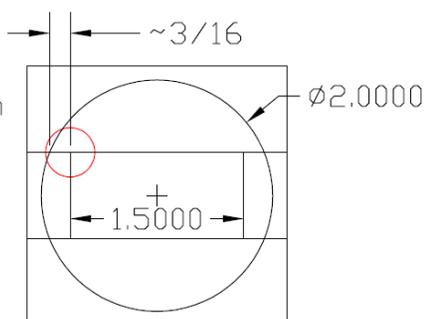
1. Where is the hole (don't make outside smaller than the inside!)
2. Mounting the blank off center and #1 could happen. Mark the center section to ensure the holes are centered
3. Not a lot of meat left at the top and bottom corners of the holes to the outside if you try to turn a thin wall. Go for wall that is between 3/16” and ¼”.

1/8” wall leads to very thin spots at the corners of the hole \*see the red circle

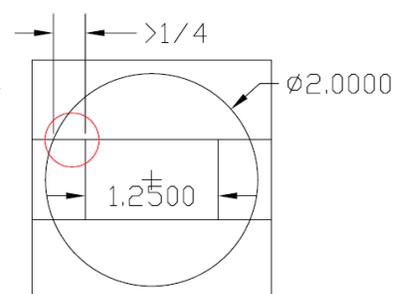


Red Area is the Danger Zone!

1/4” wall allows more room for errors



3/8” wall allows even more room for errors, but starts getting heavy



## Process:

Using  $\frac{3}{4}$  thick wood, just because it easy to find.

1. Cut pieces ~2.25" wide (which is 3 X  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ) and 7-8" long. Length depends if you are using a chuck or doing everything between centers.
2. Center piece needs to be marked for the two holes that will be drilled (use a marking template for ease). And also marked the end for mounting between centers. Must be accurate!!
3. Drill the holes.
4. Glue on one side and let the glue dry (thick and fast is nice!)
5. Add beads/bells – about enough to fill in one layer – Don't overfill!
6. Glue on the other side.
7. Mount between centers
8. Turn the blank round
9. Move to Chuck if desired
10. Shape Rattle (using parting cuts to define the hole, or a template)

## "Rattlers" – What's Inside?!

- ✓ Can opt for natural items like rice, dry corn, popping corn, etc.
- ✓ Wooden beads, turn your own from scraps.
- ✓ Steal them from a beader's collection.
- ✓ Buck shot makes a nice sound.
- ✓ Jingle bells (drill some holes in the rattle for better sound).
- ✓ Stay away from lead-based stuff!





