

String Steady – Bedway Mount



A bedway mounted string steady is a simple homemade lathe accessory to steady long thin turnings on the lathe. Mount the string steady on the bedway, positioned along the

completed portion of the long thin turning. The string is then wrapped around the protruding nail heads of the string steady, trapping the long thin turning, thus absorbing any vibration resulting from concentric deviation resulting from the turned item.



Practically any scrap wood, of appropriate dimensions, can be used, for example, scarp pieces of 1"x2" construction spruce. The upright of the string steady must be approximately 1" taller than the height of the bedway to the turning center. As shown in the picture of the string steady, attach the base of the upright to a cross member which sits on top of the bedway. Attach a thin block, which is the width of the bedway gap, centered on the bottom of the cross member. Make a clamp block, which fastens to the string steady cross member from under the bedways, typically by a bolt and nut.

Drill a hole, around $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter, through the top of the string steady upright, at a height of the bedway to the turning center. Using a saw, cut open the circle to form a u-shaped opening at the top of the string steady upright.

Hammer in short nails, around $\frac{5}{8}$ " in length, evenly spaced around the face of the u-shaped opening at the top of the string steady upright. Fasten a length of string around one nail. Hammer in 2 more short nails, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart, on the side of the string steady near the u-shaped opening.



After turning a portion of a long thin turning, support the turned item with the string steady by wrapping the turning with the string as shown in the drawing, snug but not taut, and tie-off the string using the side-mounted nails.

