

## String Steady – Tailstock Mount



A tailstock mounted (MT1, MT2, or MT3) string steady is a simple homemade lathe accessory to steady long thin turnings on the lathe. With the string steady mounted in the tailstock, move the tail stock toward the

headstock until the end of the turned item is partially inserted inside the hole of the string steady. The string is then wrapped around the protruding nail heads of the string steady, trapping the end of the turned item, thus absorbing any vibration resulting from concentric deviation resulting from the end of the turned item.



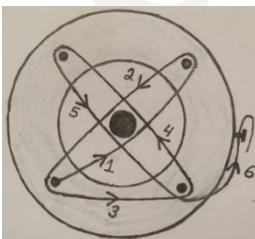
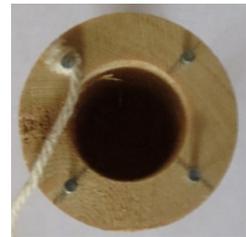
Practically any scrap wood, of appropriate dimensions, can be used, for example, a scarp piece of 2X2 construction spruce. Turning blank should be at least 1 1/2" square and at least 6 1/2" in length.

Grasp one end of the turning blank in chuck using a suitably-sized jaw set, such as, Oneway Talon chuck with step jaws, leaving approximately 6" of the turning blank exposed. Support the opposite end of the turning blank with a live centre. Turn the exposed portion of the blank to a cylinder approximately 1 1/2" in diameter.

Replace the live centre with a Jacob's chuck with a 3/4" drill bit. Bore a hole in the end of the turning block approximately 2" deep.

Replace Jacob's chuck with live centre to support the end of the turning blank. Using an existing MT2 taper, measure the length of the MT2 taper plus the beginning and end diameters of the MT2 taper. Starting to the left of a mark 2 1/2" from the tailstock end, carefully turn an MT2 taper on the turning blank using the measurements from the existing MT2 taper. Part or cut off the turned string steady to the left of the MT2 taper.

Hammer in short nails, around 5/8" in length, evenly spaced around the face of the drilled hole in the end of the string steady. Fasten a length of string around one nail. Hammer in 2 more short nails, approximately 1/2" apart, on the circumference of the string steady near the bottom of the drilled hole.



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