

Segmented Platter Demo:

Cherry Platter with Walnut Leaves or Walnut Platter with Cherry Leaves



- Use two contrasting woods
- Plane to equal thickness
- Choose size of template or trace from paper pattern onto woods (patterns allow for 5 1/2, 6 1/4, and 7" platters)
- Use 1/4" or smaller band saw blade to cut rough circle blanks (scroll saw may be even better).
- Use double stick tape to join two circles; one on top of the other; place between centers on your lathe and true both together.
- Use templates or tracing paper to outline where to cut on your circle blanks; be sure to number your pieces
- Take your time and cut out the pieces. Use oscillating sander to eliminate kerf marks if necessary

Note: I use a marine epoxy with filler, which can be colored or textured, as my adhesive. Downside is that you can get air bubbles that will require filling later. (Rick Dickey suggested using a sanding table that vibrates to settle the epoxy; another option would be to use a food sealer that creates a vacuum and theoretically would pull the air bubbles out of the epoxy. Or just put your project on top of anything that vibrates while it's setting up – compressor, washing machine in its spin cycle, etc.) You also might consider using "Ultimate Glue," a polyurethane glue that expands. I haven't used it, but it may well be the best answer. The epoxy can provide a crisp line delineating the leaves from the rest of the wood. Not sure what kind of glue line the Ultimate Glue will give.

- When using the epoxy, you have to use blue tape along the circumference of the cut sections. The tape will contain the epoxy and help prevent it from oozing out
- After parts are set up, return blank to lathe: secure between centers, re-true, and create tenon
- With tenon, place blank in chuck and turn off excess epoxy/glue to reveal pattern; check for air bubble voids--fill if necessary; decide on shape and whether you want a small bowl in the center. My example has thin wings and a bowl.
- Using either a vacuum chuck or jumbo jaws, reverse platter and finish the bottom.