

Paperweight Desk Magnifier Kit

A decorative insert of your choice will turn this paperweight magnifier into a unique desk accessory. The insert may be turned, carved or even made of polymer clay. The completed insert should be $2^{9/16}$ " (65 mm) diameter and up to $1/2$ " thick — large enough to fit snugly in the recess at the top of the magnifier case.

The instructions that follow are for turning a disc suitable for mounting on the magnifier case. Steel bushings are not required for this project.

Your wood blank should be a minimum $2^{5/8}$ " in diameter and $1/2$ " thick. A close-grained hardwood is recommended.

Mount a waste block of wood about $2^{3/4}$ " and 1" thick to a face plate. Shape a tapered tenon on the waste block, making the outside face $2^{9/16}$ " diameter, the same diameter as the recess at the top of the magnifier case.

Fasten the project wood to the waste block with double-sided turning tape. Advance the live center until it touches the face of the project wood. Turn the project wood to size, using the outside face of the waste block as a guide for the diameter of the recess at the top of the magnifier case. Use any tool and any speed you are comfortable with. Retract the live center, then dome the face of the project wood. Decorative chatter details can be added if desired. Sand and finish the wood on the lathe.

Use a chisel to remove the finished piece from the waste block, taking care not to crack the wood. If preferred, you could use a parting tool.

Sand the back of the finished piece. Then secure it to the magnifier case with double-sided turning tape, cyanoacrylate, epoxy or silicone adhesive. By making several inserts and embedding a $1/4$ " diameter rare-earth magnet in the back of each, you can change the face of the magnifier to match the seasons or complement your surroundings.

