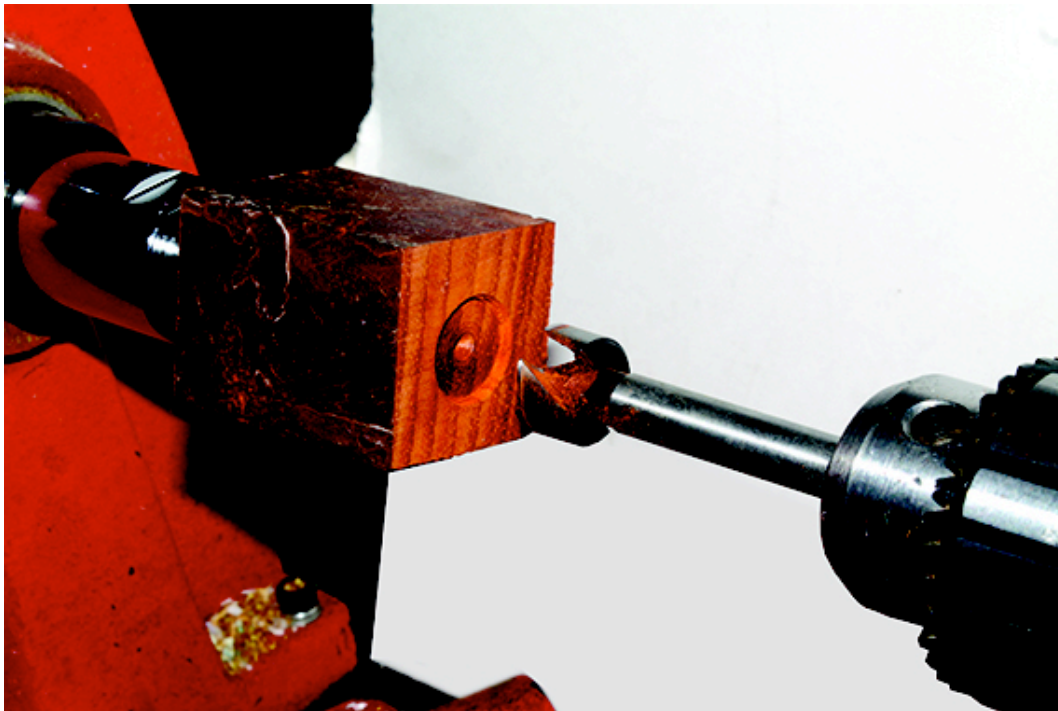


How to make a Cabochon inlay



Use a small piece of contrasting scrap wood, plastic or Corian™ to make a unique Cabochon insert that adds interest and design your [bottle stopper](#) project. First determine the diameter of the cabochon. It can be as small as 1/2" or as large as 1-1/2" (3/4" cabochon shown in the photos).



While your stopper blank is still square, drill and mount your blank onto the headstock using the [Bottle Stopper chuck mount](#). Put a drill chuck into the tailstock and, place a Forstner bit the diameter of the cabochon into the chuck. Turn on your lathe and drill a recess about 1/16" deep. Remove the drill chuck and mount the live center in the tailstock with the point inserted into the dimple point of the recess. Turn the [bottle stopper blank](#) to an appropriate profile rounding up to the edge of the recess. Sand and finish your stopper - the top will have a recess ready to accept your cabochon. There are many ways to turn the cabochon inlay disc - here's one our favorites.



Penn State Industries carries a dedicated [pen blank drilling chuck](#) that is ideal for turning a pen blank into a cabochon up to 1" in diameter. Place a pen blank (can be a short piece of pen blank scrap) in the chuck. Turn a dome to about 1/4" high at the end of your blank, match the diameter to the recess you drilled in the [bottle stopper blank](#). Finish and polish the cabochon dome, part it off of the blank, then glue it into the recess in the stopper blank.

Additional Accessories to make a cabochon:
Forstner Bits: 3/4" Bit [#FB34](#) \$5.95, 1" Bit [#FB1](#) \$6.95, 1/2" x #2MT
Drill Chuck: [#TM32](#) \$29.95 , 1" Capacity
Pen Blank Drilling Chuck: [#CSCPENCHK](#) \$79.95