

Turning Deer Grunt Calls

The kits we supply will allow you to make a very serviceable and great sounding deer grunt call.

You will need the following items to make your Deer Grunt Call

3/4" Drill Bit

1/2" Drill Bit

Mandrel with Shop made spacers

The first step is to gather the components that came in your reed kit and then cut a couple of blanks for your call. You will need one blank about 4 inches long and one about 3 inches long.



Your reed kit should have the following
- left to right in the photo

Tone Board

2 Large O Rings

1 Small O Ring

Toneboard Wedge

Reed

Expansion Tube

We will drill the longer of the two blanks with a 3/4" bit. The shorter blank is drilled to 1/2"

I prefer to do my drilling on a drill press but you can also do it on the lathe if you prefer.

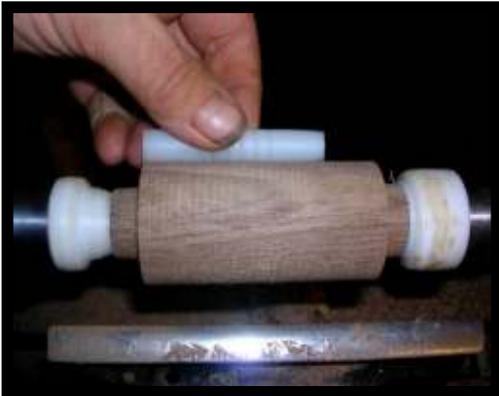


Once we have our blanks drilled, it is time to start turning. I turn the barrel of the call first, and that is the sequence in this article, but it's up to you which one you want to start with.

I turn all of my calls on Mandrels, as it helps keep the hole perfectly centered; If you do not have a 3/4" mandrel, you can use the mandrel you do have by making a couple of spacers for it as I have done here. Simply drill a couple of small blocks the same diameter as your mandrel and turn shoulders on them that will fit into a 3/4" bore.



Once I have turned my blank to round, and trued up the ends, I take a measurement with my tone board. The tone board will fit inside the barrel, so you want to keep your barrel at least 3 inches long. Any shorter and the tone board will stick out the end



Turn your barrel to any shape you prefer, then sand and finish it. Remember to put in a lanyard groove if you are going to carry it on a lanyard.

Now that we have the barrel turned, we can set it aside and get started on the stopper.

Turning the stopper involves turning a tennon on each end; Once we have turned the blank to round, we can start on the first tennon. This is the end that will fit inside our barrel.

The outside diameter of this tennon should be $\frac{3}{4}$ " and you want to make it between $\frac{1}{2}$ " and $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. I like them on the long side.

Check the diameter as you are turning with a Spindle Gauge.



If you do not have a spindle gauge, you can make one by drilling a scrap blank to $\frac{3}{4}$ " and then cutting it in half. Use it to check the diameter of your tennon.

Once the tennon is turned to the proper diameter, we need to cut a couple of grooves in the tennon for an O ring fit. The O rings are $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick so a small parting tool works well for this. The O ring keeps the stopper from falling out of the barrel.

You will want to test the fit of the O rings with the barrel to ensure a snug but not tight fit. You need to be able to remove the stopper to adjust the grunt call reed.



Now that we have the tennon turned, it is time to turn the stopper to the desired shape. I use a pair of calipers to get the diameter of the barrel...



and then use that measurement when turning the stopper. This ensures an even flow from barrel to stopper and makes your call look aesthetically pleasing.

Once the stopper is turned to shape, we will turn the last tennon. This tennon will hold the expansion tube. It is a 7/8" diameter and should be about 3/4" long.



Once your stopper is sanded and finished, we can assemble our grunt call.

To complete the deer grunt call we will need the tone board, tone board wedge, and the reed. Line the end of the reed up with the end of the tone board and set the tone board wedge on top of both.



Push the entire assembly into the stopper end with the 3/4" tennon. The wedge and tone board are tapered and will form a tight fit in the stopper. It helps to put the tone board in first sometimes, and push it in further than normal. Then set the wedge in place and pull the toneboard out to for a tight fit.



Next, put the large O rings on the tenons and the small O ring on the tone board. I usually use two O rings on the end that goes in the barrel, and do not use one on the expansion tube end. I take care to turn that tenon to a very snug fit.



Slide the end of the stopper with the reed into the barrel. The O ring will provide a snug fit.

The expansion tube slides on the other end of the stopper.



And that is all there is to making a Deer Grunt Call. You can make them as plain or fancy as you like, and from any wood, even acrylic.

Good turning

Al @ THO

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