

shape all turnings before changing tips or getting an extra tool rest assembly.

- Drill centering holes in templates to speed up remounting and realignment.

FREEHAND TURNING

Freehand turning is very much like duplicating except no template or pattern is required. You can shape the piece any way you imagine it (Figure 13-29). The setup is the same except that the template brackets, the follower and the follower upright support are removed. Leave the channel assembly and guard in place.

SANDING AND FINISHING

Sanding and finishing a turning are much easier done on the lathe than removing it and finishing it by hand. **Warning: Before you start, remove all lathe duplicator components.** Caution: Lay a cloth over the way tubes to catch grit and finish.

For sanding, use quarter sheets of sandpaper folded into thirds. This gives you a rigid piece, yet it will bend to fit the shape of the turning and the thickness helps protect your fingers from heat build-up (Figure 13-30). **Warning: Never wrap sandpaper, steel wool or a rag around the turning and never use a rag with frayed edges. They could easily pull your fingers into the workpiece.**

Turn the Mark V on and set the speed dial to the correct speed. Begin working with new 100-grit paper and light pressure. Then switch to used 100-grit paper. Finish sanding with new and used 150-grit paper. For open grain woods, wet the surface to raise the grain between sandpaper changes. Allow the water to dry before sanding.

For a smoother surface and reduced sanding time, dismount the spindle, turn it end-for-end and sand in the opposite direction. **Warning: When remounting the stock, be sure to put enough pressure on the quill to engage both the drive and cup centers.** You can reverse the rotation of a faceplate turning by mounting the faceplate on the upper auxiliary spindle.

For finishing, use a very low speed and prepare a natural oil finish with the stain mixed in. Polyurethane is not recommended because it will dry too quickly. Mask any areas to be glued later.

Soak a rag and a piece of fine, slightly used wet/dry sandpaper in the finish. Use the rag to apply the finish to the turning. Then sand. Repeat, adding more finish until a mixture of finish and sanding dust covers the entire turning. Rub this paste with your hands and let it set for a minute or two or until it becomes sticky. Then buff the turning and let it dry. Apply additional coats of finish, but do not sand.