

Wooden Pendulums

by Fred Holder

I recently had a lady contact me seeking a wooden pendulum. I had never made one but told her I would be happy to give it a try. I searched the Internet and found a picture of an ancient Egyptian wooden pendulum (see Figure 1). I made a copy of that pendulum (See Figure 2) and sent a photo to her. She indicated that she wanted a pendulum that was more plump and about 2" long. Based on that information, I made a second one as close to what I felt she wanted (see Figure 3). She was very happy with it, but wanted the hook on top removed.

She advised that she wanted to use the pendulum for healing purposes. I have used pendulums over the years to seek answers to questions that I did not have an answer to. If you can clear your mind when using it, you can get very good yes or no answers. For this article, I decided to include a bit of information from the Internet on the subject of pendulums. The following is some of that information:

“A pendulum is an object suspended by a cord, used for obtaining information which the normal senses are unable to access on a conscious level. You could improvise with an everyday object, such as a pendant, a chain, a plumb bob or a ring on a thread. However, a purpose-made pendulum is best because it has a shape and geometry, that is, a symmetry. This allows the swing to be more even and more sensitive and therefore more effective. The pendulum, as an extension of the person using it, may be influenced both consciously and subconsciously making the responses accurate as well as inaccurate. Wishful thinking or a preconceived outcome, however slight, can be magnified making the use of the pendulum in that instance ineffective. The user must take steps to prevent this. Insufficiently specific questioning can result in senseless responses.”

Here is a brief description of how I made a turned wooden pendulum.

I cut the wood into a square piece about 1-1/2 inches square and about 1" longer than I wanted the final pendulum to be; i.e., for the final pendulum (Figure 3), the wood was three inches long. I mounted this in a chuck with a live tail center in the tailstock. This point made by the tailstock would be the place where the hook would be inserted. I then turned the shape, working down toward a point on the chuck side. Before it became so small on the headstock end, I sanded through the grits down to 400. I then cut down carefully with a skew until the point was cut clean. I then had to do a little final sanding on the point and then applied a coat of Kerf's Wood Creme, a very nice beeswax-based finish that works very well. I then

installed the hook and a piece of string to check it out. It worked beautifully. It swung smoothly in the back and forth position (which I had defined to be YES) and sideways (which was defined to be NO). It also swung in a circle when it didn't know the answer to the question.

I should mention, if you decide to make one of these, it helps to draw a "plus" on a piece of paper that you place below the pendulum and mark the direction for Yes and No. You will know that it doesn't know when it swings in a circle. Have fun with your pendulum!



Figure 1. Picture of an ancient Egyptian Wooden Pendulum.



Figure 2. Picture of my copy of the Egyptian Pendulum.



Figure 3. Picture of the final pendulum that the lady loved.