

In-game Development * News * Quests * Events

Adellion

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The Pole Lathe

A Woodworking Skill

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Your World



Your Destiny

Making .. a Pole Lathe

A pole lathe was an early form of wood turning lathe that used a springy pole and the operator's foot to turn the piece being worked on. The operator would rest a wood chisel on the 'tool rest' to shape the wood.

The Adellion version of a pole lathe is a bit more sophisticated than the early versions as can be seen from the model below.



To construct a pole lathe the player needs to cut sixteen boards and then, with a hammer and nails, make the pole lathe stand. Next a wooden block has to be cut and shaped with a chisel to make the two wooden 'poppets' – the blocks on the stand between which the wood to be shaped is placed.

More boards have to be cut and shaped to produce the treadle and tool rest. A pole will also have to be trimmed and twine tied on it to connect the treadle with the pole. Finally the parts must be assembled and glued together to make a finished pole lathe.

A pole lathe is needed to produce some furniture items like an inn table, a chair or a bed but is also used to make the screw mechanism for a fruit press or the neck and pillar of a harp.

