

Cabriole Legs – part 2

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Definition:

The term “cabriole legs” can legitimately apply to several forms but largely fall into 3 categories:

Queen Anne, Commoner, Derivatives

- My article on Cabriole legs found in the TVWG website covers the “commoner” form (and some derivatives) and deals with fully turned legs having minor variations.



- What we think of when someone says “Cabriole” is really Queen Anne



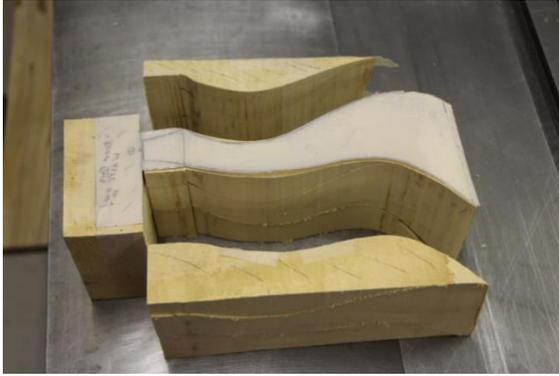
I have not been able to find a “how to” article on turning Queen Anne style legs. Traditionally they are bandsawn and carved to their final shape. One article suggests turning the foot only.



My experiments:

- Draw the desired shape and determine various mounting points for the lathe
- Make a Mylar template and mark the spur and live center variations
- Attach template to wood block and bandsaw to the profile (note that end-waste is still attached)
- Re-attach the off-cuts with turning tape
- Rotate the block $\frac{1}{4}$ turn, invert the template and attach to the wood block (the outer edge of the leg shape on each side should be facing each other) and bandsaw to the profile (again, end waste still attached)
- Mount the rough-sawn leg on the lathe on opposing centre points and turn the foot to a cylinder (not the final tapered shape as it will weaken the structure)
- Re-mount to the offset points to turn the outside curvature to the extent possible
- Drawknife, Spokeshave, Rasp and sand to the final shape





Alternate:

- Make variable offset jigs for the drive and the live centre ends thus eliminating the need for the attached waste block. The tailstock jig is drilled and tapped to mount on the Oneway live centre in order to freely rotate. The two jigs must be carefully aligned when mounting the leg. I use a digital angle finder. Once aligned, tailstock pressure may be applied to secure the leg before turning. The leg will be substantially off centre so care must be taken to set the speed to near zero at the start and slowly bring the lathe up to a safe speed to turn the features. Only the front of the leg is turned to the degree required. Blending to the foot and slightly rounding the side edges is done manually while still mounted between centres using a spoke shave and/or a rasp and sanding.
- **NOTE: offset turning is inherently dangerous so great care must be taken. A certified full face mask is a must and the lathe must have variable speed control. If you are the slightest bit nervous about the process, I would recommend NOT doing it.**

