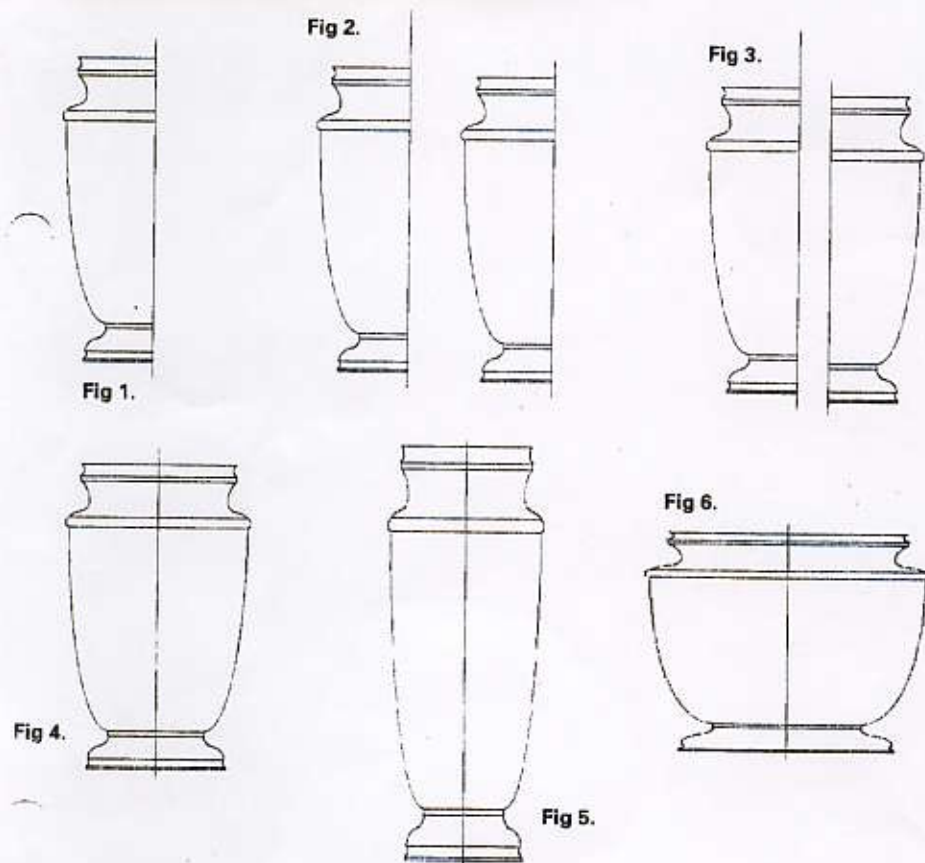


Using a computer to make scale drawings



Making scale drawings of turnings on graph paper, using rulers and French curves, is fine until you have to match the two sides, especially if there has been some freehand drawing. You can trace one side to copy on to the other, but this is time consuming. I overcame this problem by using my recently-bought iMac computer to do the job. The iMac has a drawing program in it, but most basic drawing programs are capable of this simple process. Follow these easy stages:

- Draw a vertical line representing the middle line of your work with the line-drawing tool or the pen which produces this line, by

holding the shift key down and moving the pen down the page.

- The straight lines on one half of the drawing (fig 1) can also be done with the line-drawing tool, and the curves with the free-hand tool or the arc tool. This produces beautiful curves which always seem to look right (presumably because some mathematical formula is involved).
- It is easy to make corrections as you go along, and you can use the enlarging and shrinking functions to see the overall shape or pay attention to details, as necessary.

- When you are satisfied with the shape, use the rectangular selection tool to select the drawing exactly to the axis line.
- Now copy it to the clipboard and paste it back into the same document. You now have two identical drawings (fig 2).
- Keeping the copy selected, use the 'flip horizontally' function to turn it into a mirror image of the original (fig 3).
- Still keeping the mirror image selected, position the mouse arrow over it and, holding the mouse clicker down, move it precisely into position to complete your drawing (fig 4).
- At this stage, it's possible to experiment with dimensions and sizes by using the re-shaping and re-sizing functions (figs 5 and 6).
- The completed drawing can now be printed out and pinned up in your workshop for easy reference.
- The half drawing (fig 1) can be printed out and pasted to a piece of plywood to aid transfer of critical dimensions to the wood in the lathe. This is particularly useful when turning more than one identical piece.

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