



Split Ends – Get rid of defects

by Richard Raffan

When cutting into any board it pays to cut a bendable slither off the end so you can see what's hidden beneath the surface.

This was very well seasoned air-dried ash with a couple of splits going in about 100mm, so that's what I remove initially. For a turner that off-cut can often yield clean material for small projects like boxes or drawer knobs.



Not in this case. You can see the end of the board (on top) looked to have only a few splits to the left, whereas 100mm in you can see many more splits right across.



In this situation I'll remove another 50mm or more to get back to what looks like solid wood. Then I cut a very thin sliver which I'll bend. If there's a major split or weakness it'll break, whilst micro splits will appear as tiny canyons or crevasses.

