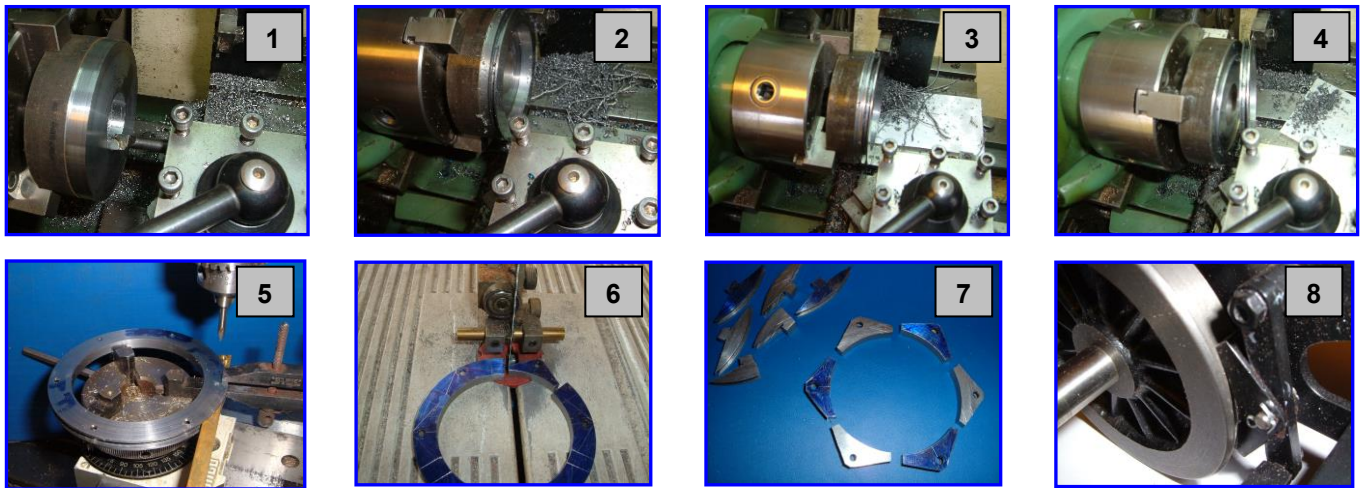


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Making locomotive brake blocks

This document was written by Dereck Langridge and was originally published by Worthing and District SME in their newsletter in the Winter of 2009.

LOCO BRAKE BLOCKS.....DON'T BUY 'EM, MAKE 'EM!



When ordering some bits from one of our regular suppliers recently, I noticed that their lists of available loco castings frequently include brake blocks. It had occurred to me that considering the cost, and the fact that each block would need to be mounted individually in some sort of fixture for machining, there must be a better way. Here's how I did it, (not my own original idea I hasten to add!).

Photo 1. An offcut of mild steel has been faced, turned to outside diameter, and boring is in progress with the last couple of cuts to be made with the top slide set-over to match the cone angle of the wheels.

Photo 2, the one-eighth groove for the hangers is being cut with side-by-side cuts with a narrow parting blade in the rear tool-post.

Photos 3 and 4, parting off of the 'ring'.

Photo 5 shows drilling of the fixing holes and spotting other points in a dividing head; followed by

Photo 6, the bandsaw makes easy work of slicing.

Photo 7 shows the little fellas ready for a quick lick of the linisher, or final shaping with files.

Photo 8, The end result.

