For instance, we had to cut a couple of square holes through the planks so that the crossbeam supports could be put through the finished dummy to hold it up. We spent hours using drills and chisels and an ultrasonic multi-tool to make the square holes. We had used some older maple that Dad had around for part of the cylinder. That was a mistake because the wood was warped and the laminations didn’t come out straight and we had a 50 lb beam that had to be trued. We fix-mounted the warped quarter cylinder in the box that we were going to be the lathe, and ran the router over the surfaces of the piece to straighten it out.

The arms were an interesting exercise. By mounting them in the lathe, with one end higher than the other, the router turned out a conical shaped piece, which was sanded and used to form the arms.

Although it was a pleasant experience working with my dad overall, he was not happy when I burned out his commercial grade sander and drill.

Dad was cheap so he didn’t want to buy any more wood than he had to or waste the wood at the corners that would be chopped off to make the cylinder. Picture the Earth and the way the latitude lines define equal width sections from north to south. As you approach the north and south ends of the Earth the distance.

So we bought lumber in different widths, and found some at home, resulting in a stair-stepped rough cylinder shape that required a lot of calculation to make sure that the width of the plank was not shorter than where the outside of the cylinder was supposed to be. Couple that with the fact that lumber comes only in standard sizes, so there were times when we had to buy a number of way oversized planks so that we could get two laminate pieces out of a single blank.