The little IKEA LED gooseneck lamp (JANSJÖ) is incredibly useful around the shop, most of us have more than one. Here's how I make a lathe lamp using the IKEA light fixture and a magnetic base for a dial indicator (Grizzly Part H3328). This magnetic lamp is perfect for a lathe although it also works well on a bandsaw, scroll saw or anything with a bit of metal close to where you want the light. The 23 inch gooseneck gets the light close to (or inside) the work without getting in the way of the tool.

Unpack the IKEA lamp and discard the weight, the plastic cover and the peel'n'stick felt base. Make a wood spacer a bit thicker than the projection of the two legs on the base of the gooseneck. Drill two holes for these to pass through the spacer. The spacer should be larger than the plastic base at the end of the gooseneck. The spacer allows the gooseneck to sit tight against the mounting fixture.

To mount the lamp to the magnetic base, make a fixture from 1-1/4 inch by 1-1/4 inch by 3/32 inch angle iron. Old bed frames are the perfect size. Drill a 21/64 inch hole (to fit the threaded

stud of the dial indicator fitting) centered 3/8 inch from the outside edge and centered in one of the angle legs. On the opposite leg drill two 5/32 inch holes on the centerline, spaced to match the two holes in the spacer.

Paint the spacer and the mount flat black to match the magnetic dial indicator base.

Using the screws and washers from the IKEA lamp, attach the gooseneck to the mounting fixture with the spacer between the angle and the gooseneck. The outstanding leg of the angle points away from the gooseneck. This connection should be quite tight. If the spacer is properly sized, the gooseneck will not wobble on the angle.

Remove the dial indicator fitting from the magnetic base. Discard the large washer which is between the stud and the magnetic base. Apply two small pieces of turner's double stick mounting tape to the inside of the angle, on either side of the 21/64 inch hole. The tape provides additional friction to resist torsion when the fixture is mounted to the base. Mount the fixture to the base using the stud from the dial indicator fitting. The leg of the angle should be tight against the magnetic base with the other leg extending over the top of the magnetic base. There should be a slight space between the top of the magnetic base and the screws in the angle which secure the gooseneck. Tighten the stud with a wrench to secure the angle to the magnetic base. Re-assemble the dial indicator fitting on the stud so you can use the magnetic base for the originally intended use if the occasion arises.

The lamp is ready for use. Sometimes I use double stick tape to mount the switch to the top of the magnetic base but this shortens the cord. I usually just leave the lamp on, controlling it from the plug-strip I use for everything else at the lathe. If your lathe has a lot of vibration, the magnetic switch may work it's way to the "off" position. To avoid this, I sometimes slip a rubber band made from a bicycle inner tube around the base and over the switch. This gives it just enough friction to stay in place and still allow for switching on/off to relocate the lamp.

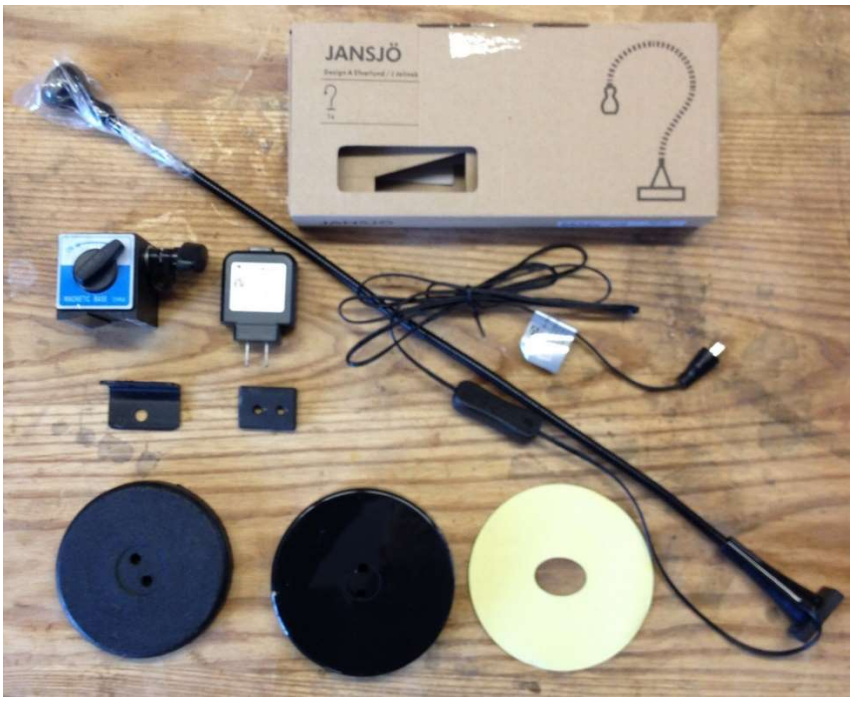

Photo 1 – Lathe Light Parts

Photo 2 – Detail of Spacer and Angle Mount

Photo 3 – Angle Mount applied to Magnetic base

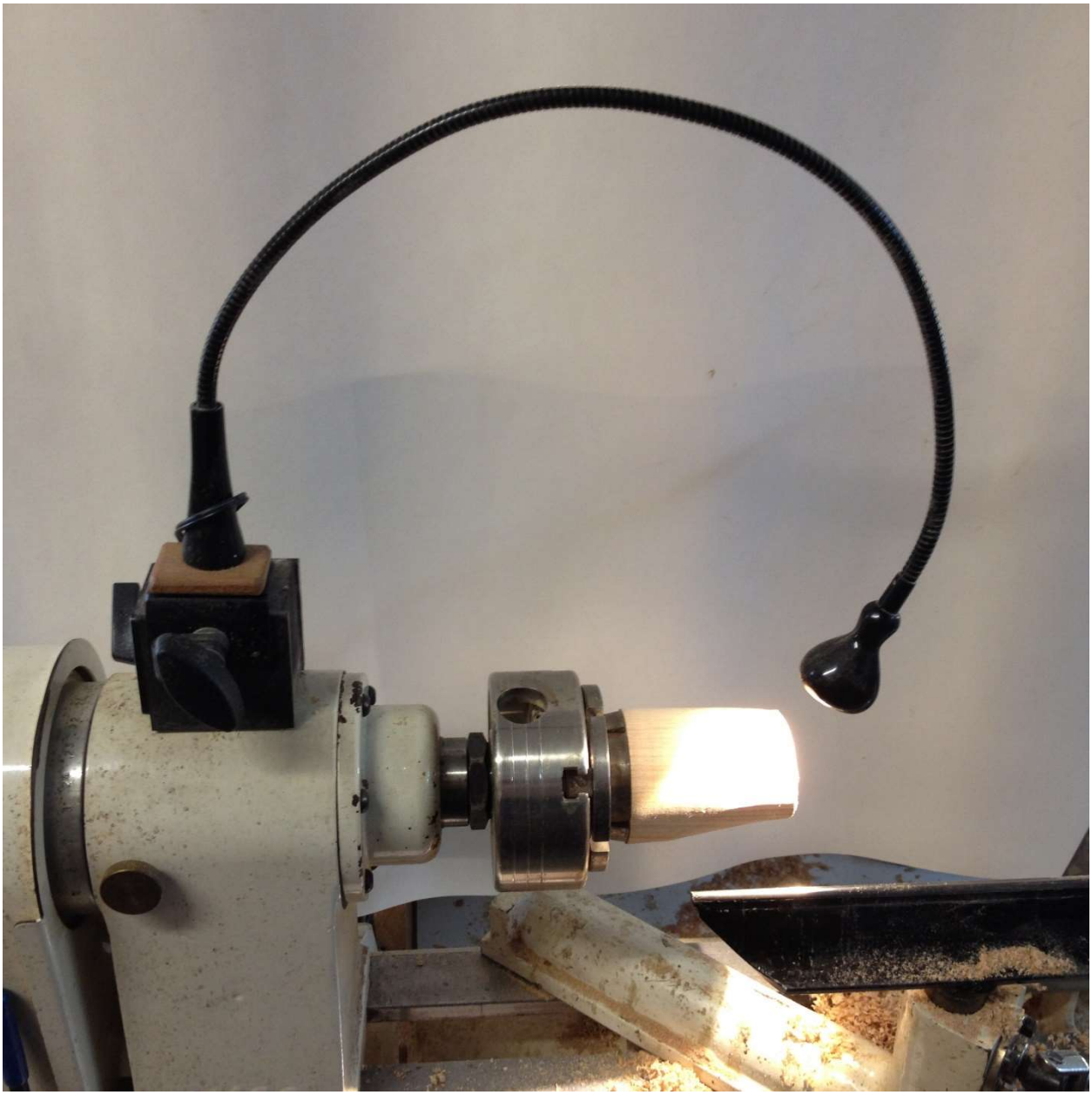

Photo 4 – Light in use