

TURNING 103 – BOX TURNING

Tools:

Please note: Your tools should be razor sharp! You will not sand your project. What you turn is what you get.

Bowl gouge ¼ - 3/8”

¼” – ½” skew and/or beading tool

1/16” parting tool (preferred)

¾” round nose scraper

¾” – 1” roughing gouge and/or spindle gouge

6” ruler

Calipers

Vernier caliper

Pencil

Method:

1. Locate the centers on both ends of your turning blank
2. Mark the centers with a drive center
3. Mount the blank between centers and turn to a cylinder using your roughing gouge.
4. Turn a ¼” by ¼” tenon on both ends of the blank
5. Mark a line ¾” from the headstock end of the blank
6. Use your parting tool to part off the top.
7. Turn a ¼ by ¼” tenon on the bottom edge of the top. Make sure the tenon is square. Undercut the shoulder of the tenon.
8. Turn the inside of the lid. Remember, you have about ½” of depth.
9. Use vernier calipers to measure the diameter of the tenon.
10. Mount the bottom in your chuck.
11. True the face of the box.
10. Use the set vernier caliper to mark the diameter of the tenon.
12. Turn an interior tenon so that there is a press fit of the top.
11. Mount the top and finish turning the top of the box.
13. True up the side of the box. Mark a line 1 ½” from the top of the box
14. Turn the inside of the box.
15. Slightly undercut the rim of the box. “Shave” a small amount of wood from the inside of the shoulder on the base to make the top an easy fit.
16. Part off the bottom of the box at the marked line.
17. Use the remaining wood to turn a tenon equal to the inside diameter of your box,
18. Turn a concave surface on the bottom of the box.
19. A decorative bead or concentric lines will create a professional look.
20. Sign and date your work.

Note: If you wish to sand and finish the box at home, you can jam chuck the lid of the box to sand and finish the inside. Do the same with the base.

Normally, turners sand and finish the inside of the lid before parting the lid and finish the base before parting off. A good way to disguise the joint is to cut two or three “V” grooves or beads at the joint line.