

Turning a Goblet

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Goblets have been around for centuries. There are many design and style variations of the basic shape. Reference your glass goblets at home, in stores, or catalogs for ideas. This project will blend spindle turning with some end grain techniques to produce excellent results.

Tools:

Face-shield

Roughing gouge

3/8" spindle or detail gouge

Parting tool

Sand Paper

Jacob chuck

Begin by cutting a blank 2 ½ to 3 inches square by 7 to 8 inches long. Have these prepared for the young turners prior to class.

Use the roughing gouge to round the blank between centers. Turn a tenon on one end and face off the other end with the parting tool. The tenon becomes the base in the 4 jaw chuck. In the absence of a 4 jaw chuck, use a faceplate with a waste block. True up the waste block and turn a recess to match the tenon on the blank. Glue the blank into the waste block with quality glue, avoiding CA due to its brittleness.



NOTE: If faceplates with glue blocks are being used, prepare the blanks and glue blocks prior to the youth turning event. Ensure the gluing surfaces are true for a good joint.

Set the tenon into the 4 jaw chuck. The tenon should seat on the top of the jaws and not bottom out on the inside. If a glue block is used, the tenon should not bottom out in the glue block either.

Drill a hole to desired depth using a Jacob chuck or a 3/8" spindle gouge. A Jacob chuck with a 3/8" drill bit in the tail stock is an excellent method to accomplish this. Each mentor should give extra attention to this procedure or perform it for the student if the situation requires.



Hollow the bowl to shape, practicing end grain turning techniques. Sand the inside of the bowl.

Turn the outside of the bowl to match the inside and sand. Leave the area where the stem will meet the bowl for the next step

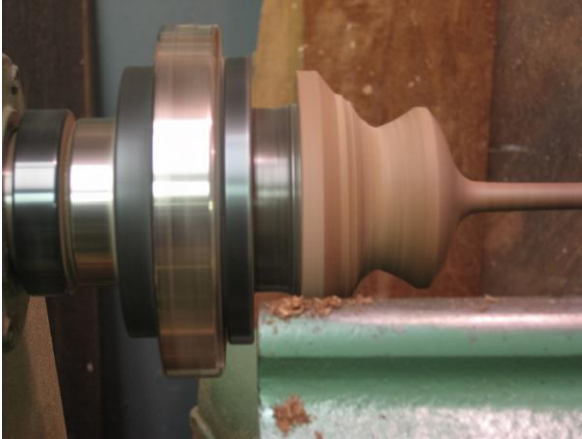
Place some loosely packed paper towels in the bowl of the goblet and lightly bring up the live center until it just begins to spin. This will steady the bowl when turning a slender stem.



Starting at the bowl end, turn the stem down to the final size in 1 inch increments. Sand each section and continue until you have the length of stem that you wish.

NOTE: If you're turning a slender stem, keep the lathe running from this point on. The torque of starting and stopping the lathe can shear the stem. The mentor may need to help support the slender stem or demonstrate how to support, keeping vibration down.

Design considerations: Although a slender stem is very elegant variations might include a stem that flares out to the base, uses beads and coves, or other design elements.



Shape the top of the goblet's base, blending it with the stem.

After sanding the top of the base, part the goblet with an undercut. When using the parting tool, keep the cut 2 – 3 times the width of the tool.



Sand the bottom of the base and apply your favorite finish.

HINT: A handy sanding aid can be made by rounding over the remaining wood after parting the goblet. Glue on a piece of 220 grit sand paper and gently sand the bottom.



Enjoy your completed project!