

Turning Weed Pots

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Weed pots are a great way to utilize spindle turning techniques. They are a great project to give as gifts to relatives and friends. Any size blank will do, but this project is particularly suited for those cutoffs that are not going to be used for other projects.

Tools:

Roughing gouge
3/8" Spindle gouge
Parting tool
4 jaw chuck

Jacobs chuck with morse taper
3/8" drill bit
Sand Paper

Begin with a 2 1/2" square by 6" wood blank.



Start the blank between centers (live center in the tailstock). Position the tool rest close to the work piece, rotating the wood by hand to check for clearance. Turn the stock down to a cylinder.

NOTE: There are many different design ideas to explore, discuss them with the mentor.

Turn a tenon on one end to seat in the 4 jaw chuck. Make sure that the tenon won't bottom out in that chuck. While the piece is between centers, rough out the shape of your weed pot. Although this picture illustrates the base of the weed pot being roughed out on the tailstock end, it doesn't matter while between centers. Work with the student and see which orientation will work for them.



NOTE: If a 4 jaw chuck is not available, this project can be completed with a faceplate. Make sure longer screws are used for end grain and adjustments are made to either the design or blank length

Set the weed pot's tenon in the 4 jaw chuck. Turn the top of the weed pot in just a bit.



Place the Jacob chuck in the tailstock. Using the 3/8" drill bit, drill a hole as deep as you can. Blend the top with the hole.

Replace the live center back into the tailstock. Bring the center into the hole for support and finish turn the weed pot's shape. Work the base down and sand the entire piece.



Use a parting tool to part the base. Install the Jacob chuck into the headstock with the 3/8" drill bit. Slide the weed pot hole over the drill bit and bring the tailstock securely to the base. Finish turning and blending the bottom, turning a slightly concave surface. The concave surface gives the weed pot stability when standing up.

Sand the base and remove from the drill bit. Trim and sand any nub of wood left from the tailstock.



Enjoy your weed pot