

Cindy Drozda "The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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Capsule Box with Inlay - Turning Steps

**This design starts with a dry box blank 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" x 4", 57mm x 57mm x 100mm
The inlay blank is 3/8"/10mm thick, and larger than the finished inlay size.**

Flatten one or both sides of the inlay blank.

You will also need a jam chuck blank about the size of the box blank.

1. Find the center on both ends of the Box Blank, mount between centers, turn to round.
2. Form a tenon on each end that will fit your chuck jaws.
3. Prepare the jam chuck blank in the same way. It only needs a tenon on one end.
4. Chuck on the lid end of the blank, part off the bottom of the box.
5. Hollow the lid, forming a parallel recess at the opening where it will fit onto the box bottom.
6. Shape the lid as much as you can in this setup, and sand the inside.
7. Decorate and finish the inside of the lid now if desired.
8. Mount the Box bottom in the chuck, mark the lid opening's diameter, and turn a tenon to jam fit the lid on to the box bottom.
9. Shape the top and bottom of the box together so the sides are flush.
10. Shape the top of the lid up to where the inlay will go in.
11. Sand the sides of the box, and detail the joint if desired.
12. Tape over the joint and create a recess in the lid for the inlay.
13. Remove the lid and use the box bottom as a friction drive to shape the inlay to fit the recess in the lid.
14. Tape the lid back on and shape the top of the box. Detail and sand as desired.
15. Remove the lid and relieve the fit if needed.
16. Hollow the inside of the box bottom, drilling out the waste if desired. Sand the inside of the box.
17. Mount the jam chuck in the chuck and turn a tenon to jam fit the box bottom.
18. Tape onto the jam chuck and finish shaping and sanding the outside of the box bottom
19. This project can be finished on the lathe, with finishing being done when each of the surfaces are accessible.
20. If you chose not to finish on the lathe, finish the box now that it is completed.
21. Sign your work.

Some design considerations:

1. It is possible to do this project in different sizes, larger or smaller.
2. The most pleasing box size fits the user's hand well.
3. A good size range for this type of box is 2"/50mm – 4"/100mm in diameter.
4. If the box will be used for jewelry, shallower is better.
5. A jewelry box is easier to use with a looser lid
6. If the box will be carried in a purse or pocket, a tighter lid is better.
7. A piece of nicely figured wood or burl makes a beautiful inlay.
8. Choose dry wood for the best lid fit over time.

Build your confidence:

1. A shallower box is easier and faster to make.
2. Skip the inlay and focus on making a nice shape and good lid fit.
3. Don't worry about grain match.
4. Choose forgiving wood that isn't expensive so you don't worry about ruining it.
5. Wood without knots or bark will be nicer to cut, and won't dull the tools as quickly.
6. Choose a jam chuck with parallel even grain and consistent density.
7. Use the tailstock, and tape, whenever possible.
8. Fitting a tenon to a recess is easier than fitting a recess to a tenon.

Challenge yourself:

1. A deeper box is more of a challenge because of the toolrest overhang.
2. The outside shape doesn't need to be straight, or parallel.
3. Embellish your design with beads, vee grooves, chatterwork, carving, paint, gold leaf, etc.
4. Do a double inlay with a foot for the bottom of the box made from the inner part of the first inlay.
5. Add a knob or finial.
6. Demand a high level of finishing without tool marks or torn grain.
7. Learn to get exactly the lid fit that you intended.