

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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Banksia Pod (or wood) Hollow Ornament with a Finial



Part 1: Prepare the Blanks:

For the Globe: Banksia Pod, ends cut off and roughed out to remove all the fur and loose parts, to yield a blank about 2-1/4"/60mm in diameter x 2"/50mm long with a chuck tenon on one end. "Normal" wood, either side grain or endgrain, can also be used.

For the Finial: Straight grain hardwood, about 1"/25mm in diameter x 5" long, rounded off and with a chuck tenon on one end.

For the Jam Chuck: You will need a piece of compressible straight grain (endgrain) wood that is about 2-1/2"/65mm in diameter and at least 2"/50mm long. It needs a tenon on one end to fit the scroll chuck.

Part 2: Turn the Globe:

1. Mount the Globe Blank in the chuck, shape the outside, leaving plenty of mass at the headstock side for support while hollowing.
2. Drill a depth hole the size of the intended opening. I used 5/8"/16mm.
3. Hollow the Globe. Leave a narrow flat right next to the hole to seat the base of the Finial. After hollowing the tailstock-side half of the Globe, shape the headstock-side as much as possible and continue hollowing. This will allow you to check wall thickness on most of the shape. Note that this plan intends for all of the material in the chuck to be part of the Globe. Take the Globe out of the chuck without parting it off.

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4. Prepare a jam chuck that has a spigot to go into the hole in the globe, and a bowl shape that jams the globe in almost to the large diameter point.
5. Shape the top of the Globe, keeping the tailstock up as long as possible. Sand the Globe. Tape the Globe in the jam chuck to take the tailstock away at the end.
6. Drill a hole for the eye hanger. Slow the lathe speed down, and pull the drill out frequently to clear the chips.
7. Apply a finish to the Globe. Tip for Banksia Pods: If you use an oil finish, blow the oil out of the holes with compressed air.

Part 3: Turn The Finial:

1. Chuck on the tenon on the Finial Blank, and create a tenon to fit the hole in the Globe. I like to make the tenon extra long, and put a smaller tenon on the very end, so I can part off the Finial's tenon short enough that it's not visible through the holes.
2. Create a narrow flat on the shoulder of the tenon to fit with the flat on the Globe. Chamfer the blank to that point to create a transition for the base of the Finial. Define the fillet at the base of the Finial.
3. Put the Finial's tenon in the chuck and turn your Finial.
4. After sanding and finishing, chuck on the smaller tenon at the end, and part off the Finial, leaving the tenon the same length as the wall of the Globe. (This is not necessary with solid wood where you won't be able to look inside and see the tenon)

Part 4: Assemble the Ornament:

1. Both Globe and Finial should be completely sealed and finished. Glue the Finial into the hole in the Globe using your glue of choice. I like Epoxy because it is easy to clean up any squeeze-out immediately.
2. Apply a small dot of glue to the hanger eye, and press it into the top of the Globe.

Congratulations on completing your Hollow Ornament!

For safety, Please wear eye and face protection at ALL TIMES

Oh, and be sure to HAVE FUN !!