Cindy Drozda
"The Fine Art of Woodturning"
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Tool List for the Triangle Box woodturning project

Gather up your tools:

1. 3/4"/19mm Spindle Roughing Gouge (Optional: different sizes of SRG, or use a bowl gouge)
2. 1/16"/1.5mm Parting Tool (Optional to use 1/8" if that's what you have)
3. 3/8"/10mm Beading and Parting Tool (optional: other type or width of straight across negative rake scraper)
4. 3/8"/10mm 40/40 Bowl Gouge (Optional)
5. 1/2"/13mm Straight Side, Flat Bottom Box Negative Rake Scraper (optional: other scraper to true up the opening of the box bottom, and/or to finish the inside bottom of the box. A 3/8"/10mm - 1/2"/13mm round nose scraper works well for this)
6. 1/8"/3mm Parting Tool (I prefer a non-diamond, non-fluted style, but use what you have)
7. General Brand Vernier Caliper (for scribing) (Optional: any caliper that can be locked will work. Be sure to round/soften the sharp corners of the outside jaws)
8. 1-3/4"/45mm Forstner Drill that can be held in the tailstock taper. (I use the Carter Products Strong Bore. A Jacobs Chuck works well, too)
9. 1/2"/13mm Square Recess Scraper (Optional: other straight edged scraper to true up the opening of the box bottom and to cut a jam fit recess)
10. 3/8"/10mm Finial Gouge (Optional: Your favorite grind of spindle gouge, in width from 1/4"/6mm – 1/2"/13mm
11. 1/4"/6mm Pyramid Tool (Optional)
12. Figure 8 Caliper (for wall thickness) (Optional: your choice of wall thickness caliper)
13. Depth Gauge
14. Compass for layout
15. Ruler for layout
16. Awl
17. 1/2"/13mm Steb Centers for headstock and tailstock (Optional: Other live/drive centers with similar size footprint. They need a point that will locate accurately on your awl marks, and a cup-type rim that will grip the wood. A "Safety Driver" works well in the headstock. A OneWay or Powermatic Live Center works well)
18. Glue, if you are doing the inlay. (I use Franklin Titebond, aliphatic resin carpenter's wood glue)
19. A lathe with electronic variable speed. Being able to adjust the speed from zero rpm up is an important safety consideration.
20. Your choice of PPE. I like to wear a full face shield when turning the piece between centers to do the multi-axis turning. Remember that the only thing keeping that out of balance piece of wood on the lathe is the pressure between the live and drive centers!

Please note: It is not necessary to have all of these tools to make this project! I have listed what I use, with some suggested options, but it is possible to make this box without owning all of these tools.

Most of these tools (and more) are available on my website, cindydrozda.com. The rest of them can be found at other woodturning tool suppliers.

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Prepare your blank:

I start this project with a 3" diameter, or 3" square, piece of wood about 3-1/2" long. That's 75mm diameter or square, and 90mm long. The length can vary a lot. For this layout, it needs to yield over 2-3/4"/70mm in diameter once it is rounded.

Timber choice can be almost anything that will hold together to make a box. I have used straight grain wood, like Ash, Cherry, Maple, Madrone, Walnut, Burls, and exotics. Spalted wood can tear out badly and not maintain crisp corners. Very hard wood (such as exotics) will take more time, but the result will be beautiful.

Very soft wood will compress a lot when turned multi-axis between centers. I recommend not choosing excessively soft wood, or spalted wood.

You will also need a piece for the inlay, if you choose to do it. Any good looking contrasting material works well. The piece needs to be about 2-1/4"/55mm square or round, and about 5/16"/8mm thick or more. I like to use a showy piece of burl or figured wood that is a complimentary and contrasting color to the main box. Flatten at least one face of the piece on a belt or disk sander for best results. A bandsaw cut does work out ok if it's smooth and straight.