

## Lidded Umeke Box - Turning Steps

**This design starts with a dry box blank 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 4 1/2", 63mm x 63mm x 115mm  
It is possible to do this project in different sizes, larger or smaller.  
You will also need a jam chuck blank larger than the lid opening**

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, sand, and finish the inside of the lid now if desired.
7. Mount the jam chuck in the chuck, mark it at the lid opening's diameter, and turn a tenon to jam fit the lid.
8. Reduce the diameter of the jam chuck to match the lid's diameter (for taping it on later)
9. Keeping the tailstock up as long as possible, shape the top of the lid and sand it.
10. Before taking away the tailstock, tape the lid onto the jam chuck.
11. Remove the tape to finish the outside of the lid if desired (and if your jam fit is tight).
12. Put the box bottom in the chuck, and fit the end of it to the lid. Make it a tight fit to allow for sanding.
13. Shape the box bottom, blending up to the lid fit area. Keep plenty of mass at the headstock end for the hollowing
14. Hollow the inside of the box, drilling out the waste if desired.
15. Sand and finish the inside of the box.
16. Finish shaping the outside bottom of the box, and sand the outside of the box.
17. Part off the box bottom, if desired, and sand the
18. Or: Mount the box bottom on the jam chuck to finish off the bottom, using tape before removing the tailstock.
19. Sand and remove the tape to apply finish if desired.
20. If you chose not to finish on the lathe, finish the box now that it is completed.
21. Sign your work.

**Depending on your skill level, or personal choice, here are some suggestions for customizing:**

### **If you are new to making boxes:**

1. A successful box may be more important than a high level of finish on the inside, or thin walls.
2. Don't worry if the fit is not tight. This design works well with an Easy Fit.
3. Make a shorter box.
4. It's ok to just drill out the box bottom to hollow it.
5. Give yourself a break on the jam fits. Don't force yourself to rely upon a jam fit without the tailstock. Use a waste block to jam fit so you can re-do it if necessary.

### **For the next challenge:**

1. Experiment with different shapes for the lid.
2. Make the lid fit tighter.
3. Hollow the box bottom to a consistent wall thickness, clean it up inside, and sand it well.
4. Decorate the outside and inside of the lid, and the bottom of the box bottom. Chatterwork, vee grooves, pyrography, ink work, painting, are just a few options.
5. Insist on smooth shapes without bumps or flat spots.

### **Accept more of a challenge:**

1. Make the lid opening smaller in relation to overall diameter so the hollowing is more dramatic.
2. Make a deeper box. More toolrest overhang is more challenging.
3. Choose a more difficult wood.
4. Demand a high level of finishing without tool marks or torn grain.