

# Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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## Preparation Instructions

### For the participants of Cindy Drozda Signature Workshops

#### Subject: Finial Box

#### Workshop Goals:

My main goal for all of my workshops is to help members of the Woodturning community to become better woodturners and artists. I do this through sharing the methods, techniques, and design philosophy that I use in my own work.

Another goal is to give participants the experience with me that they are looking for. For many, that is to take home a piece of my signature work that they have made.

You are to be congratulated for your willingness to learn from me! It is through exposure to other turners that we all share and grow, as individuals and as a group. Your turning and artwork will improve as a result, no matter what your turning experience level at the moment. I attend other turners' workshops whenever I can. I always benefit from learning different ideas and ways of doing things.

This is your opportunity to step into my shoes, and experience the ways that I do my work. Everyone does things differently, and you may or may not decide to incorporate my ideas and methods into your own work. Having exposed yourself to new methods, processes, and philosophies will make you a better turner. You will have more options and more "tools" available for doing your own work.



#### Subject:

The subject of this workshop will be my signature "Finial Box". It is a lidded container with an in-fitting lid and a Finial made from one piece of wood.

In addition to the steps and processes involved in the project, participants will learn boxmaking techniques, fitting parts together, jam-fitting techniques, and Finial turning.

Depending on the length of the class, I may include technique exercises, an inlay ring and foot of contrasting wood, and detailing the inside of the lid.

In a single day Finial Box Workshop, we will all complete a Finial Box that is similar to the style of box that I do in my demonstrations, but we will not have time to practice woodturning techniques. Multi-day Finial Box Workshops will include cutting exercises and tool sharpening.

## **Class Structure:**

My workshops consist of short demonstrations of each step in the project, followed by time for the participants to complete that step.

The focus will be on completing the process as a group, and learning some techniques along the way. I do not recommend spending a lot of time sanding and finishing.

We will have a morning session, a lunch break of about 1 hour, and an afternoon session. At the end of the day, we will leave the shop as clean as we found it. Hours of class will vary, depending on the facility that we are using. Usually, we spend a 6-7 hour day working at the lathe.

Please contact your club's representative for the hours of your class, and any other specific details.

## **Turning Experience Required:**

This workshop is the lesson, not the final exam! Your performance in class will not be graded or judged. We all learn at our own level and our own rate. It is the nature of clubs and guilds that the workshop participants will be at different levels. It's my job as instructor to challenge everyone at their level. All skill levels are welcome, though some turning experience is highly recommended.

## **Technical Preparation:**

You should be "current" with your own tools and methods. In other words, it will be better for you if you have turned something recently and are reasonably comfortable with what you currently do.

You don't need excessive practice, or instruction, to prepare for this workshop. The best time to schedule time in your shop to practice is in the weeks following the class, when you can put into action the ideas and methods that you learned, and make them your own.

A good preparation is to view my "Fabulous Finial Box" DVD to familiarize yourself with the project.

## **What to Bring to Class:**

1 – Safety eyewear, face shield, or goggles. This is important. Eyeglasses don't count unless they have protective side shields and ANSI spec safety lenses.

2 - You do not need to bring wood. All of the wood will be provided.

3 – A copy of the drawing included in this document, or your own drawing of a Finial Box.

4 – Tools (list below) and any sharpening jigs that you like to use.

- 5 – Sandpaper and finishing materials if you intend to finish your project.
- 6 – A piece or two of your own finished work to show.
- 7 – Your specific goal for this workshop.
- 8 – To get the most out of this workshop: Please bring an open mind and willingness to learn!!

## Suggested Tool List:

I will be bringing extra tools to share, so if you don't already own some of these tools don't worry. Just bring what you have. It is a good idea to attend the workshop, and see if you want to do this work in the future, before buying new tools.

### Important:

**Face Shield or Safety Glasses – everyone must protect their eyes in this class!  
(regular eyeglasses don't count unless they have side shields!)**

3/8" (or 1/4", or 1/2") Bowl Gouge

3/8" Spindle Gouge

Parting tool (**not** a "diamond") 1/16" - 3/16"

Bedan or scraper for making chucking tenons

small scroll chuck with "standard" jaws to grip a 1 3/4" tenon. (Not a large chuck with "pin" jaws)

Tailstock center with removable point, small cup center, or OneWay-type revolving tail center

Notepad & Pencil

### Optional:(bring if you have them)

Skew chisel 1/2" or 3/4" (not an oval)

smaller and/or larger bowl and/or spindle gouges

Round nose scraper 1/2" or 3/8"

Square ended scraper 1/2"

Beading and Parting tool 3/8" or 1/2"

Bedan tool

Box hollowing hooked scraper (see my website for details)

thin parting tool 1/16"

vernier calipers for scribing (General Brand, the cheap ones)

depth gauge

wall-thickness calipers

binocular magnifiers or reading glasses (to be worn **with** your safety glasses of course)

Center finder

Ruler

Awl

Dust Mask

## The Finial Box Step By Step

As it's done in my workshops

- 1 - Material Selection: Start with a piece of dry, straight grained, dense wood 2" x 2" x 3.5"
- 2 - Rough between centers, and turn a chucking point on each end
- 3 - Bottom of box in chuck. Completely shape, sand, and finish lid tenon and finial, leaving enough extra material to take a final pass across the inlay ring and box lid later on. Lid tenon is finished parallel (no taper) to about 38" from end. Part off lid.
- 4 - Flatten end of box bottom and friction drive the flat inlay disk. Disk is about 5/16" thick. For a 1/16" bead, the diameter of the disk is (lid diameter + 5/32"). Disk should have parallel sides and flat face up to tail center.
- 5 - Transfer disk diameter to the face of the box bottom.
- 6 - Partially hollow bottom of box. Don't make the walls thin or the base small at this point.
- 7 - Fit the disk into a recess in the box bottom, and glue the disk in place.
- 9 - Shape the top curve of the box bottom. Flatten the center of the disk and cut a recess for the foot. Part in to remove the foot blank.
- 10 - Jam fit the lid tenon into a recess in the inlay disk. Take a final pass across the inlay ring and lid. Sand and finish lid.
- 11 - If desired, form a bead on the inlay ring with a skew chisel. Refine lid fit.
- 12 - Hollow, sand, and finish inside and outside of box bottom (to the extent that the chuck will allow).
- 13 - Chuck up a waste block and jam fit the box bottom on. Shape the box bottom, ending with a tenon for the foot blank. Sand the box bottom now.
- 14 - Glue on the foot blank. Shape and sand the foot, and finish the box bottom and foot.
- 15 - Sign your work!
- 16 - If desired, jam fit the lid into a hollowed waste block to tool the inside, or sand the bottom of the lid with a sanding disk in a drill press, or carve/texture the surface. Be careful not to remove any material right at the edge or the lid might not sit in the box as you intended. Compressed air will eject the lid from the waste block without damaging the finial.

For more hints on success with this project, check out my "Hints for successful box-making" handout.

Many other designs are possible using these techniques. If we all share, we all grow. Feel free to copy, but let that be a stepping stone to discovering your own voice!

**Please turn responsibly!**  
**Use eye and lung protection!**  
**Have fun!**

**Cindy Drozda's  
Fabulous Finial Box  
Scaled Drawing**

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