

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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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.

All Done!

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!**