

# Making a Turned Box from a Single Piece of Wood

By Frank Hutchison

1. Between centers, turn the wood to a cylinder.
2. Create tenons at each end.
3. Using a thin parting tool, part off the top from the bottom.
4. Using a four-jaw chuck, secure the bottom of the box.
5. Proceed as with a bowl,
  - a. Shape the outside of the bottom
  - b. Sand
  - c. Finish
  - d. Remove the wood from the interior
  - e. Sand
  - f. Finish
  - g. Part off the bottom
6. Secure the top in the four-jaw chuck
7. Using the top as a jam chuck, mount the bottom of the box
8. Shape, sand and finish the bottom of the bottom.
9. Remove the bottom from the top
10. Shape the rim of the top so it matches the bottom
11. Shape the top approximately halfway
12. Hollow the top, being careful to preserve the rim
  - a. Sand
  - b. Finish
13. Reverse the top using
  - a. A jam-chuck or
  - b. Reverse chucking in the four-jaw chuck
14. Shape the top of the top
15. Sand
16. Finish
17. Congratulations! You're done!

## Notes:

Turners like green wood for bowl turning, but green wood is terrible for boxes. You need wood that is stable – that means well dried. But because the wood is well dried, you don't have to fear the pith. If it is going to crack, it would have by now if it is well dried.

There's nothing sacred about using just one piece of wood. I have seen boxes created from two different pieces of wood (top and bottom), a bundle of pen blanks, and segmented. You are limited only by your wood supply and imagination.

Woodturners normally shy away from branches for turning but for boxes, particularly small boxes, branches are great!