

Magic Salt Shaker

by Ed Malesky

This tutorial is my version of the Magic Salt Shaker that Nick Cook showed us during his demonstration. Make sure that if you give this salt shaker away as a gift, that you provide instruction on how to fill and how to get the salt out.

Begin by turning a blank into the basic salt shaker shape. I make mine between 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 4" tall and about 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " in diameter.

I like to shape the shaker with a bottom and a top section. You can design the top section to look just like a conventional salt shaker to push the illusion.

Use a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " forstner bit to drill a hole in the bottom about an $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep. This will provide the lip to which the funnel will be glued.

Use a 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " forstner bit to drill out the center of the shaker. Drill the hole about 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ - 3" deep.

Finish turning the shaker body and sand.

You'll still need to jamb chuck the body to finish off the top.



Prepare a jamb chuck the same diameter as the hole drilled in the shaker body, in this case 1 3/8".

Mount the shaker on the jamb chuck and finish the top and do final sanding.

You can now finish the shaker body.

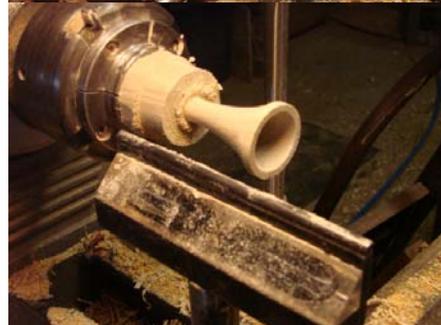
Now you need to turn the funnel insert.

You can either use the same wood as the body or switch to a less expensive wood. The first thing to do is to size the bottom of the funnel to fit into the bottom of the body.

It needs to be a snug fit to help minimize the seam line.

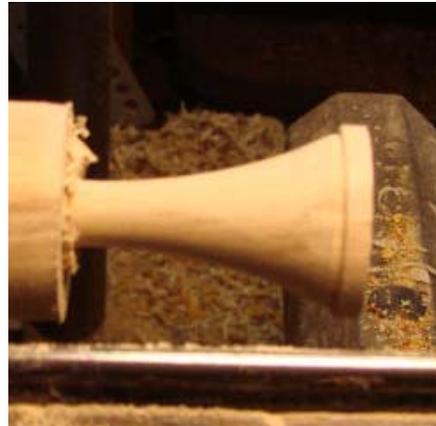
Use a 1/8" drill to provide the fill/exit hole. Since I made the hole in the body 2 7/8" deep, the overall length of the funnel should be about 5/6" shorter, or 2 1/4". Make sure you drill that deep. If the drill doesn't reach, you can drill deeper after you begin to cut the filling funnel.

Using a spindle gouge, form the filling funnel. You only need to cut the funnel about half the overall funnel length. Make sure the transition into the fill/exit hole is smooth. I use a small spindle gouge to smooth this transition.



Finish shaping the funnel to the required length.

Notice the lip formed on the bottom of the funnel. There needs to be a nice lip to rest on the ledge in the body from the larger forstner hole. Make sure there is also some relief above the lip that is no larger than the main body hole, ie. 1 3/8".



Create a jamb chuck to mount the funnel. I do this to allow me to turn a little depression on the top of the funnel to help salt exit the shaker.



The depression is added with either a small gouge or skew.



Add a bead of CA glue around the ledge in the body and insert the funnel.

You fill by pouring salt down the funnel and shaking a bit.

To serve salt, hold the shake upright and just jog the shaker up and down and salt will come out of the bottom.

