

Making a Basic Box

By Ed Malesky

Mount a blank between centers and turn a tenon on one end. Mount in chuck and retrue with skew or spindle roughing gouge.



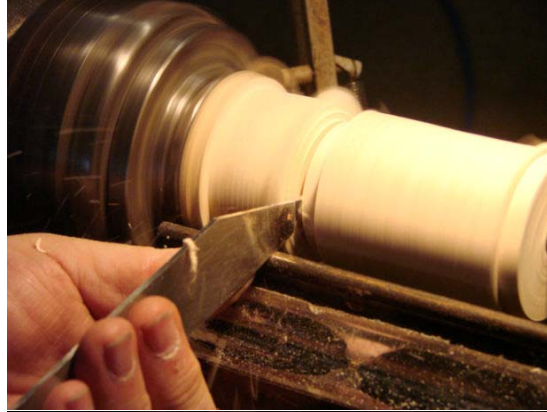
Turn a tenon on the tailstock end using a bedan, parting tool or with a peeling cut using a skew.



Cut a reference groove at the point where you want to split the base from the box lid. The groove should be wide enough to include the tenon that will be on the box base and as deep as you want the box wall to be.



Part through right near the bottom of the box lid. Leaving a little of the reference groove will give you a mark for where to cut the inside shoulder of the lid.



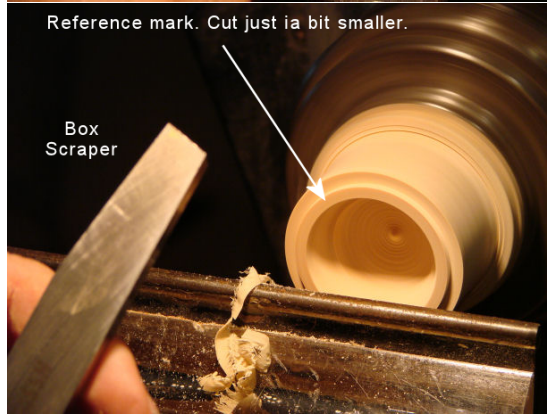
With the lid in the chuck, begin to hollow. The picture shows a steep ground spindle gouge, but other hollowing tools can be used.



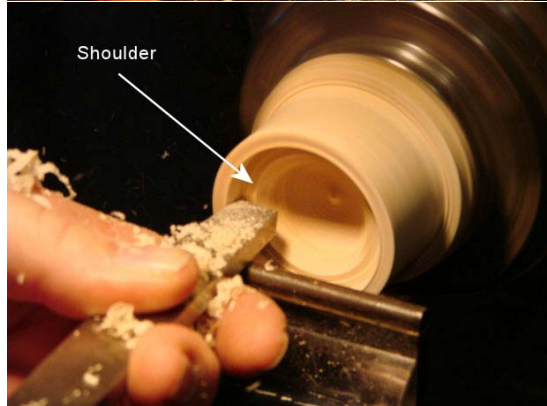
If you use a gouge, drop the tool rest so that the gouge hits the center of the blank and cut toward the 10:00 position.



Use a box scraper or a skew on the side to cut the shoulder on the inside of the lid. Cut this just inside the reference mark.



When you cut the shoulder, make sure that the scraper goes in perfectly parallel to the ways. If you don't the lid will not fit well on the base tenon.



Use a side cut scraper or hollowing tool to finish the inside of the lid, making sure to keep the shoulder intact. Turning the scraper on edge will shear scrape, giving a smoother finish.



Sand and finish the inside of the lid.



Begin to refine the top of the lid.



Mount the base in the chuck and begin to fit the lid to the tenon. If you cut the lid shoulder just smaller than the reference mark, you'll need to shave a little off the base tenon to get the lid to fit. Use a bedan, parting tool or a peeling cut with a skew to begin to reduce the tenon. If you cut the tenon with a little taper, you can find where the lid will fit with still enough tenon left to get a tight fit. TAKE IT SLOW AND EASY, so that you don't overshoot and get a loose fit.



Jamb fit the lid on the base and then true up the lid and base together.



Bring up tailstock and begin to refine the top of the lid.



Sand and finish the top of the lid.

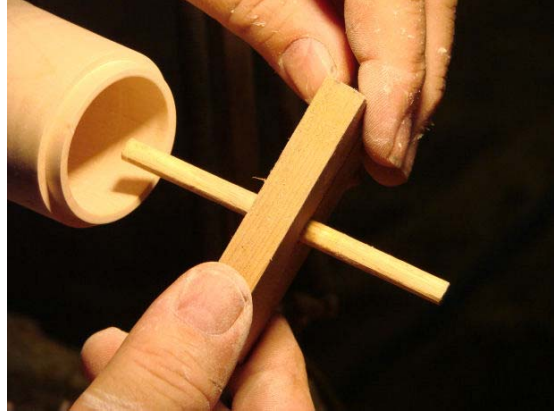


Hollow the base using a steep ground spindle gouge, hollowing tool or scraper.

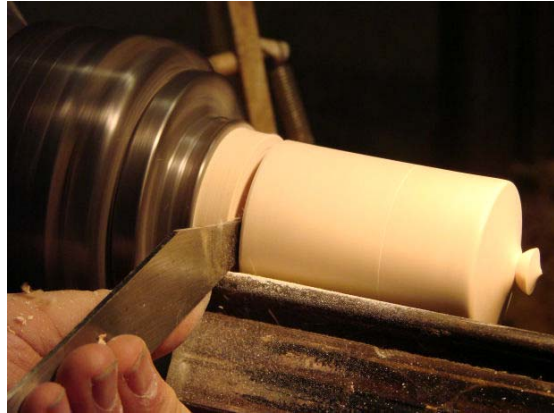


Mark depth with a depth gauge and mark on outside of base, adding a $\frac{1}{4}$ " for the bottom.

Once done with the inside, you can refine the fit of the lid by taking a minute amount off the base tenon.



Sand and finish the box base and the part off the base. When parting, cut in at an angle.



With the waste still in the chuck, create a jamb chuck to reverse turn the bottom of the base. Fitting is the same as was done to fit the lid to the base. Again TAKE IT EASY.

You can make both an internal jamb chuck where a tenon fits inside the box or an external jamb chuck where the base tenon fits into a recess cut into the waste piece.



Finish the bottom.



