

Christmas Tree Ornament

as seen in the Winter 2007 Woodturning Designs

by Ed Malesky



Start with a cylinder about 2" in diameter. Pick a spot about 3" back from the tailstock end and begin to taper to a cone. You can do the bulk of this with a spindle roughing gouge. Instead of tapering to a point, make the end about $5/16 - 3/8$ ". Form the end into a ball and define the diameter at the base of the ball to about $3/16$ ". Use a skew to refine the taper to the diameter at the base of the ball.



The taper should be a smooth, slight curve. Sand through the grits.

Bring up tailstock with a live center and put an indent in the top of the ball. This will help center the screw eye.



Define the bottom of the tree branches with a parting tool. Create the stem about $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter and about $\frac{3}{8}$ " long.



Mark lines to define the branches. Start at the base and mark every $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



Use a thin parting tool to define the branches. Part until the stem diameter is between $\frac{2}{15}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Part from the top to the bottom.



Sand the undersides of the branches since the parting tool will raise some fuzzies.



You can also use an emery board to sand the fuzzies



Use the parting tool to form the base. You can make the base look like a flower pot about $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter and $\frac{5}{8}$ " tall or you can just make a simple base about 1" in diameter and $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick. Part off and sand the bottom and finish with your favorite, although spray lacquer works well and coats between the branches.

Add screw eye for hanging ornament.

