

## ***Easy Hollow Christmas Ornament***

by Ed Malesky

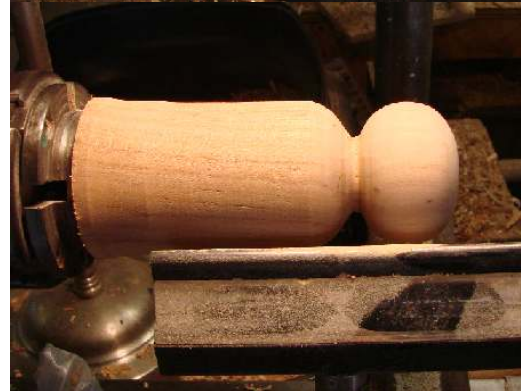
Some people find that hollowing a globe ornament through a small hole rather intimidating. This approach turns that on it's head – side actually. Hollowing is done through a very big hole allowing for a much friendlier hollowing experience.



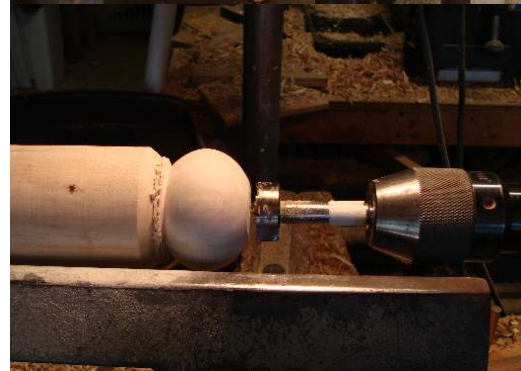
Start with a blank about 2 ½ to 3” in diameter and begin to round over the tailstock end



Continue to round over the headstock side, making a nice symmetrical shape. Leave about an inch of tenon on the back to give you enough stability to hollow.



Measure the depth of the globe, visualizing where the ornament will finish once the globe is turned off the tenon. Take this measurement and subtract 3/16”. Transfer this measurement to the forstner bit by placing some tape to use as a depth gauge. The 3/16” will give you a 1/8” globe thickness in the back, once you turn away the dimple left by the drill spur. Drill to marked depth.



Hollow out the globe. I use my homemade hollowing tools. Hollowing is pretty easy since the forstner bit removed so much material and the entry hole is so big. I use a round nose scraper to clean up the back wall and remove the drill spur dimple and the edges of the drilled hole and blend the back wall smooth.

I shoot for a 1/8" wall thickness throughout.

Sand the globe inside and out. Be careful on the inside. I use sandpaper folded over a couple of times to give me about a 1/2" sanding strip.

I then use a Wagner texturing tool to add a decorative band around the opening.

*Actually, I often do the decorative band before I hollow, since you sometimes need to apply a lot of pressure with the tool to get good markings.*



Use colored pens or gold/silver pens to add some color to the decorative band.

I use a point tool to score grooves on each side of the texturing. The contrasting color of the groove really helps set off the texturing.

You can also cut a groove with a parting tool about 3/32" deep and fill with inlay material.

This is a bloodwood globe with a malachite inlay.

Before parting off, you need to mark and drill the holes for the finial and top. I use my index wheel to make sure the holes are 180° apart.

I mark the position midway between the two faces of the globe. I did a more elaborate method for drilling the holes, but in the end prefer just using a drill and 1/2" forstner bit.



I then part off the globe and mount the globe on my chuck with pin jaws. I then sand the back until is smooth.

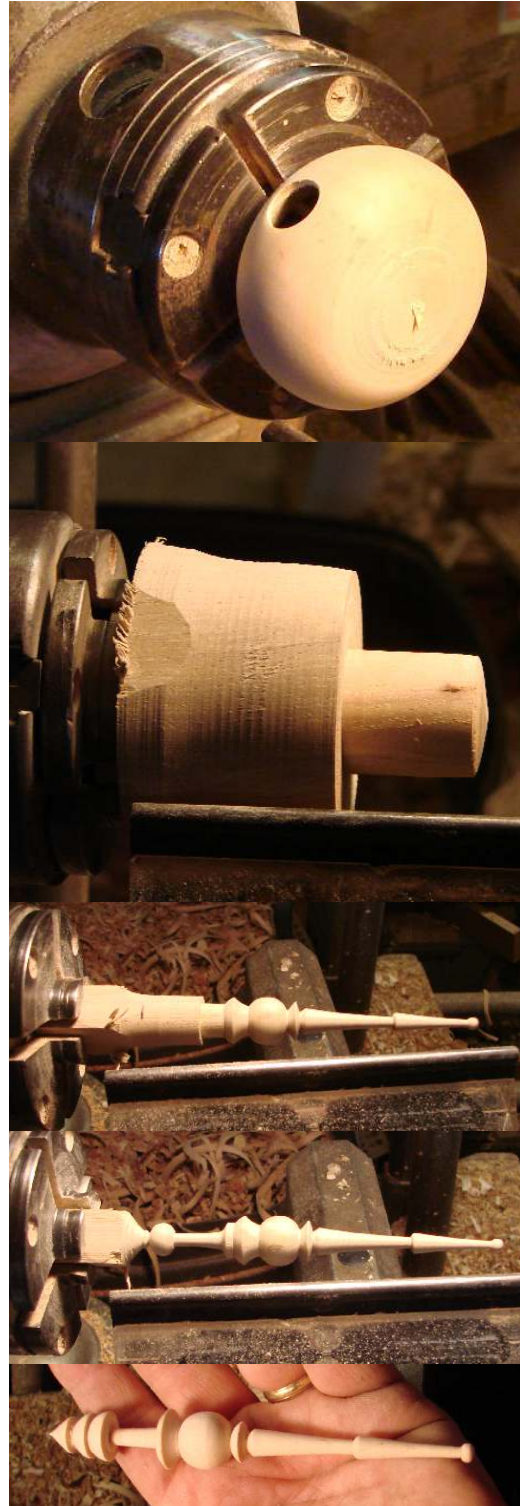
The globe is now done.

If you don't have pin jaws, you can make a jamb chuck to hold the globe. Turn a 1 1/4" tenon on a scrap block long enough that the opening can seat on the scrap block, while the back is supported by the tenon, like this.



Start off turning a regular finial with a 1/2" tenon on the headstock end. However, to add some interest, create a small ball, teardrop or tree to the end of the tenon that will be visible inside the globe.

Measure the distance from the bottom of the globe to the center of the 1 1/4" opening. This will tell you how long the stem needs to be before the decorative top. Here is simple ball. *Remember, the decoration needs to be less than 1/2" in diameter to fit through the hole in the globe.* You could also turn a small Christmas tree decoration.



Make a small top to fit in the other hole and add a screw eye to it and the glue the top and finial in place with CA glue.

Then finish. I use spray lacquer for all my ornaments