

Southern Turners Project Sheet

Lidded Pot with a Twist



This is a multi-axis project and as such a little extra care must be used. Ensure all safety equipment is used appropriately. The blank size is up to the individual, but to begin with, try approx. 65mm square and 120mm long.



Turn a cylinder and square the ends. Make the waste around the drive and live centres as small as possible to reduce interference with the centres when remounting later.



Make a narrow tenon on each end. This tenon is a depth guide, not for mounting in a chuck, so it only needs to be 2-3mm thick



Mark a circle on each end, this will be the distance of offset we will use when remounting.



Draw a line along your blank and continue the line down the sides onto the 'offset circle' on each end. Equally divide the circle on each end and number, ensuring that the numbers match up on each end. Marking the points with an awl makes locating the centre easier.



Remount the blank between centres, using the new points. Mount the headstock end to point 1 and the tailstock end to point 2.



As the blank is now off centre, spin the blank by hand to ensure it clears the tool rest and adjust if needed. Ensure the blank is held tightly between centres. As the blank is now off centre you may need to adjust the lathe speed to minimise vibration. Begin turning. Make gentle cuts and allow the wood to come onto the tool. Turn the blank down to the depth guides at each end (indicated by the arrow). Sand if desired, be aware sanding will round the edges between the faces.

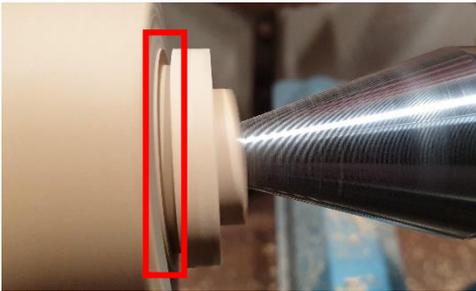


Once you are happy with the finish, remount the blank. Headstock end at point 2, tailstock end at point 3 and turn down to the depth guides at each end. If the depth guides are not deep enough a flat spot along the border between the 2 faces will appear (shown in the shaded area). Remount the blank to true centre and lower the depth guide tenons and repeat the turning process on the first 2 faces.

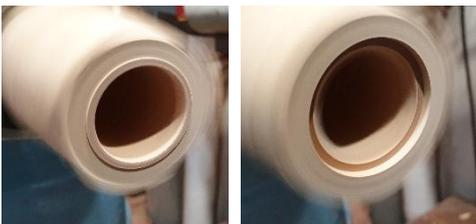


Remount the blank using the final set of points – headstock end at point 3, tailstock end at point 1 and turn down to the depth guide

Remount the blank on true centre and turn a tenon to enable the blank to be mounted in a chuck.



Mount in the chuck, using the tail centre to ensure the blank is centred, turn down a tenon for a lid and part off. When parting off, do not part off flush, leave a little of the tenon (red highlight) to show the lid diameter when hollowing.



Hollow the vessel, allowing enough width to enable a wider recess to be cut for the lid (left). Cut recess for the lid (right), this can be a little deeper than necessary as we will clean up the top in the next step.



Insert the lid and hold in place with a tail centre. Shape the lid and blend into the top of the pot. Sand if needed.



Reverse mount the pot using internal chuck jaws or a jam chuck and shape and clean up the bottom. Use the tail centre for support if required.



Turn a knob or finial to complete.

Next, you might like to try a vessel with more than 3 off centre points and different amounts of offset from centre. Try different shapes. Experiment and have fun!