

Southern Turners Project Sheet

Lena's Needle Pot



This needle holder is made up of 3 parts – the base, a thimble and a cover. The sizes and proportions used in this project sheet are only a guide and you should use these instructions as a process to make the design your own. Appropriate safety equipment and practices should always be used.



1/ Begin with a timber blank approx. 45mm square and 170mm long. Mount between centres and turn to round, then mount into a scroll chuck.



Mark a line approx. 30mm from the end. This will become the thimble.

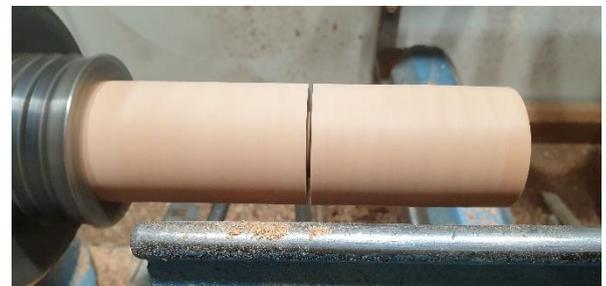
2/ Hollow your thimble to a depth of about 25mm and a diameter of 16mm – 20mm depending on the finger intended. Try to round out the bottom of the hole to make more comfortable. Sand as desired. Be aware if you intend to finish the interior at this stage with a friction type polish, it may make it difficult to mount on a jamb chuck to finish off (step 6 & 7).



3/ Measure the depth of the hole and add about 5mm and turn down the outside of the thimble. Don't get too concerned with the finished shape at this point as we will remount it to finish it off later. Part off when complete.



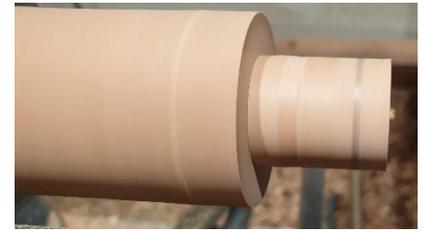
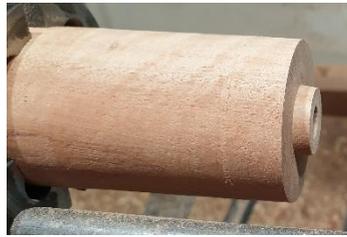
4/ Decide on the size of the cover section and part off. Remember that the cover will need to go over the thimble and still have the depth to sit on the tenon on the base.



5/ Using a drill chuck in your tail stock drill an 8mm hole into the base for the needles to sit. The depth will depend on the needles, but as a suggestion try a hole about 40mm deep.



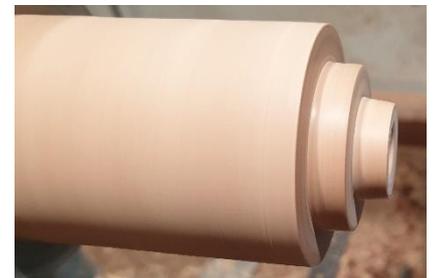
6/ Turn a tenon on your base section to use as a jamb chuck for your thimble. Measure the depth of the hole in your thimble and mark a line. Mount your thimble.



7/ Using the depth line to prevent cutting through the end of your thimble, turn to your desired shape, sand and embellish as desired. If using friction polish you can also finish it at this stage.



8/ Turn a second, larger tenon for the cover to sit on.



9/ Remove the base section from the chuck and mount the cover section. Hollow the inside to suit the second tenon on your base and to a depth to cover the thimble. Sand and finish the inside as desired. Do not worry about the outside at this stage.



10/ Remove the cover section from the chuck and remount the base. Using a cone live centre in the tail stock to align the needle hole will make centring much easier.



11/ Put the cover section on the base and hold in place with a live centre. As earlier, mark the depth of the hollow to prevent turning through the cover.



12/ Shape as desired. Sand and finish. Part off the cover section and remove.



13/ Sand the tenons of the base section to make a slightly loose fit for the thimble and cover. Finish if required. Part off.



14/ Reverse the base section in the chuck to finish the bottom. Another jamb chuck may be required if your chuck jaws are too large. Sand and polish.



15/ Completed project.

The shapes, sizes and embellishments possible on this project are almost endless, don't be afraid to experiment, you may also like to try using contrasting timbers for the finial and thimble and base. Make the design your own and have fun!

