

Southern Turners Project Sheet

Pagoda Boxes



These square pagoda boxes are based on English wood turner, Jason Breach's signature style boxes. The shapes and designs are only limited by your imagination, so have fun experimenting.



Pagoda boxes by Jason Breach

1. Begin with a timber blank approximately 65mm square and 80mm long. It is important that the blank is square. Mark the centres on each end as accurately as you can, take your time to get it as close as possible, as this will impact the finished box. Also at this stage it is easier if the sides of the blank are sanded rather than trying to sand the completed box.



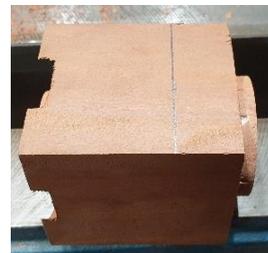
2. Mount on the lathe between centres and turn a tenon to allow the blank to be mounted into a chuck. This end will be the lid of your box.



3. Mount the blank in a chuck using the tenon. Turn a recessed tenon in the base, take care to leave the outer corners to be used as feet.



4. Take the blank off the lathe and mark a line to delineate the lid from the base of the box. Work on about $\frac{2}{5}$ th of the total length for the lid and cut on a bandsaw. Do not part off on the lathe as it is highly likely that the corners of the blank will get damaged



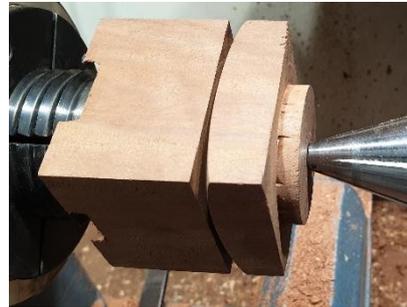
5. Mount the lid section in the chuck. Using a sharp gouge and taking care not to damage the corners shape the underside of the lid and hollow. Sand as required.



6. Remove the lid section from the chuck and mount the base section using the recessed tenon. Turn a short tenon on the base to accommodate the hollow on the lid section. At this stage make the tenon a tight fit to act as a jamb chuck.



7. Mount the lid section on the tenon (jamb chuck) and using a live centre in your tail stock gently push the lid on to the base to hold it in place. Shape the top of the lid as desired.



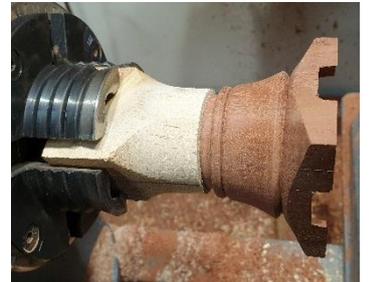
8. Remove the tail stock and very gently complete the centre of the box lid as not to break it from the jamb chuck. Gently sand as required. Once complete, remove the lid from the jamb chuck. If the lid is a tight fit it is advisable to use a knife and gently prise it loose as the corners can be fragile at this point.



9. Shape and hollow the base section and sand as required. At this stage it is advisable to sand the tenon that the lid sits on to make a slightly loose fit. When removing the lid people tend to hold the lid corners and having a tight or press fit may result in breakage. Remove from the chuck



10. Using a scrap block mounted in your chuck turn a jamb chuck to reverse mount the base section. Use the tail centre to hold the base onto the jamb chuck (not pictured)



11. Shape the base and feet, taking care not to break the corners of the feet, remove the tail stock to complete the centre area. Sand as required. Remove from the lathe. Finish as desired. Job Done!!

