

Southern Turners Project Sheet

SIMPLE LIDDED BOX WITH INLAYED LID



This project sheet describes how to produce a simple lidded box with an inlay. This style of boxes can be made any size, grain orientation or shape. Any type of wood can be used, but ideally you should try to use contrasting timbers to highlight the inlays used.

1. Mount blank between centres with whichever grain orientation you would like. Turn to round & decide which end you would like to make as the lid (top of your box) and turn a tenon on the opposite end to suit your chuck.



2. Mount into your chuck using the tenon. Cut a recess for your inlay into the end of your blank (lid) ensuring the sides of the recess are square and the bottom is flat. The recess should be around 5mm deep and 5mm – 10mm from the edge.



3. Mark your lid section, including the lid tenon and part off.



4. Mark the wall thickness of your box – leaving it slightly thicker than your desired finished size and hollow. Sand the inside when complete.



5. Remove your box from your chuck and mount the lid using the recess. Turn down a tenon to suit the inside of your box and tidy the underside of the lid, sand when complete.



6. Using the lid as a sort of loose fitting jam chuck, mount your box section onto the lid tenon and hold firm with your tail stock. Align the grain as best as possible and turn to finished size & shape. Sand when completed.



7. Remove the lid section from the chuck and mount the box section. If your chuck jaws do not fit into the box, you may need to use a jam chuck. Gently turn away the tenon and tidy the base of your box. Sand when complete. Your box is now complete.



8. Mount your inlay blank between centres and turn down to fit snugly into your lid recess. This can be a slow process and may take a number of test fits to ensure a snug fit. It is better to take it slowly than take off too much and ruin your inlay.



9. Once you are happy with the fit, glue into place, ideally using PVA glue and clamped overnight. If you are making a cross grained box, glue the inlay into the lid with the grain direction matching the lid grain. Once the glue is dry, mount the lid back into your chuck using the lid tenon.



10. Gently turn down the inlay to blend into the lid. Sand when completed and finish as desired.



Variations:

It is easy to repeat the inlay process as described above with different timbers to produce 'borders' to frame your main inlay timber and provide a better contrast. As an alternative, a coloured resin inlay can provide a contrasting border and disguise a poor fitting inlay.

