

Southern Turners Project Sheet

HANDY SCOOP



For this project you will need one piece of square section, close-grained timber, sharp chisels, about 6mm drill, abrasive and finish. In this example I have used a piece of Lemon Scented Gum, 5x5x15cm.

A Forstner bit would be useful if you were making several of the same size (for scoops with parallel or tapered sides) but I have not used one in this example.

I find having tapering sides to the scoop more appealing, but that's just a personal preference.

There are some things to give some thought to regarding the design of the scoop before starting.

- length of scoop
- diameter at mouth of scoop
- if tapered, how much (*ie* diameter at base of scoop)
- length of handle
- 'decoration' of handle
- the finish

Here's a summary of the steps I followed:

- mark & punch centres at each end
- mount using spur drive and live centre (handle/tenon end nearest drive spur)
- turn down to round
- turn tenon (this will be the handle end of the scoop)
- mount tenon securely in chuck (whilst supporting the other end with a live centre)
- drill down to establish depth of scoop (approx. 6cm in this example)



- start removing centre of the scoop, working from centre outwards with small careful cuts
- work to a wall thickness of about 2mm at the opening
- finish removing inside of scoop, taking into account whether it will have tapering sides or not
- run the skew in to straighten up the inside wall of the scoop (if it needs it)
- tidy up the inside end of the scoop with a scraper and then sand the inside



- support the end of the scoop with a live centre (not too much pressure though!)
- mark on the outside, the maximum depth of the scoop and where the sweep on the inside at the bottom starts
- cut in with parting tool to show the approximate position of the start of the handle
- start turning the outside wall of the scoop so that wall is of even thickness
- start turning the outside bottom of the scoop. I think this is a good chance to practice using the skew to do this (carefully!) as it gives a lovely finish
- remove the bulk of the handle area



- finish turning handle (apart from parting off) and sand the outside.
- part off



- sand down mouth of scoop to preferred profile and tidy up rim with abrasive
- apply finish



There is no doubt there are many more styles of scoop for you to discover on the internet and in woodturning magazines. For example, I have seen Richard Raffan making one on U-Tube.

This and other scoops that you make could be quite useful in the kitchen or in the garden shed. The selection of a finish will depend on the intended end use. I commonly use Grapeseed Oil when food products are involved.

