

Southern Turners Project Sheet

Candlestick – Rude Osolnik Inspired



This project explains how to make a variation on a Rude Osolnik inspired candlestick. Rude was an American wood turner who inspired many to take up the craft. His candlesticks are of a simple design, but the form is extraordinary. The project is an excellent one for practicing spindle turning. Ensure all safety equipment is used appropriately.



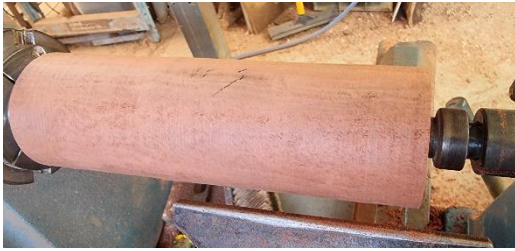
The blank size is up to the individual, but to begin with, try a straight grained spindle blank approximately 70 mm diameter or square and 220 mm long. You will also need a metal insert to prevent the candle contacting the wood. The one used here is a piece of copper pipe, 19mm diameter and 10mm long.

Locate and mark the centres of both ends of your blank with an awl or other suitable device.



Mount your blank between centres. I prefer a step drive centre and a ring live centre.





Use a spindle roughing gouge, bowl gouge (or skew chisel depending on your preference and/or skill level) to turn down to round.



Turn a tenon on one end to suit your scroll chuck.

Mount the blank in your scroll chuck and bring up a tailstock live centre for support.



Use a skew chisel (slicing cut), parting tool or detail gouge to slightly concave the top surface. Make sure the stub left at the centre is smaller in diameter than your metal insert.



Use a Forstner bit or saw tooth bit to drill a recess for the metal insert. Fit the metal insert and use CA glue to secure if necessary.

Bring up the tailstock live centre for support. Use a cone or ring centre.



Mark a line approximately one third of the length of the blank as shown.

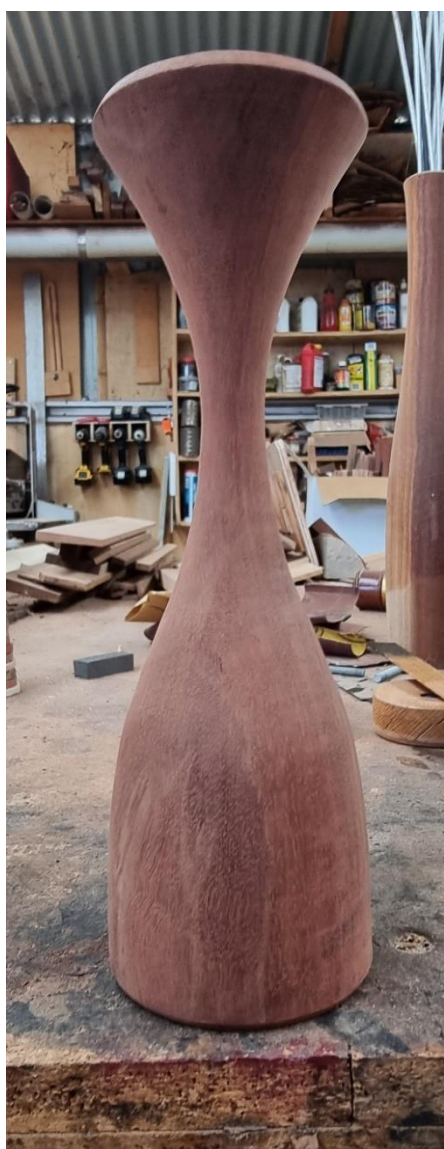


Use a parting tool to cut a groove until the remaining timber is approximately 14 to 15 mm diameter. Make sure you use a clearance cut to reduce friction on the parting tool ie the cut should be approx one and a half times as wide as your parting tool.



Use a roughing gouge, bowl gouge or spindle gouge to create a symmetrical cove either side of the groove. Take light cuts or you may get vibration due to the small diameter of the holding wood.

Refine the shape using a gouge or freshly sharpened scraper until you are satisfied with the shape. Sand the top third of the candlestick including the top.



Blend the bottom third into the central third ensuring there are no flats ie the curve is continuous. Sand the bottom two thirds of the candlestick.

Miscellaneous info

For candlesticks in excess of 200mm tall it is recommended that the base be weighted to assist with stability. This can be achieved by drilling a hole say 25mm diameter and 30mm deep in the base prior to shaping the candlestick and using ball bearings or fishing sinkers as weights. The weights can be secured by gluing in a wooded plug of the same or contrasting wood..

If you make sets remember that sets with odd number of items work best. Sets with 50mm difference in heights work well. The narrow section on all candlesticks in the set need to be the same diameter to look right.

Keep your tools sharp and enjoy the experience.