

Southern Turners Project Sheet

Bottle Shaped Paper Weight



There are two different approaches to this project. One is to shape the paper weight to mimic a known bottle, when can then be decorated with the matching lid and label. The other would be to turn a freehand bottle shape, which could then be decorated in any number of ways. For this project sheet, we'll work on the former.



1. I like to start by creating a storyboard to follow. It doesn't need to be overly detailed, just lengths of the various elements, thickness at those points, and how the piece will transition between marks (cove, bead, straight line, etc.). Sticky notes can be handy for this, as they can be placed in an easy to reference position. In this case, the paperweight will be modelled on the pictured beer bottle.

2. Round a blank of suitable size between centres, and create a tenon on one end. Mount it in your chuck (with tailstock support) and mark out the areas where transitions take place. It can help at this point to also label how thick you want the piece at these marks.



3. Using a parting tool and callipers, take the piece back to the required dimensions. When doing this take care to do this on the side of the line where the thinnest diameter is required. In this picture you'll notice one mark was left untouched, as by chance, it was already the correct diameter.



4. From here it's just a matter of removing material to achieve the desired transition from point to point. Be careful of your dimension at the top, as a lid will be glued on at the end.

5. Now is a good time to sand through your desired grits. There's no need to worry about tool marks at the top, as they will be covered by the cap.



6. To remove any risk of creating a loose fit for the cap, turn the tenon for this after sanding. The rough surface will also create a better bond for the glue. Part the piece off and hand sand the bottom.

7. Apply your preferred finish, and glue on the cap and label (which can be soaked off a bottle). In this case the label was glued on first, and the bottle was finished with a few coats of gloss lacquer to give a glassy look. It will also help protect the label. The lid was glued on afterwards so it didn't end up with a coat of lacquer. It also made it easy to suspend the bottle from a screw in the top while it was being sprayed, and curing.

Job done, time to sharpen tools for the next project!

