

South Coast Woodturners

Bud Vase Project

March 12, 2016

Materials: For this project I used a 2 ½" X 2 ½" block 6" in length. You will want to select a piece of hard wood with at least some interest in the wood. I used both myrtle and maple for the club presentation. I also used a plastic tube with 5/8" exterior diameter and 4" length. These tubes were in the club store. I am assuming they were purchased from Craft Supply.

Preparation: The first step is to turn a tenon ¼" in depth for holding in the lathe chuck. With the stock mounted in the chuck, bring up the tailstock to support the wood. Next turn it into a cylinder.

Design: Now stop and determine the design for your bud vase. Draw your design ideas to determine what you want as the final shape and proportions. With your design in mind, begin shaping the vase, but leaving material for detail work later. Cut the end farthest from the chuck close to the diameter you want for the top of the vase.

Vase Top: The next step is to remove the tailstock and with a spindle gouge shape what will be the recessed top of the vase. I begin by using the side of the gouge in a pull cut to smooth out the surface. Next it is important to cut from the outside of the stock to the hole for the plastic cylinder. Be sure to lightly ride the bevel of the spindle gouge to a smooth cut surface. Shape to your desired design.

Drilling: Assuming you have access to a Jacobs Chuck now is the time to insert a 5/8" Forestner bit into the chuck and to drill the hole. You probably need to finish the necessary depth with a longer bit of a different type.

Shaping the Vase: With the vase top shaped bring the tailstock back to support the stock. With your design in mind begin to shape your vase. Using your spindle gouge generally shape the vase to the desired exterior diameter. It is now time to add coves, beads, and other designs of your choosing.

Finishing: When you are satisfied with your shape and proportions it is time to sand the vase. It is now time to use the sandpaper working through the grades to #220. I recommend use of multiple coats of Wipeon Poly for the finish.

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