

Turn a Twig Pot

Project Handout

By Mike Peace MikePeaceWoodturning.com

YouTube channel Twig Pot video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvSOD8VM3gw>

A twig pot or weed pot is great for beginners or experienced turners alike. This basic twig pot can be turned without the use of a scroll chuck by using a faceplate or threaded wood glue block. It is a great project for getting your creative juices flowing and tap into that right brain artistic side that you may not think that you have!



Wood

Start with a wood blank of most any size depending on your design. The wood can be green or dry. For me this might fall in a range of about 3" square and no more than 5" long. The size should be appropriate for a small dry flower or a few twigs. I prefer to select a piece of wood with some character. This could be figure, color, spalting, or a knot or bark inclusion. A scrap of burl would be nice. If you like to cut up pieces of wood and glue them back together, you can do that too.

Design Considerations

- You might want it tall and thin or short and fat.
- Neck treatment- thin, flaring or cut on the bias
- Embellish as desired by coloring with patinating wax or dye
- Add beads or texture if desired
- Other options include keeping a natural edge or
- Turn multi axis



Steps

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you have a scroll chuck, mount between centers to rough turn round and add chuck tenon. If you don't have a scroll chuck, mount your twig pot blank to a face plate. A threaded wood faceplate works well also as I am using here.• Mount in scroll chuck (or threaded glue block or faceplate) and shape. A 3/8" spindle gouge is ideal. Before getting the neck too thin, face off top and chamfer the mouth.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a Jacobs chuck with 1/4" drill bit to drill a hole almost to the bottom but no more than about 3" deep.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part down at the base with a thin parting tool leaving at least 1" of wood. Finish shaping the bottom curves.• Sand through the progression for grits from 120 to 400. Use a friction polish now if you wish or finish off the lathe with your favorite finish. I like Minwax Antique Oil for almost everything.• Part off with slight undercut at the base.• Sand off the bottom and add your name. Add finish. When dry, add dry twigs or flowers!	

A tip from my Mother-in-Law is to spray the flowers with hair spray to help preserve them.