

Lidded Boxes by Mike Peace

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www.mikepeacewoodturning.com for Articles, demonstration handouts, and Youtube videos on woodturning.

Use dry, dense w/ even grain free of knots. Turn long grain not cross grain.

Rough turn box blanks from green wood. Leave walls 3/8" for lid and 1/2" for bottom to allow for tenon to fit inside lid. Let blanks dry at least two months for green wood and a couple of weeks for dry wood. Treat wax covered blanks as green.



Turning Sequence

Lid

1. Mount the lid blank and turn it true. Chamfer the end grain until it's slightly concave. (Skew chisel)
2. Rough-hollow the lid. (Gouge)
3. Cut the lid flange. (Square-end scraper)
4. Check that the flange is cylindrical and refine as required. (Calipers)
5. Finish turning the inside of the lid. (Round nose scraper)
6. True the lid rim. (Skew chisel as a scraper)
7. Sand and polish and finish the inside of the lid.
8. Begin shaping the outside of the lid. (Gouge and skew chisel)

Base

9. Mount the base blank and establish the approximate diameter of the base flange. Don't fit the lid now! (Skew chisel or parting tool for peeling)
10. Hollow the inside. (Gouge and scrapers) final wall thickness of about 3/16 of an inch
11. Mark the exact internal depth.
12. Part to the headstock side of the internal depth line. (Parting tool)
13. Sand and polish and finish the inside of the base.

Fit Lid

14. Refine the flange and fit the lid on tight. RR makes flange $\geq 3/8$ " so lid will fit tight during turning (Skew chisel for peel/scrape)
15. Roughly shape the profile. (Gouge)
16. Detail the join and refine the profile. (Skew chisel)
17. Finish turning the profile. Retain the headstock side of the parting cut. (Skew chisel)
18. Sand and polish the profile.
19. Fine-fit the lid. (Skew chisel for peel/scrape)
20. Polish the flange.
21. Part off the base. (Parting tool)

Re-chuck Base

22. Re-chuck the base. (Skew chisel)
23. Turn the bottom to make it concave and check it with a straightedge. (Gouge/skew chisel)
24. Refine the profile curve near the base. (Skew chisel)
25. Sand and polish the base.

Hollow with spindle gouge and scraper. Cut flange with skew or parting tool. Avoid sanding flange. Sneak up on the lid fit.

If adding beads around joint, put on lid for reinforcement. Beads, groove or burn line near joint help disguise the fit between the lid and base.

I use an abrasive paste, Yorkshire grit or homemade on inside and outside of boxes for a smooth the surface and typically finish with Minwax Antique oil.

References:

Turning Boxes with Richard Raffan by Richard Raffan (Mar 12, 2002)

Turned Boxes: 50 Designs by Chris Stott (May 28, 2002)

Flip Charts

