

## Turning Christmas Tree Ornaments H.O.

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Watch my **How to Wood Turn a Christmas Ornament** Playlist on my YouTube channel

<https://youtube.com/mikepeacewoodturning>



*Christmas tree ornaments are fun and easy to make. They make great little gifts at Christmas time!*

### Wood

Use most any dry or green wood that is unlikely to split. I would avoid wood with the pith going through it as it tends to split. You can see the second from the left is from a 2x4

Blanks should be about 1 ½ to 2” square and about 3” to 4” long.

### Tools

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Four jaw chuck capable of holding the blank</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Japanese flush cut saw</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thin parting tool, Spindle Roughing Gouge (SRG), skew and a 3/8” spindle gouge(SG)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thin parting tool</li></ul>

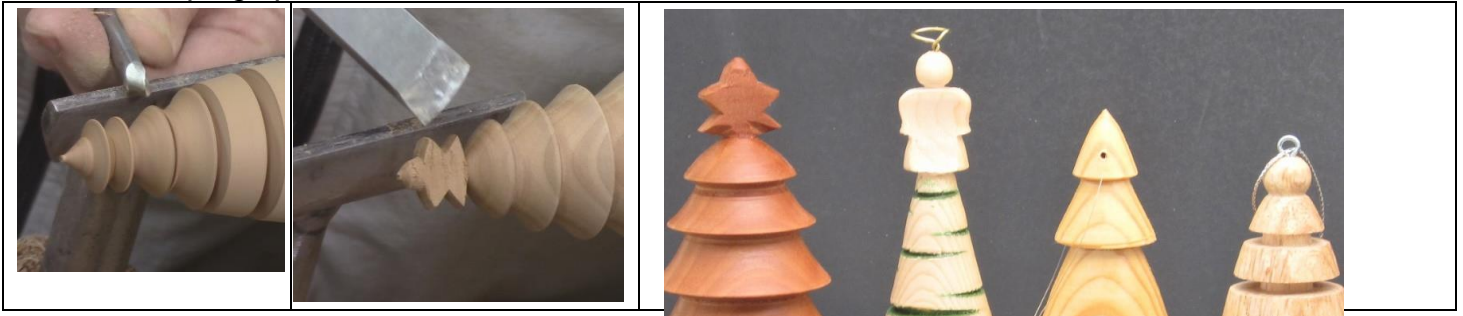
### Steps

1. Rough blank round between centers using a spindle roughing gouge. Turn a tenon for the base end to fit your chuck jaws if necessary. Part down the first quarter inch from the live center to allow waste to remove any sign of the live center point damage. Leave it about 3/8” in diameter to provide support as long as needed.
2. Mount in a chuck and bring up the tailstock for support as long as possible. Mark with a pencil the bottom of the base where the ornament will be parted off, the top of the base and the top of the trunk/start of the bottom tree foliage. Rough turn a cone with the top of the tree toward the headstock with SRG or SG.
3. Shape the tree before cutting the cove between what will be the base and the lower branches. A general rule is maintain as much mass to the left as long as possible to support the turning and minimize vibration and chatter. You can use the SRG to take peeling cuts or use the SRG or a 3/8” spindle gouge to shape the tree.
4. Add the type of detail shape you prefer: series of coves, parting cuts, beads, Vee cuts or shape with spindle gouge. The skew is great for making deep Vee cuts. Experiment!
5. Remove the live center support and using light cuts turn away the quarter inch waste with the live center indentation.
6. After finishing the tree shape and details, use a parting tool or use a spindle gouge to make a cove cut to remove the wood that will be the short tree trunk. Leave the base thick enough for the tree to stand up on a table without easily tipping over.
7. Sand and possibly finish on the lathe with a friction polish.



- Before parting off, use a pen vise to drill a tiny hole for the screw eye. If you don't drill a hole first, you will likely snap off the screw eye. DAMHIKT. Add the screw eye and part off with a thin parting tool. Make a bit of a concave cut with the parting tool (angle the handle a bit to the left) so the tree will sit flat on a table after using your skew or a pocket knife to remove the tiny nib left over.

*Variations: The top of the tree can come to a point or a ball. Or you can shape a star or angel and then take a cut on each side with a Japanese flush cut saw while still held in the chuck or use a sander. The top of the base can be flat or sloping up. Add a burn detail on the base if desired.*



Paint or dye as desired.

Make another one!

### Vendor Sources

22 gauge beading wire for the halo available at Michaels and Walmart.

Best Source for Screw eyes is Peachtree Woodworking

7231	3mm Brass Eyelet Screw - 100 Pack	\$1.99
7232	3mm Nickel Eyelet Screw - 100 Pack	\$1.99

Best Source for 1/16" round ribbon is Hobby Lobby in silver or gold