

Two-Piece Christmas Ornament

If you are not comfortable with hollowing from one end, you can also make a hollow ornament by cutting the blank in half, hollowing each side and then gluing the two halves back together.

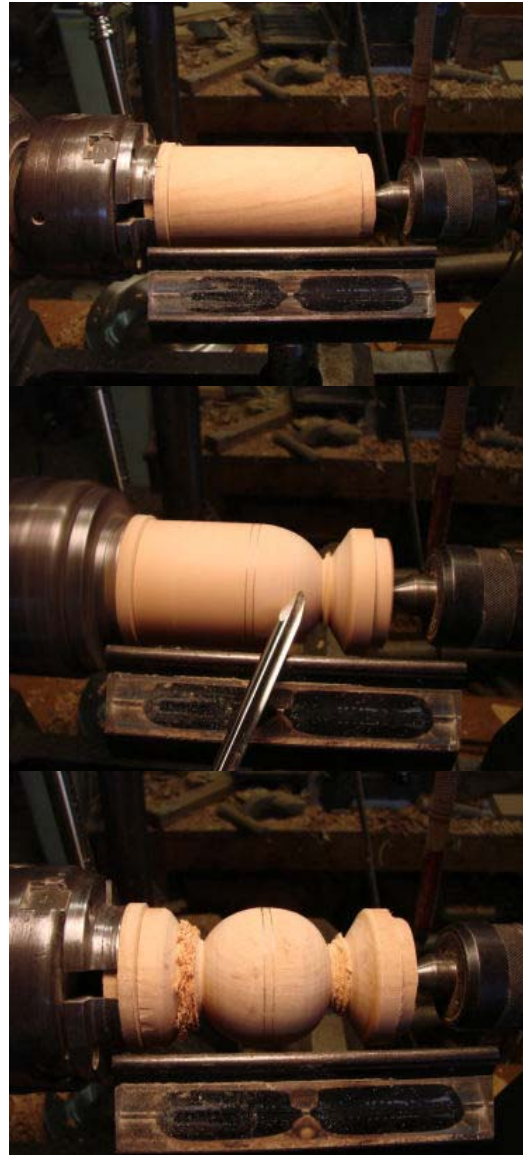
by Ed Malesky



Prepare a blank the same way you would for a box, ie., with a tenon on each end. The blank should be about 2 1/2" in diameter.

Start by marking two centerlines about 1/8" apart. The spacing is for the parting cut that will be made later. Begin to form a sphere.

Round off the other side, but still leave some stock at each end to ensure enough support when hollowing.



Put a witness mark across the two halves to help realignment.

Part the ornament in half. Part at an angle, which facilitates reassembly.

Hollow the inside of each half using your favorite hollowing tool. Here I'm using a steep grind spindle gouge, but I have also used hook tools and a ring cutter.

Make the walls 1/8" thick or less, but leave a little more thickness right at the joint to give more gluing surface.

Do a final scrape to get the walls to final thickness. Do not get it too thin since you will be refining the outside after the halves are glued.

Use CA glue to glue the two halves together. Line up the witness mark and use the tapers to help get good alignment.



Clamp on lathe until the glue sets. Then begin to refine the outside. Take down the stock on each end to get close to where you want to part off.

On this piece I turned down the tailstock end to make a small finial. If you do this, don't take down the headstock end too small since the endgrain is pretty weak.

Then sand smooth through all the grits.

Cut three shallow grooves with a skew or a diamond tool.

Use a wire with a handle on each end to burn marks in the grooves. This helps hide the join.

Turn a finial if you want. Do this before you refine the headstock end to ensure you have enough strength to support the ornament without the tailstock.

