

Half Hollow Ornament Top

This top is turned in an identical manner to a hollow Christmas ornament, except that only the top half of the top is hollowed. This leaves enough weight at the bottom of the top to ensure that the top spins well.

Start with a cylinder about 2 3/4" in diameter. Round over the top and leave a lip about 7/8" in the center.

Use the point of a skew to create dimple in the center of the end to help in drilling.



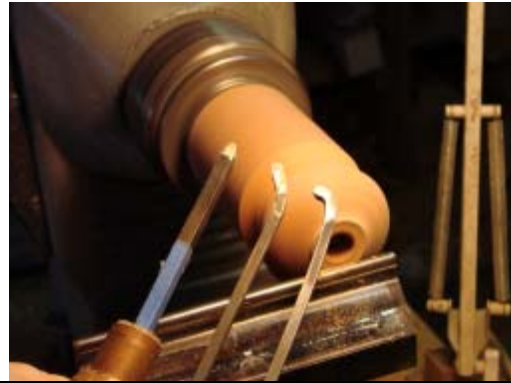
Begin to turn the backside of the top getting a smooth transition from the top. Don't go too far since you need enough mass to allow for hollowing.



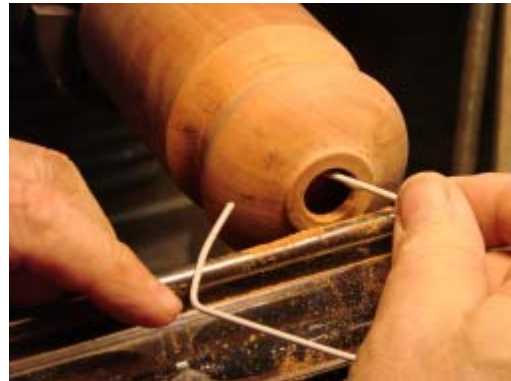
Use a 5/8" drill to drill to the center of the top. Then sand the top through the grits.



This is my selection of homemade hollowing tools. Start to open the top with the straight scraper and then use the bent scrapers to hollow the rest of the top half of the top. The sharply bent scraper is used to get the very top of the inside, which should be the thinnest area on the top. The slightly bent tool is used to reach all the way out to the widest point of the top.



Use a gauge to measure the wall thickness. Walls should be about 1/8" thick on the top half.



Refine the bottom of the top making a nice reverse curve to a sharp point. Part off with a sharp gouge or a skew.



Make a jamb chuck with a 5/8" tenon. Mount the top and refine the point with a skew if required and then finish sanding.



Start the stem by turning a 5/8" tenon and then begin to refine the transition to the base of the stem.



Continue to shape the stem, sand and then part off.



Glue the stem into the top body and then finish.

