

Spiral Christmas Ornament

By Ed Malesky



Start with a regular hollowed Christmas Ornament globe. Walls should be less than 1/8" thick. Lay out the lines for spiraling. You need twice the number of lines as you want bines (spirals). This is a 12 bine spiral, so I used my lathe index to lay out 24 lines.

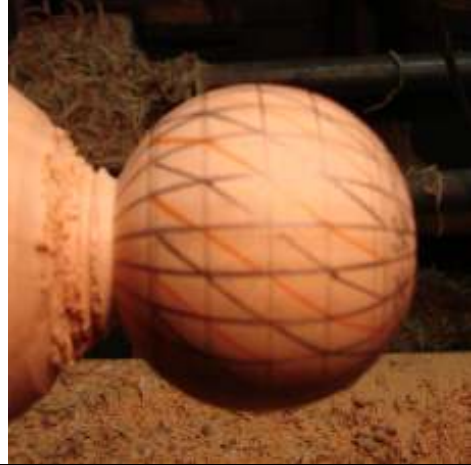
I have a small platform on a pipe that goes in my banjo. The height is adjusted so that with a flat carpenter's pencil on the platform, the lead is even with the axis of the lathe. The lines across the circumference are just equally spaced lines marked with the lathe turning. Notice I number the lines to keep things straight.



It's hard to see, but I am using a clear piece of flexible plastic to connect where the "longitude and latitude" lines cross. Use two alternating colors. One set of colors will be the bine and the other the area to remove.



Completed layout



I then drill the intercies with a 1/4" brad point drill and then drill in between the intercies on the layout line.

I don't do all of the bines, since it would weaken the globe a bit. I generally do three at a time.



I then use a Dremel with a small, carbide cutter to connect the drilled holes. Be careful not to let the Dremel wander too much.

This is also the point where you need to decide how much space you want between the bines.



The Dremel will leave a pretty ragged cut that needs to be cleaned up with small rasps and files.



Using small, Italian Rasp to smooth the cutout.



Repeat on the next bine making sure that the bine width is parallel. Also make sure the spaces between bines are uniform.

Work on the ends with a round file to get a good shape.



As I work around the globe I need to support the globe with my hands since the globe gets progressively more fragile.



When all the bines are complete, check spaces and bine widths and touch up to make them uniform.



Sand undersides of bines with a thin, doubled over strip of sandpaper.



Then finish off the ornament as normal turning a cap and finial. I start my ornaments like Dick Sing with a 3/8" through hole, but since the hole I hollow through (ornament top) gets banged up, when I am done hollowing I redrill this hole to 5/8". This give a clean hole for the cap.