

Ring Holder with Finial



Introduction & Thoughts on Design:

The ring holder discussed in this handout is based on the ring holder described in Bob Rosand's article in the *American Association of Woodturners Journal* Fall of 2000 vol. 15 pages 22 & 23. I have found that the ring holder makes an excellent project to go along with learning the basic skills taught in Session 1 titled The Bead and Cove Stick. The beauty of the ring holder and its practicality make it a great gift item. It has the added benefit of introducing the beginning turner to drilling on the lathe. Another skill the student will learn is the making of a tenon to fit in a four jaw chuck and a tenon on the finial to fit into the drilled hole in the ring holder. This helps to take some of the mystery out of turning a tenon to fit and instills a new confidence in the beginning turner. I have discovered much to my dismay that many beginners need to make an exact copy of a sample ring holder and are not comfortable with making up their own design. My suggestion is that you provide samples of completed ring holders with dimensions for them to copy. I recommend that students be encouraged to come up with their own designs and begin to become aware of their own sense of creativity and design.

Tools & Materials:

1 ¼" Spindle Roughing Gouge	Faceshield
3/8" Spindle Gouge	¼" Drill Bit
¼" Parting Tool	4 Jaw Chuck
1/16" Wide Blade Parting Tool	Glue (carpenters glue or CA Glue)
Sand Paper & Finish	Jacobs Drill Chuck
2 ½" x 2 ½" x 4" blank for Ring Holder	
1" x 1" x 3" Blank of Contrasting Wood for Finial	

Procedures:

1. Mount blank for the ring holder between centers and turn it into a cylinder with a foot to fit into a 4 jaw chuck, using a Spindle Roughing Gouge and a 1/4" Parting Tool.
2. Mount the blank into chuck and bring up tail stock for extra security, to aid in making more aggressive cuts and for added safety.
3. Start by using the Spindle Roughing Gouge to true up the blank and to begin shaping the thin neck of the ring holder. The diameter of the neck should be 1/2" to allow for rings to fit.
4. Once the neck begins to take shape I then begin to rough shape the body of the holder and define or locate the bottom of the ring holder so that I can better visualize my final shape and insure that the proportions are pleasing to the eye.

Note: When defining the bottom leave enough of a tenon (roughly 1" plus) to support the piece when drilling the hole into the top.

5. Finish shaping the body of the ring holder and then remove the tail stock in preparation for drilling the 1/4" hole in the top.
6. Mount the Jacobs chuck with a 1/4" drill bit installed into the tailstock. Set the lathe to a speed of 500 rpms plus or minus and then drill a hole approximately 1/2" deep. When drilling on the lathe, be sure to hold onto the chuck with one hand as you drill the hole to insure that the chuck does not vibrate out of the tailstock. This hole is to receive the tenon on the finial to hold the finial in place.
7. Finish turning the ring holder.
8. Reduce the tenon holding the ring holder on the lathe and slightly under cut the bottom. I like to use a 3/8" detail spindle gouge to do a facing cut on the bottom. A 1/16" Chris Stott style wide blade Parting Tool can also be used to under cut the bottom.
9. Now sand the ring holder and part off using a 1/16" wide blade Parting Tool.
10. Next mount a 1" square by 3" blank of contrasting wood between centers.
11. Turn it to a cylinder and cut a tenon on the tail stock end with a parting tool to fit the hole, drilled in the top of the ring holder.
12. Now turn an interesting finial to fit on top of the ring holder. In Bob Rosand's article he turned a flame shaped finial, but any of a number of shapes would be acceptable. Have fun with the finial and experiment. There is extra wood in the blank, so that several finials could be made and the best one chosen.
13. Now is the time to mate the finial with the body of the ring holder and glue it in.
14. The last step is to apply your favorite finish and step back and admire your work. I like to use a spray on lacquer or shellac although I tend to favor Watco Danish oil for darker woods to help bring out the color and for items that do not require a gloss finish.