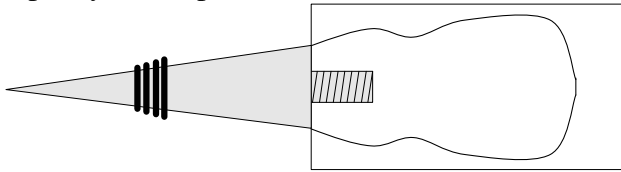


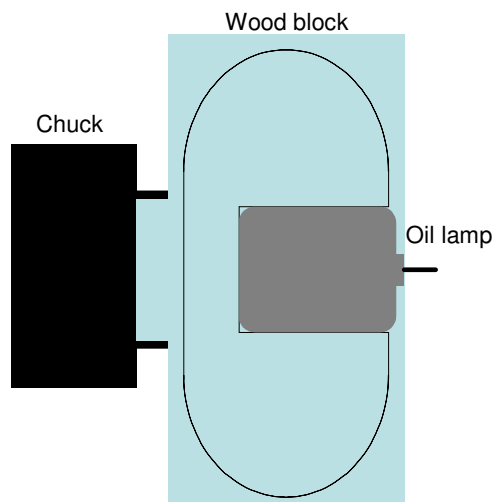
OVWG November 2006 Meeting Review

The November meeting demonstrated several gift ideas for the holidays presented by local turners.

Doug Getty started the presenting by demonstrating bottle stoppers. Bottle stoppers come in several designs. The stopper portion is either cork or metal. They can be purchased from various vendors for \$3.50 to \$7.00 depending on design. Doug demonstrated the bottle stopper with a screw hold. A mandrel can be made or purchased that you screw the wood blank to and turn down the base to fit the diameter of the stopper. He suggested putting wax on the threads before mounting to the mandrel. Stopper design is up to your imagination, but it is nice to have something to grip to pull it out of the bottle, and probably should not have a sharp point at the top so you can press down on it.



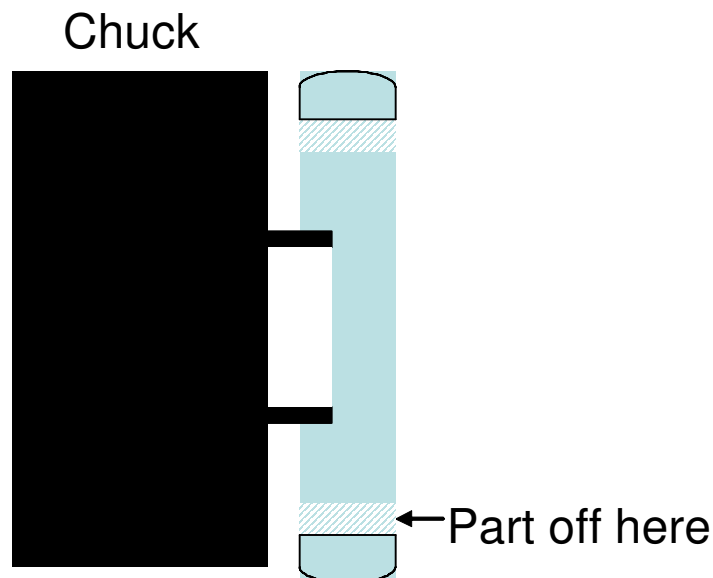
John Cahall showed how to make a confetti lamp / tea lamp holder. You start with a block of dry wood about 5" in diameter and 3" thick. It can be turned side grain or end grain, but it must be dry wood. If you put a glass vial in green wood, the wood will shrink and break the glass. The design difference between a confetti lamp versus a tea candle holder is simply the depth of the hole to hold the candle or vial. The quick method is to drill out the hole with a Forstner bit. The confetti lamp hole will be about 1 1/2" in diameter and 1 1/2" deep. The outside shape is up to you, but he suggests a base that has no wobble so it doesn't tip over and burn the house down. Also, the wicks to the confetti lamps fall out when people turn them over, so take those out when handing them to people or they will be lost. He suggests gluing in the glass lamps.



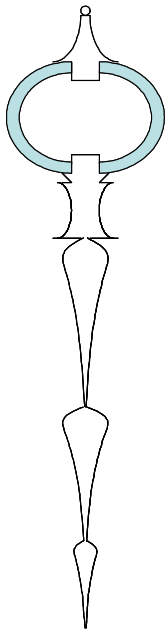
Lowell Converse showed how to make magic wands for kids, which was made popular by the Harry Potter series. The wand is turned in two parts. The wand shaft is turned first. It is about 10 inches long and turned down to about 3/8" diameter. He tapers his slightly from the handle to the tip, and additional beads or valleys can be added as you desire. The tip should be rounded off so they are kid safe. Make a 3/8" tenon on the handle about 1/2" deep. Lowell demonstrated a technique of holding his left hand over the spindle and using his fingers to steady the wand by applying pressure on the back side of the spindle. His left thumb supported his hand by touching the tool over the tool rest as he cut on the front side. The wand's handle is made by drilling a 3/8" hole to fit the tenon. A cone tip of the tail stock is inserted in the hole to hold it on the lathe. Turn the handle however you want. Lowell demonstrated a captive ring using a skew and spindle gouge on his handle.



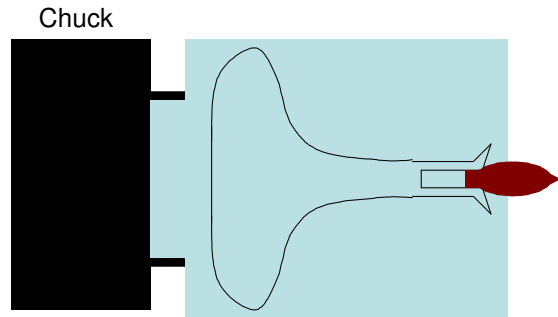
John Lannom demonstrated how to make bracelets or "bangels". He warned that it doesn't matter how much time you spend on it, they just don't sell! However, if you give one to a lady, she'll have to pretend she likes it even if she will never wear it. There are several approaches. The first he discussed was starting with a square block of wood held in a chuck. You can drill or shape the inside diameter. Remove it and use a scrap block to turn a mandrel to pressure hold the bracelet. However, this takes longer and it can be difficult to get the bracelet mounted on the mandrel without any wobble, which can cause segmented pieces to have different sizes. John's approach is to start with a block of wood which matches the thickness of the bracelet and use a Forstner bit to drill partially through. You can then mount the hole onto the jaws of your chuck. The jaws will sit flat against the bottom of the hole, so you know the bracelet will have no wobble. He turns the outside diameter of the bracelet. If you want to apply edge banding, use titebond glue so you have more drying time. Cut the banding after it is applied and wet since it will change size with the glue applied. He cuts the inside diameter with a parting tool, which can be tricky since it can break when you cut through, so be careful. Use a sanding drum to sand and clean up the inside of the bracelet. Bracelets are usually between 2 5/8" to 2 7/8" in size.



Gary Brackett showed how to make hollow bulb Christmas tree ornaments. The bulb is turned first. He does his with a half inch hole, but this can be larger as there is no rule. The bulb should be hollowed out to keep it light weight for hanging on a tree. The official rule for ornaments is that they be less than 2 ounces for tree hanging. The icicle is turned starting with the bottom and gently turning segments from the point up to the top. The design is up to the turner, but typically the parts are shorter and narrower at the bottom and longer and wider at the top using the golden rule as a ratio between the segments. At the top of the icicle, a tenon is turned that fits the hole of the bulb. Be careful when gluing so it does not squeeze out. The top is turned with a tenon to fit the top hole of the bulb and a small hole is drilled in the tip for an eye hook.



Keith Bundy showed how to make ring holders. Ring holders are spindle turned using a chuck to hold the wood. The shape is turned with a larger base and a stem to put the ring on. Keep the stem under $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter so it fits all rings. At the top of the stem a lip is flared out and then slightly recessed to hold a "flame" tip. A $\frac{3}{16}$ " hole is drilled into the tip using a drill chuck on the lathe. Start the hole by making a small dimple in the tip and then drill about a $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. Use a cone on the tail stock inserted in the hole to support the stem while turning it down to final thickness. Part off the holder and place the drill chuck into the head stock. Reverse the drill bit in the drill chuck, being careful not to dent the tip of the bit on the back of the chuck. Place the top of the ring holder over the drill bit and bring up the tail stock. Use a live center without the point and lightly apply pressure. The tip of the drill bit should press against the bottom of the hole. Lightly finish off the bottom of the holder. Hand sand or carve off the bottom nub where the tail stock was left. A flame is turned out of a contrasting wood and is glued into the hole. Be careful not to make the flame tip too sharp.



Arn Ward demonstrated salt and pepper shakers. These shakers use a 1" rubber stopper that can be bought at some craft supply stores. I found mine online at www.MisterArt.com for a reasonable price of about \$.30 apiece. I use contrasting woods for my shakers, using the dark one for the pepper. Make sure you start with the smaller of the two pieces of wood so you can make the second one match the first. Use a chuck to hold the wood in place on the drive center. Spindle turn about a 4" length of wood round. Remove the tail stock, cut the bottom clean and put a dimple in the middle for the drill bit to start. Set a 1" Forstner bit in a drill chuck, mark the depth you want to drill and be sure you include the 1/8" tip of the bit. Drill the hole to depth, leaving at least 1/2" of wood from the bottom of the hole to the chuck. You will lose about a 1/4" parting it off, which leaves 1/4" over the top for cleanup. Drill the hole slowly, slowing the lathe down and taking breaks so you don't overheat your bit, ruining it. Cut the shape at the bottom of the hole to fit the stopper. Use a sharp scraper to round off the inside top of the shaker, removing the point left by the drill bit. You can optionally hollow out part of the shaker, but be mindful of what you want the outside shape to be. Bring up the tail stock using a cone to fit in the drilled hole and then rough shape the outside. Remove the tail stock and part it off leaving about 1/4" over the top (re-measure the hole depth before parting off!). Place a piece of soft wood on the chuck and turn a mandrel 1" wide to fit the shaker over. When you have a tight fit, you can finish off the outside of the shaker, sand and finish on the lathe if you want. Use the first shaker made to match the height and curves of the second shaker. Drill 1/16" to 3/32" holes in the top making sure you use a center punch to dimple the hole positions first. The general rule is that pepper shakers have more holes than salt shakers.

