

Turning a Bird Feeder Ornament



Introduction

While looking for a new ornament idea for my classes and demonstrations I came upon this really good ornament, a miniature bird feeder. I first saw this ornament at the Chapel Hill Woodturners' Club. Wanda Hosier was showing the idea talking about making kits to sell in the club store. When I communicated to Wanda that I would like to use the ornament in my classes she said the idea came from Dan at the Raleigh Woodcraft Store. I called the store and asked for the Dan who had designed a bird feeder ornament. Dan Wall came to the phone. Dan and I talked and he said I could use the idea for my classes and demonstrations. As we talked, he said the idea was something another turner had shown him and that he had made design changes. I asked him if he had made a handout or instructional material for the Bird Feeder Ornament. Dan said, "No". I told him I would write one and send him a copy by e-mail to look over. This instructional handout is a result of my investigation into the origin of the Bird Feeder Ornament.

Design Consideration

The shape and size of this ornament depends on the size of scrap wood. These instructions are for using a 2 inch square blank 6 inches long. The Bird Feeder top and bottom will be turned from the same wood blank. Each turned piece will need to fit the clear plastic cylinder for the ornament to come together. Drilled holes will need to be centered for alignment when assembling each part to another. The Bird Feeder ornament can be sealed with any finish you prefer. The parts of the feeder can be textured, carved, or painted to give each ornament its own character. Varying designs and shapes make this a fun ornament to turn.

Turning the Top of the Feeder

1. Start by placing a 2" X 2" X 6" blank of walnut or other hardwood between centers and turning it to a 1 7/8" diameter cylinder (figure 1).
2. Turn a 3/8" wide by 1/8" deep tenon on one end of the cylinder.
3. Place the tenon end of the cylinder into a chuck with number two jaws. Tighten the jaws around the tenon securely.



figure 1



figure 2

4. First square the end of the blank (figure 2).
5. Next drill a 5/8" hole in the center about 1/4" deep using a drill chuck and 5/8" Forstner bit (figure 3).
6. Now turn a tapered shape about 1 5/8" tall with a 1/2" to 9/16" bead on top (figure 4).



figure 3



figure 4

7. Sand the top to 220 grit or finer and part off the top from the rest of the blank (figure 5).
8. Apply the finish of your choice.

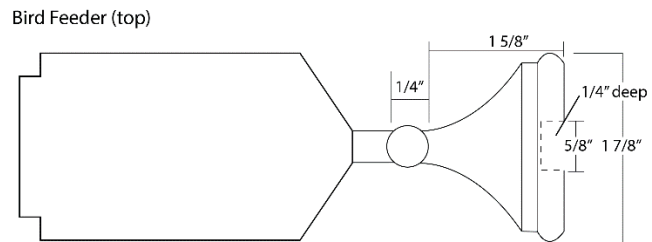
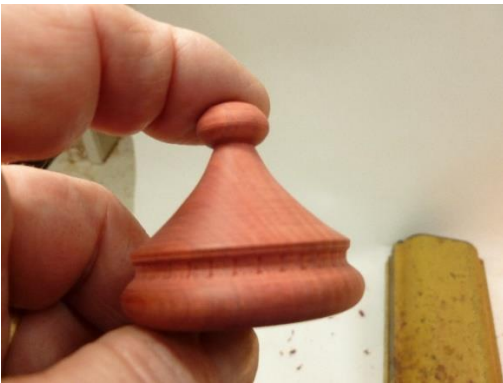


figure 5

Turning the Bottom of the Feeder

1. To turn the bottom of the feeder use the remaining part of the chucked blank.
2. First square the tailstock end of the blank.
3. Next drill a 5/8" hole in the center about 3/8" deep using a drill chuck and 5/8" Forstner bit (figure 6).
4. Now turn a 1/8" deep tray on the tailstock end of the blank. The 5/8" hole will now be 1/4" deep (figure 7).



figure 6

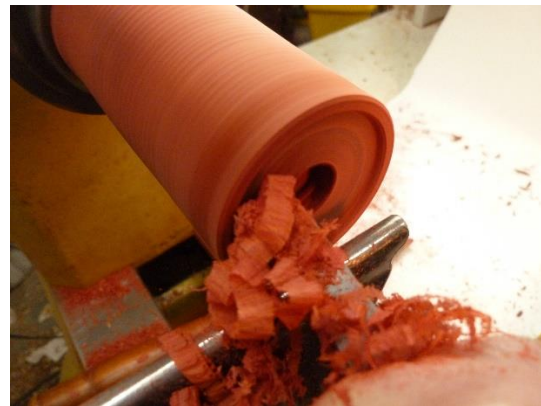


figure 7

5. Now turn a tapered shape about $2 \frac{5}{8}$ " long with a finial at the bottom tip (figure 8).
6. Sand the top to 220 grit or finer. and part the bottom off from the rest of the blank.
7. Apply the finish of your choice (figure 9).

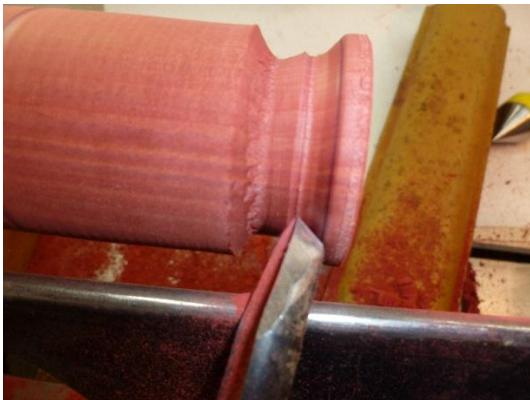
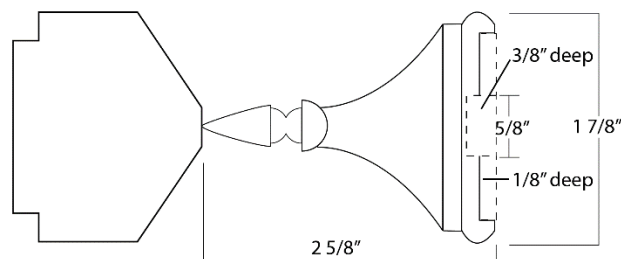


figure 8



figure 9

Bird Feeder (bottom)



Assembling the Bird Feeder

1. Take the 5/8" diameter clear plastic cylinder and check the fit with the holes in the top and bottom sections of the feeder (figure 10).
2. If the pieces fit, hold the bottom of the feeder and apply a couple of drops of CA glue on the sides of the drilled hole and insert one end of the clear plastic cylinder.



figure 10

3. Next pour some of the ground mixed pepper into the glued cylinder.
4. Now apply a couple of drops of CA glue on the sides of the drilled hole in the top of the feeder and insert the other end of the clear plastic cylinder.
5. Once the glue has dried apply a small amount of CA glue on the tray area of the feeder bottom and sprinkle some of the pepper mix.
6. Place a drop of CA glue where you would like to place the mushroom birds and set the birds in place.
7. Let all of the glue dry.
8. Drill a small hole in the top of the ornament and screw a small screw eye in it for an ornament hook.
9. Your Bird Feeder Ornament is complete (figure 11).



figure 11

Some other designs



Wood needed for a Bird Feeder Ornament

1-2" X 2" X 6" piece of Walnut or other hardwood
1-5/8" diameter clear plastic tube by 2" long
3-mushroom birds
1-Tablespoon of crushed mix pepper

Tools needed for turning:

Roughing gouge
3/8" or 1/2" spindle gouge
Parting tool
1/4" Round skew
Skew or 3/8" beading parting tool
Chuck with #2 jaws
Sandpaper up to 220 grit or finer
Calipers
Drill chuck
5/8" drill bit
Pencil
Water base finish or other finish
Paint brushes
Medium or Thick CA glue

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