PAGE 2 VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

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I have found turning these salt shakers to be a fun project which doesn't take a lot of time to complete. It is a project that lends itself to endless shapes and sizes while giving you the opportunity to practice cutting beads, coves, v-cuts, carving, hollowing and forming tight joins. The perfect project for both the new and seasoned turner.

TOOL RECOMMENDATIONS:

3/8" Spindle gouge *Other tools you may want to use* 1/8" or 1/4" Spindle gouge *Spindle roughing gouge 1" Skew *Square/Round nose scraper

Parting tool *Bedan

8", 9/64" Drill bit



WOOD SELECTION

I recommend fine grain, kiln dried wood . I have used air dried wood without problems. 3" x 3" x 6" is the standard size blank. (This is Keith's choice because there is less moisture exchange with close grained wood).

MOUNTING

Mount the blank between centers in the traditional fashion and rough turn to a cylinder. Clean cuts on the ends, then turn a small tenon.

Remount the blank in your 4-jaw chuck of choice and true up the cylinder. Part the blank at center, leaving the body of the shaker in the chuck. Turn the body to your preferred shape or that requested by SWMBO.

HOLLOWING THE BODY

You can hollow the body by one of many methods: back-hollow ala Richard Raffan, use a scraper, a Bedan or a Forst ner bit. The objective is to leave a smooth, parallel-sided cavity with a concave bottom (which is actually the top of the shaker). Once completed, cut a squared rebate in the open end with a bedan, square end scraper or a skew (turned on its side) about 3/16" deep. The rebate holds the funnel, so parallel sides and a tight fit are a must. Use dry wood to prevent clumping of Salt in the finished piece.

FORMING THE FUNNEL

The length of the funnel needs to be about 2/3 the depth of the interior cavity of the body. Too tall?, you won't get much salt in, too short? equals too much salt in resulting in a mess on the table and the look of "Seriously?" from your wife.

Mount your blank, clean up the end grain and begin shaping. A parabola works best (holds more salt than a straight sided cone).

Fit the body of the shaker onto the funnel as a box lid is fitted

Shape the funnel into a smooth curve, leave the tip $\sim 3/8$ " diameter, either square or slightly rounded Leave it concave and it will dispense too much salt and you will get that look of "Seriously?" from those using the salt shaker.

Part off leaving more length than needed to fill the rebate

FINISHING THE BOTTOM

Re-chuck the body, insert the funnel into the body, be sure it seats all the way into the rebate. Oh, did you make it a bit Loose? A paper towel now comes in handy. Turn the funnel flush with the bottom of the shaker, then start to curve the cut into the center. Use a small spindle gouge (very sharp point) to turn a small opening into the funnel spout.

DRILL THE HOLE

Hold the drill bit in a jacobs chuck, glued into a small handle or just use some vice grips. Advance the bit carefully, cleaning frequently, until you have penetrated the entire length of the funnel.

FINISH THE BOTTOM

Sand, wax or finish as desired. There is no need to finish the inside .

Continued on page 7