

# Top's, Top's and more Top's

## Two ways to make em.

by Jack Brown, Nov. 2017

Something to remember, minimum diameter must not be any smaller than 1-3/4" dia., government regs. for choking hazard.

For all my tops I use Hard Maple in end grain orientation. I put chatter work on all tops for decoration. Soft wood or side grain will not chatter.

First way is using a block of wood 2" X 2" x 2-1/2" or a little larger, with grain running parallel with the bed of the lathe. #1

Place between centers, turn round with a tennon on one end. #2

Remove from between centers and place in a 4-jaw chuck and turn main body and chatter. #3 & #4 . After chattering add color using felt tip markers, complete turning handle and color the handle and part off. #5 & #6. Top is complete. That wasn't so bad, was it.



1



2



3



4



6

Tools used. Spindel roughing gouge or 1/2" bowl gouge for roughing, 3/8" or 1/2" spindle gouge for main turning, chatter tool.

Felt tip markers:

Brush Tip (my preferred Sharpies - found at Michales

Tombow - search on-line.

Prisma markers - might find them at Staples or other office supply store.

When finished I spray them with Shellac. It helps keep the color from fading.

## The other way to turn a top.

This second way of turning a top is the way I prefer - it saves wood. I can get 3 tops from the 2 x 2 x 2-1/2" or a little longer blank as shown in the first method. I cut the blanks approx 5/8" thick and use a 1/2" dowel 3" long for a handle.

#1 - Make a groove in handle to hold glue. I use regular Titebond.

#2 - Put glue in hole of block and on end of handle then insert handle into block. Might have to drive it in. When all else fails, hit it with a hammer.

#3 - Turn round and chatter.

#4 - Showing chatter tool

#5 - Color the chatter, start to form handle and cut off end at live center.

#6 - Form handle, approx. 5/16" dia. and about 1-1/4" - 1-3/8" long.

#7 - Color handle and part off.

#8 - YEAH! Completed. All this should take about 3 minutes, NO MORE than 5 minutes.



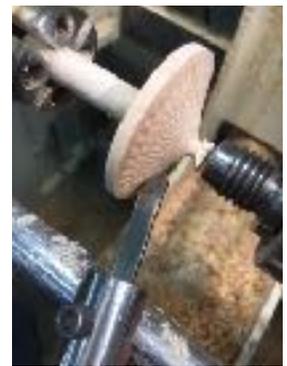
1



2



3



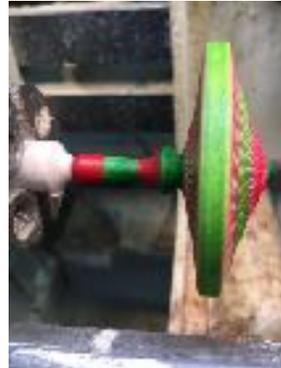
4



5



6



7



8

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