

INSIDE OUT TURNED CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Globular ornament with removal of as much wood as possible:

Step 1: Cut wood

I select wood for color and similar hardness and often use contrasting colors.

You can use the same wood for all four pieces or two contrasting colors.

Cut four pieces 1 to 1 ½ inches perfectly square by 8 inches long.

Step 2: Bundle the four pieces

You can bundle with two radiator clamps and lathe between centers: or use one radiator clamp and put the corners of the wood in the spaces between the jaws of the four jaw chuck..

Cover the radiator clamp with duct tape to protect yourself from the loose end.

Exactly center the tailstock.

Step 3: Layout your design

In order to allow for a longer tail finial, put the midline of the layout about 40% toward the headstock (on an 8 inch block I put it at 3 ½).

Place two marks across the width of the bundle representing the top and bottom of the design. These marks should be approximately as far apart as the width of the bundled blocks

Place a tenon on the end that will become the top. Mount the tenon in your chuck.

Step 4: Cut your design

Remove wood between the layout marks in a semicircle (or other design) until about ½ inch of wood remains at the thinnest point.

Sand and put one coat of finish (because it is easier to sand now and the finish will prevent glue marks on raw wood).

Step 5: Turn the outside.

Take off the lathe, remove radiator clamps and rotate each piece inside out, glue, and clamp with radiator clamps.

Clean out any glue squeeze.

To reduce turning stress on the thin wood, use a bandsaw to reduce the bulk of the tail end

Remount between centers or turn a tenon on the top finial end and put in a chuck and tailstock.

You must turn the tailstock end first.

Using delicate cuts reduce the end and create the tail finial. Sand, leaving enough wood at the bottom of the finial to hold with the tailstock.

Sand the bottom half.

Extremely gently turn the wood over the center until no flat edge remains. Sand.

Then turn the half of the globe towards the headstock and the top finial. Sand.

Step 6: Complete.

Remove from the lathe, cut the wood above and below the head and tail finial. Sand.

Place an eye hook.

Add finish while hanging.

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Globular ornament with the same design cutout of each face (tree, snowman, etc.)

Step 1, 2, and 3: Same as the “remove as much wood as possible” ornament.

Step 4: Cut your design

Do not touch the area outside the marks, this will be the body of your finials.

Only in the area between the marks, round the bundle to a cylinder.

Do not go deeper than the widest possible cylinder or it will ruin the design.

It is better to leave a tiny flat than to go too deep. The flat spot will not show.

Step 5: Cut your design into this cylinder.

Step 6: De-bulk or hollow the ornament to lighten it.

Take the bundle off the lathe, remove the clamp, turn each piece inside out.

Now you can see your design.

Glue two adjacent pieces together.

To de-bulk the inside:

You can de-bulk with a grinding bulb on the drill press: or screw the glued pieces, design side down, to a faceplate, putting the center point of the design on the center point of the faceplate.

Hollow the ornament until 1/8 to 3/16 inch remains on the center point of the design (both the full design on the faceplate and the half design perpendicular to the faceplate).

Glue the two hollowed halves together.

Step 7: Turn the outside.

Remount between centers, or turn a tenon on the top finial end and put in a chuck and tailstock.

You must turn the tailstock end first.

Turn round or egg shaped until the thickness of the wood is uniform

Make a bottom finial out of the remaining stock or remove the tail stock and cut a hole in the bottom that will accept the tenon for a separately made bottom finial of a contrasting color.

Make a top finial out of the remaining stock or cut a hole in the top that will accept the tenon of a separately made top finial.

Step 8: Sand, add an eye hook and finish while hanging.