

Waveney Woodturners Club

Mark Baker - July 2018

Mark who is the editor of the Woodturning magazine was paying his 6th visit to the club and on this occasion turned an oriental box (Chinese ginger jar) with a number of different lids.



Using a 4 x 4 square ash, which is notorious for 'crazy grain' was mounted using steb centres between centres and a spigot cut on both ends retaining the square edge whilst doing so.



Using a spindle roughing gouge the piece was turned into a cylinder for approximately 70% of its length. Changing to a bowl gouge the shape of the base of the box was made and a shearing cut used to refine the shape. When doing this ensure the flute is in the direction of travel to avoid jams.



Using a parting tool, Mark cut through 90% of the piece enabling it to be twisted off by hand.



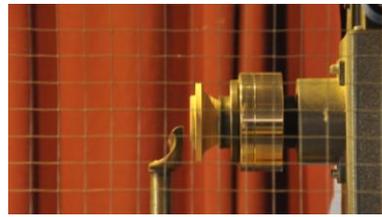
Re-mounting the piece in the chuck jaws using the spigot formed before twisting off, Mark proceeded to clean up the profile and hollowed out the inside by boring the required depth with the spindle gouge (you could use a drill bit to achieve this). Changing to a swan neck gouge the inside was refined and the shoulder cleaned up with a skew gouge.



The neck of the jar was refined and shaped then carefully measured to take the lids. Normal sanding would be completed at this stage before you parted off the spigot.



The first lid was made and turned to the size previously measured to enable a location fit so the rim rests in the groove of the lid. Using a jam chuck the shape of the lid was created using a scraper.



Lid Two follows a similar pattern and by using a jam chuck the shape was made and refined, using a skew to ensure the recess in the lid would enable it to mate with the jar correctly.

Caution - do not attempt to check the fit of the lid whilst the piece is revolving.



Again using a jam chuck and bringing up the tail stock (first marking the centre) the 3rd lid was shaped and refined to fit over the lip of the jar.



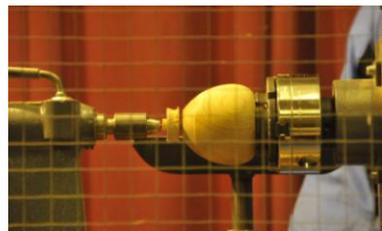
Lids 4 and 5 were produced from the same stock piece (no.5 being discarded as an unsuitable design by popular opinion from the audience). Care taken to retain all your fingers when turning this piece as the square edges can cause considerable damage. The curve and shape can be highlighted if the edge is marked with a marker pen which can be seen whilst the piece is revolving.



This lid, deemed to be the most popular has an upturned edge (as a Chinese Pagoda) and the bottom of the lid turned to sit in the recess of the jar.



The jar was mounted in the jaws by its neck, when doing this its better to use nylon jaws to avoid damage. The foot of the jar was shaped and excess removed.



These were the two most popular lids



This month's table entries were the best and most varied for some time. Mark Baker remarked on their quality and suggested that those hadn't put a piece on the table should do so for his next visit.

The Chairman's Choice

This month was Peter Chapman's beautiful piece made from oak and Padauk with a superb finish using crystalline wax.

