



COLIN SMITH

This month's demonstrator is also our AWGB Area Representative. He has visited us a number of times before never failing to come up with something new

One of Colin's favourite items to turn are boxes. These come in all shapes and sizes, some up to 15ins tall and only 2ins. wide others are more squat and have various uses, from jewellery to money boxes. For this one Colin used a piece of spalted beech with a pre turned spigot on one end. This was mounted between 2 centres trued up and a spigot turned on the other end. This method is important because when the blank is cut in half it identifies the ends and grain pattern.



After measuring to determine where the blank should be cut bearing in mind the ratio of thirds Colin cut the blank with a parting tool.



After mounting the bottom section in the chuck the blank was cleaned up and drilled out using forstner bits, to 10 mm from the bottom. (Forstner bits should be sharpened with a diamond needle file, if possible hold the bit in a chuck and index it round as you sharpen to avoid missing teeth.)



Using a 'box' scraper and keeping the cutting edge parallel to the drilled out section remove excess from the inside before cleaning up and sanding off to 600 grit.



The lip which will form part of the joints between bottom and top was then formed ensuring sufficient material to modify if necessary.



The top was then mounted in the chuck and supported by the tail stock. (Colin preferred to use the Chronos revolving centre because the angle and ratio of the teeth is preferred to the Axminster plus it's about a third of the price.) A lip was then formed with a beading tool to fit the base previously turned, in this case 54.5mm.



After fitting the 2 together and matching the grain, again supported by the tail stock the shape was completed of the main body finished with a top finial and sanded through to 600 grit. Using a fine spindle gouge the end of the finial was shaped to support a small different coloured material.



By using ground down spindle gouges, which had reached the end of their life Colin used them as a beading tool to decorate the top section. By using a fine wire held firmly in the grooves until smoke was seen the embellishment was made including at the joint which disguised the joint.



Colin carefully textured the outside using a cutter mounted in a Proxon 12 volt drill **WITH THE LATHE OFF**. By creating a series of cuts of various lengths and staying between the dark lines the surface was textured.



Colin then removed any nibs with a 600 grit before applying melamine lacquer cutting back with web rax, before applying further coats and finishing with a mixture of carnuba and beeswax.

This Month's Table Entries



Chairman's Choice

This month was Chris Hoare's delightful little goblet

COME ON LADS

The table display this month was one of the lowest we have seen. Bearing in mind that we had a host of hands shown when asked how many were trainees, having only one item on the table does not reflect well on the numbers!

Let's see if we can improve next month.