Chairmans Challenge 2026 – copy of a box by Jason Beech

Instructions by Tony Stubbins

There are 2 examples at the club. The smaller one is made from a piece of wood 6" by 1.5" and the larger one 9" by 2", so any piece of wood between these measurements will do. You will need either a screw chuck or jam chuck made to fit your chuck jaws and a nut and bolt (6-8mm) that is long enough to go through your jam check and work piece plus 2 penny washers,

1. Find the centre of your piece then mark two rings on one side of the work piece. The first, 1" from the centre, the second 2.5" from the centre. Then drill a hole through the centre of the workpiece to suit your chosen holding system. (screw chuck or bolt). Note: the inner and outer rings are a guide after looking at the pictures. The larger your work piece, the further out from the centre you need to mark the two rings and the further apart the 2 rings can be.
2. Be careful to keep as much wood on the out surface/edge as possible as this forms your wings, rather start turning down to the outer ring you marked on your work piece down to about ¾ of the thickness of your work piece, then form the centre donut shape to your inner ring down to about ½ the workpiece thickness. Sand and apply finish to this side.
3. Take your work piece off the chuck, turn it over and using your chosen holding system, remount the piece. Then mark 2 rings on the workpieces in the same place as on the other side. Next, mark 2 more rings on this side smaller (inside the first 2 rings by the wall thickness). Turn the outside down to the outer ring to mirror the other side. Now proceed to hollow out the inside of your donut using the inner 2 ring marks as your guide again, mirroring the other side. (check the pictures for reference). Once you are happy with the results/shape, sand and apply your finish and remove the piece from your holding system.
4. Cut out the centre piece of waste wood from the inner ring to the centre leaving the donut intact. Hand sand the inner surface and apply your finish. Now mark a line from one top corner to the opposite bottom corner through the centre of the workpiece (from top right to bottom left). Cut along this line using a band saw or hand saw and join/glue both halves together.
5. Last steps, Spindle turn a piece of wood for the centre, hollowing out each side/end to form 2 boxes and turn 4 discs to fit the 2 centre boxes, and 2 to fit over the donut shape holes. If you want to go one step further, turn 4 covers that go over the box holes before you turn your discs. These can be turned out of a different wood from the main workpiece like I did in the larger one.

It sounds more complex than it is. The second one I managed to turn in just 3 hours, once I got the idea together. All I had was the pictures to work from.

Regards Tony

Views of the Chairman's Challenge Competition (text to follow from Tony)











