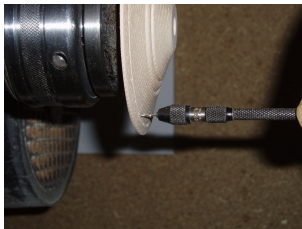
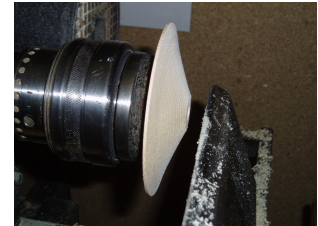


## Intermediate Project 1 – Earring Stand

Here's a little turning project that should keep the ladies happy – an earring stand. A fairly simple project involving both 'faceplate' as well as spindle turning; it's good practice and you have something useful to show for your efforts at the end. My model uses a disc about 100mm diameter by 20mm thick for the top and one about 75mm diameter by 20mm thick for the foot, both from ash. The spindle turning comes out of one piece of walnut about 25mm square by 110mm long to add a contrast to the ash.

Drill a hole in the centre of each disc to suit the size of your screw chuck and mount the larger one on the lathe, speed set to 1500-2000rpm. True up the edge and level the exposed face sanding both to a finish. Reverse the disc on the screw chuck and reduce to about 15mm thickness then, leaving a flat area in the centre about 20mm in diameter, form a concave curve leaving about 1.5mm thickness at the edge. (see pic 1)



Using the corner of a skew chisel, scribe a line 5mm in from the edge. This only needs to be shallow but it helps to locate the drill when making the holes. For decoration, I form a bead about halfway between the centre and the edge. Finally, using the indexing head on the lathe, I mark out 24 equally spaced points around the scribed line and drill them through by hand with a 1mm drill fixed in a pin chuck. (see pic 2) Afterwards, it may be necessary to 'de-burr' the holes on the other side by lightly twiddling a drill of about 3mm diameter in the hole.

If your lathe doesn't have an indexing facility, draw a circle 10mm diameter smaller than the top on a piece of card and using a protractor, draw lines at 15 degree intervals to form 24 equispaced lines radiating from the centre. Cut the disc out and by aligning the centre with the centre hole in the top, the spacing can be transferred to the underside of the top and drilled from underneath. If this is the case, then you can dispense with the scribed line on the top surface and put on the underside instead.

Sand to a finish making sure you don't destroy the shape of the bead and apply the finish of your choice – I use cellulose sanding sealer and finish with fine steel wool. Try not to clog the holes with sealer or alternatively, you can drill the holes after the finishing stage.

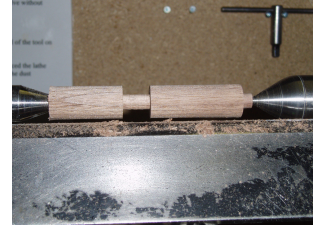


Mount the smaller disc for the foot on the screw chuck and prepare in the same manner as for the top apart from leaving the edge of the foot 5mm thick and obviously omitting the bit about the scribed line and the drilled holes!(see pic 3)

Mount the square piece between centres keeping the lathe speed as high as possible and reduce to a cylinder 20mm in diameter.

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Establish what diameter the spigots that fit into the top and foot should be and reduce the first 6mm at the tailstock end to that diameter. This spigot should be a 'mechanical' joint – not so tight that it squeezes the glue out when fixing together but not so loose that it wobbles about in the hole. Mark a line 55mm further up the cylinder and another further 15mm along. Reduce this 15mm section down to the same as the end. (see pic 4)



Carefully shape the main spindle making sure that both ends are slightly undercut to ensure a flush fit with the top and the foot and then form the top finial. This should be about 30mm long and as it can be used to put rings on, don't make it too large at the top. I keep mine down to 10mm diameter so that even very small rings should still fit. (see pic 5)

Sand to a finish, carefully remove the remaining scrap at the end, sand the top of the finial and apply the same finish as the top and the foot. Separate the two parts with a small saw.

When all four pieces are finished, use ordinary wood glue to fix them together, making sure that the grain is aligned properly in all of the pieces. (see pic 6)



Just to finish it off, I use a self-adhesive baize to cover the base of the foot making sure it is tidily trimmed around the edge of the foot. (see pic 7)

Of course, all the sizes given here are arbitrary so there is no reason why they can't be increased to make a larger stand holding more earrings. In fact, due to the demand from one of my daughters, I made a slightly larger version with a 150mm top first and then the Mk 3 version had the smaller one, (minus the base) mounted on top of the 150mm one creating a double tiered version which held 30 pairs of earrings in total.



Why not try Bill's other projects - he will be adding to these throughout the year so make sure you check the website regularly to see if new projects have been added.

We also stock a good range of turning tools from Robert Sorby, Books and finishes from Chestnut and General Finishes. Have a look on the website for further information, [www.classichandtools.co.uk](http://www.classichandtools.co.uk)

Hill Farm Business Park, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EW  
Phone: (+44/0) 1473 784 983 Fax: (+44/0) 1473 785 724  
E Mail: [sales@classichandtools.co.uk](mailto:sales@classichandtools.co.uk)