

Novice Turner Project

Miniature Nest Box



Bring your nest box to the July club night

A miniature nest box makes a great decoration and is fun to turn.

Here is a chance to practice some simple spindle turning and the useful art of making a finial.



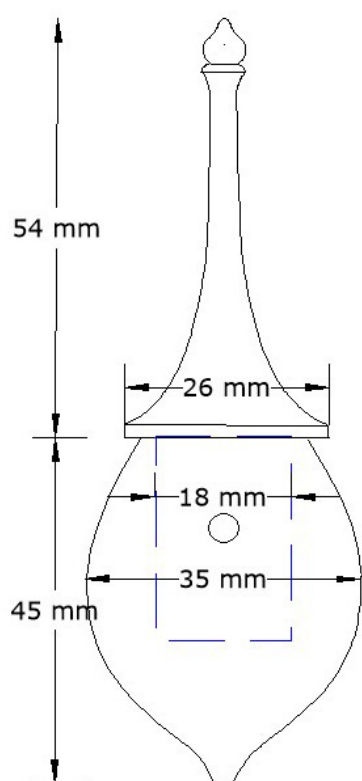
1. For the body of the box select some interesting branch wood. The picture shows yew bought from GAW wood sales.

For less than the price of a cup of coffee I got this beautiful piece of wood which is enough to make 5 nest boxes.



2. Mount the blank between centres and turn down to a cylinder.

Mount the cylinder in a chuck and drill a 18 mm hole about 25 mm deep.



3. With a parting tool make a 2 mm rim on which to locate the roof.

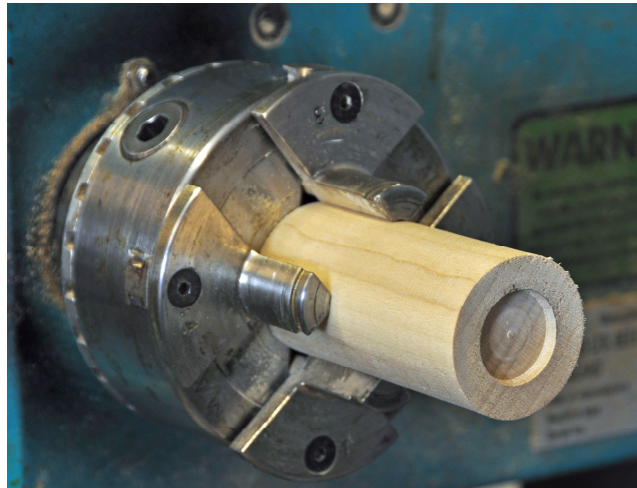
John Hawkswell



4. Shape the bird box with a spindle gouge .
For the finer detail a ¼ inch spindle gouge is my tool of choice.

Before reaching the final shape drill the holes for the entrance and perch. If the drill bit tears a bit of grain any damage will disappear when you turn the last couple of millimetres.

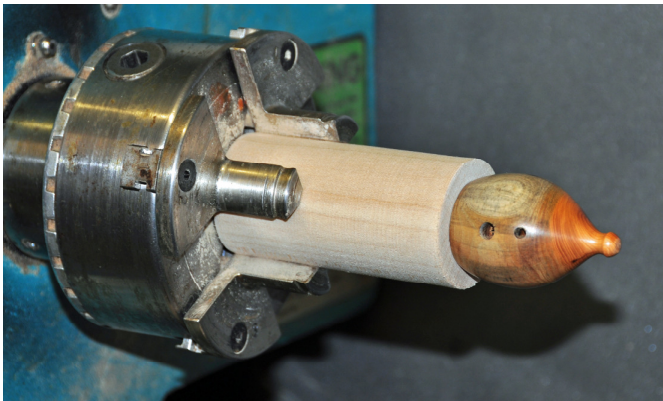
Before parting off from the lathe sand and apply your preferred finish.



5. Now for the roof.

Mount the blank between centres and turn down to a cylinder. Mount the cylinder in a chuck and with a parting tool make a recess.

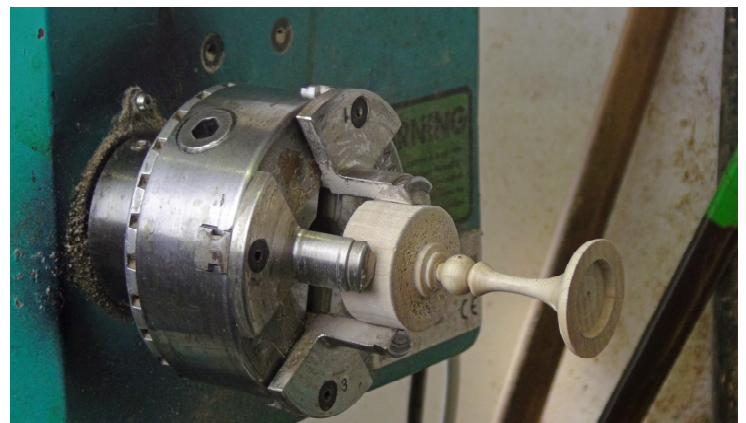
With the point of the tailstock centre mark the centre of the recess. (this is called a witness mark)



6. Before shaping the roof check that the body fits snugly in this recess.



7. Bring up the tailstock to utilise the witness mark made earlier to support the work.
Guess who forgot and had to make a jam chuck
Shape the roof using a 10 mm spindle gouge.



8. Finish shaping with ¼ inch spindle gouge.
Sand and apply a finish then part off . Glue roof to body and fit perch.