

- TOPS -

MATERIAL:

1. Hard maple two inches thick.
2. Buy a board 4 1/2 or 6 1/2 or 8 1/2 inches wide—no brown streaks.
3. I cut my length 8 3/8 long. This piece will make 4 tops.
4. But while learning, cut your length 4 1/2 long. This will make two tops.
5. I get my wood in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

TURNING THE TOPS

1. Connect your wood to the lathe after marking center holes in both ends of your 4 1/2 piece of wood.
2. I use a stepcenter on the head stock and a pointed tool on the tail stock.
3. I use a roughing gouge to round the wood—not quite round.
4. On the tail stock end I use a bedan tool to make a tenon.
5. Remove the wood and use a chuck to hold the piece.
6. Bring up the tail stock and then finish rounding the 4 1/2 inch piece.
7. Really tighten your chuck.

MAKING A TOP

1. Use a spindle gouge and start at the tail stock end and turn the bottom of the top.
2. Use the bedan and start removing the top side of the base working toward the handle.
At this time leave the handle quite thick.
3. Now remove the tail stock and finish the base. Bring it to a point.
4. Sand the bottom. I use 220 grit.
5. Use a chatter tool and do the bottom—quite high speed.
6. Use the spindle gouge and shape the top side towards the handle.
7. Leave the handle 1/4 inch thick. Don't remove all the wood from the handle until you have textured the top side.
8. Sand before texturing. Use the chatter tool.
9. Remove the rest of the handle down to 1/4 inch. Sand.
10. Color with permanent markers—Tombow.
11. Use the spindle gouge to cut the top off the remaining piece of wood.
12. Your top should be 1 3/4 inches tall—handle 3/4 inch tall.

TOOLS USED

1. Roughing gouge
2. Spindle gouge
3. Bedan
4. Stepcenter
5. Chuck

TEXTURING TOOLS

1. Chatter tool
2. Decorating elf
3. Spindle gouge
4. Tombow coloring pens

