

Making your Signature Box

Suggested: use a light colored wood for the center; maple, holly, and ash all work well. Size about 3.5 x 3.5 inches. Use a dark wood for top and bottom, such as walnut. Size 4 x 1 inch.

- 1 mount your lighter wood between centers in a spindle turning configuration. (grain running parallel to bed ways)
- 2 round with spindle roughing gouge and put a tenon on the tail-stock end about ¼ inch long and ½ inch smaller in diameter than the rest of the box. This becomes the “enter section”
- 3 remove the center section from the lathe and mount the dark wood between centers.
- 4 turn to a diameter ½ inch larger than the center section, put a tenon on the tail stock end to fit your chuck.
- 5 remove and remount onto your chuck.
- 6 face off the side and turn a mortise that the tenon of the center section fits into. If you are using an open grain wood like walnut sand and seal, this will keep the lighter wood sanding dust out of the pores.
- 7 place glue into the mortise and insert your center section. Caution do not use too much glue that it comes out the joint. Use the tail stock to apply light pressure and keep everything centered.
- 8 after glue dries if need be clean off glue and return center if it is off centered.
- 9 scribe a line about 1.4 inch up from the glue joint and the same from the top edge. A pointed tool or skew works well.
- 10 use a wire and burn these two lines. If you are going to dye the center burn the lines deep enough to stop the dye from getting onto the 'white' end caps.
- 11 use the section between the burn lines to dye, paint, embellish anyway you want.
- 12 when you happy with what you have hollow out the base. I suggest a wall thickness of 1/8 to 3/16 inches. Sand and finish the inside.
- 13 remove from lathe and mount your remaining dark wood between centers. Turn a tenon to fit your chuck.
- 14 If you have two chucks use the one not in use and leave the base mounted in the first chuck. If not mark the mounting position of the base and remove your base piece from the chuck.

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- 15 with the chuck on the lathe with the dark top, turn to the diameter of your first dark piece and face off the tail stock side.
- 16 make a tenon that fits the hollowed section onto the chucked piece. It needs to fit tight enough to hold the top on for returning (think jam chuck).
- 17 turn a flair where the two come together that you find attractive.
- 18 sand and seal before removing.
- 19 remove from chuck and remount the original so that it runs true.
- 20 put the top and (use slight pressure from tail stock if needed)
- 21 turn the top sand and seal. If you want an insert (some type of resin, coin or other) turn a mortise and fit and glue it now.
- 22 remove the top, remove the bottom from the chuck. Reverse chuck the bottom and turn off the chuck tenon. Embellish sign and seal the bottom.

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