

Steps in turning small hollow-forms - Walt Wager

blank 3x3 or 4x4 approximately 5" long	
Secure between centers or chuck and live center rough blank to round, add tenon to one end	
drill opening hole with forstner bit - 3/4 or 1" ; 2-3" deep	
bring tailstock back up while turning the outside shape - leave extra wood for support on the bottom	
Tools: I use inexpensive tools from Penn State Industries, but they have to be modified before using them - basically the 45 and 90 degree tools need to be shortened on the cutting tips to about 1/2 the original length.	
remove the tailstock to start hollowing with straight hollowing tool - go about 1/3 of the way down and remove wood from the center to provide room for chips and tools.	
define the thickness on the top edge, cutting in on the shoulder - use a homemade gauge or caliper to check thickness from here-on.	
use the 45 degree tool to remove wood in the top 1/3 - only use 90 degree tool if necessary to reach the corner of the shoulder	
remove more wood in the center middle 1/3 working toward the outside	
remove wood from the bottom 1/3 working from the edge of the hole created by the forstner bit. smooth the inside if desired.	
remove from chuck, and secure between a jam chuck and live center to finish the bottom finish cutting outside shape, sand, and finish the bottom.	
for videos and handouts go to waltwager.com	