

Turning an odd edge twig pot

List of tools that I use:

Face shield

Spur drive

60 degree cone center

½" side grind bowl gouge

Small detail gouge

7/16" drill bit

1. Twig pots can be made of something as simple as a piece of 2 x 4; pieces of logs make the sweetest twig pots of all. Start your project by cutting a log of maybe 8" in diameter to a length of 7" with a chainsaw. If your band saw has a 6" depth of cut than you will be limited to that length; any length log that suits your design can be used.
2. Lay one of the ends of your log down on the band saw table and cut the log in half by cutting directly through the pith.
3. Lay one of your new flat surfaces down and barely cut off one end of the log and then do the same with the other piece. The two new ends are to be used as the bottoms of the twig pots.



4. Set one of the newly cut ends of the log down on the band saw table and continue to cut this half of the log into various shapes that would be big enough to make a twig pot; continue to do the same type of cuts with the second half of the log. Maintaining one flat surface on each of the pieces for the twig pots will be helpful when cutting off the markings of the spur center when you complete the turning.

5. Proceed to the drill press and drill a $7/16$ " diameter hole to a depth of about 3" in the top of each of the twig pots. Remember that the ends that you cut off at the band saw are the bottom of the project.
6. It would be wise at this time to drive the spur center into the bottom of each of the twig pots. Try to stay directly in line with the hole that you have drilled in the top of each.



7. Mount one of your projects between centers using the spur center and the 60 degree cone, making sure that you lock it tightly.
8. Set your tool rest up on the right making sure that it is close to the project but that the project will not hit the tool rest when turning.
9. Set your lathe speed at approximately 1800 rpm's, and begin turning on the far right of the project while gradually working your way to the left. You will need to move the tool rest closer to the project a few times to safely obtain the final shape of the top. A detail gouge can be used to shape the very top of your twig pot so as not to come into contact with the 60 degree cone.



10. It is best to sand while the piece is between centers; however, you should wrap the sandpaper around a fairly stiff piece of foam to prevent your fingers from being hit by the odd shaped edges. If you sand with the lathe in reverse than you should keep the sandpaper on top and vice versa. Use your favorite finish to bring the grain to life.

