

Bottle Stoppers

Dave Bowers

Bottle stoppers are fun projects that allow students to complete two or three during a turning lesson. Design opportunities are limited only by ones imagination. This is an excellent project for each participant to practice tool techniques and forms.

Tools required

Face shield

Roughing gouge

3/8" spindle gouge

Round nose scraper (optional)

1/4" or 3/8" bowl gouge (optional)

Wood blanks 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 2 – 3"

Drill press with required drill bit

Sandpaper strips 120 grit to 600 grit

Sanding sealer or friction polish

Buffing system (Tripoli/White diamond)

(optional)

Bottle Stopper kit and mandrel

Jacobs chuck with morse taper

This project is an excellent way to use smaller blocks and scraps of wood that are accumulating in your shop. Squares can also be laminated with different woods prior to the turning lesson. There may be differences in bottle stopper kits and whether or not you're making a cork stopper.

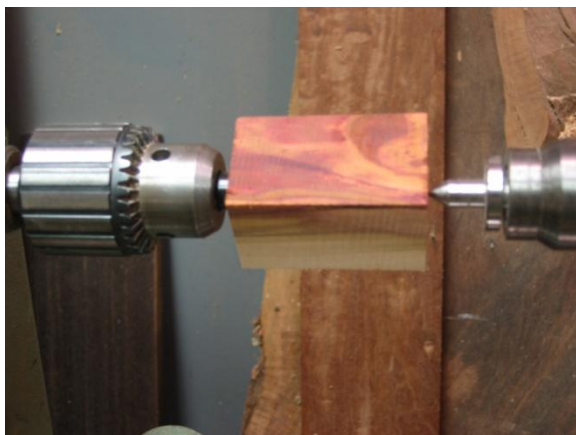
Prior to the turning session cut your wood blanks into 1 1/2" squares by 2"-3" long. Depending on the kit manufacturer, a 2" long blank may limit designs a bit. Make sure the blanks are square for drilling the hole and a good fit to the stopper bottoms.





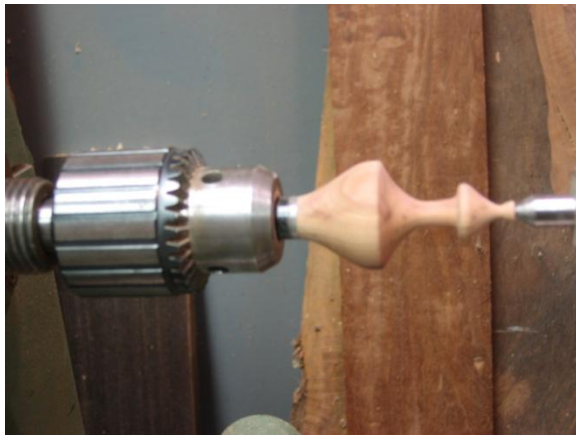
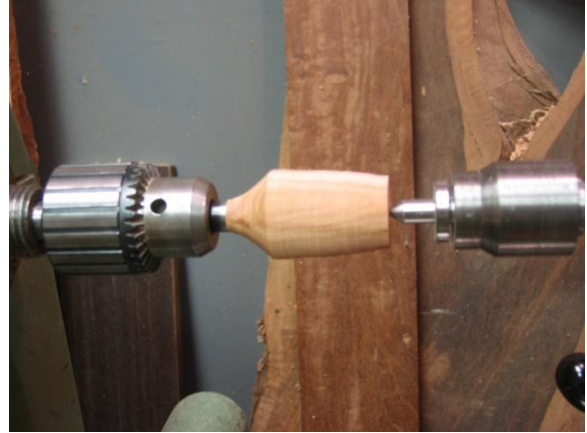
Pictured here is the Jacobs chuck that will hold the bottle stopper mandrel. Depending on the kit manufacturer or style of bottle stopper made, each mounting system for stopper blanks will vary a bit. The drill bit has masking tape on it to mark the one inch drilling depth required.

Use a jig to drill the stopper blank holes 1" or per kit recommendations. Pictured here is a simple jig made by cutting a 90 degree angle in a piece of wood along with a parallel side, allowing clamping of the blank. It's recommended that the stopper blanks be drilled prior to the turning session.



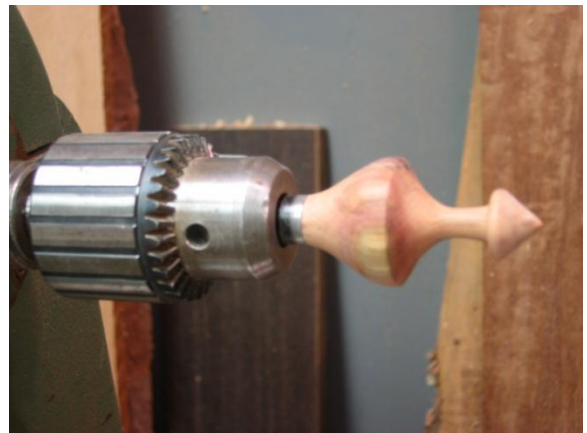
Screw the bottle stopper onto the mandrel. Bring the tail stock with a live center up to the blank for support. Round the blank with your roughing gouge.

Turn the base of the blank down to the mandrel bushing, establishing the base. Don't make the first 1" of the blank from the base too thin. Remind the students that the bottle stopper base screws in at this point and needs some strength.



Once you have turned your stopper design, sand the stopper through 600 grit.

Back off the tail stock and turn away the nub that's left and sand. When done apply the finish of your choice. Friction finish or sanding sealer followed with Tripoli and White diamond buffing wheels are good choices. They are relatively easy and quick allowing completion during the turning session





When screwing the turned bottle stopper tops onto the bottoms, use a few drops of CA glue or 5 minute epoxy in the hole to help set the threads

Enjoy your completed project!