

Votive Tea Light Candle Holders

The Lathest News Issue #46

This fun, very simple project uses techniques quite similar to the Rude Osolnik Candle Holders (ed. Issue #52 in the archives) we featured in our last Edition of the "Lathest News".

The Rude Candle Holders required a quite large piece of timber for the complete set whereas these tea lights can be made with the good scraps most of us have kicking around our shops.



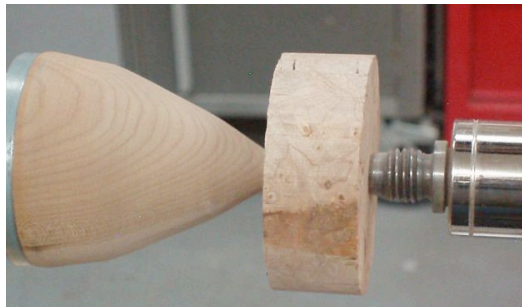
Choose your timber and cut a 3 1/4" round 1 1/4" thick.



Tea lights come in a number of different diameters so buy your candles before you start the drilling part of this project. In my case I'll drill a hole $\frac{5}{8}$ " deep and $1\frac{9}{16}$ " diameter in the center of your blank. A drill press with a vise attached is very handy as it is quite important to drill a nice clean hole.



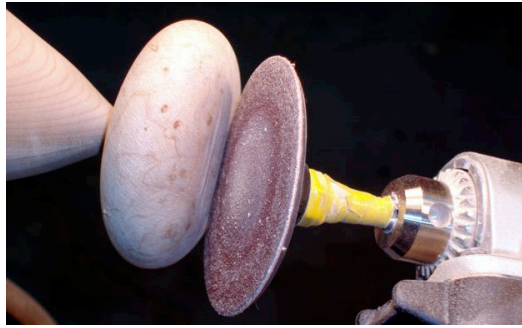
In order to mount this blank on my lathe I've turned a waste block with a $1\frac{9}{16}$ " tenon at the end which will be used like a jam chuck to hold the blank in place. Note that I've tapered my waste block down considerably to provide me with the space to turn and sand the top of the tea light.



Mount your blank between centers onto the tenon and support with the tailstock. If the piece is loose apply a small piece of masking tape onto the tenon in order to tighten it.



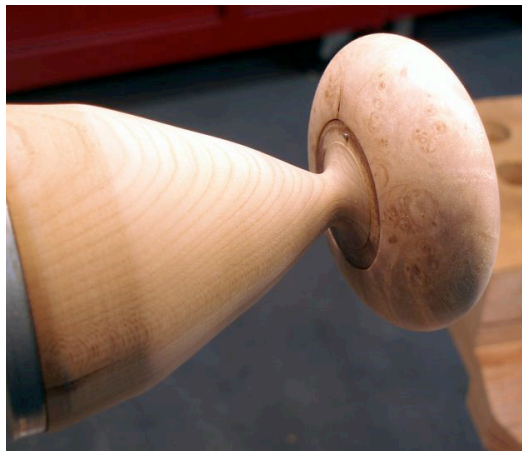
Two or three passes on the top and bottom with my 3/8" bowl gouge will usually do the trick. This particular form happens to be my favorite but of course you can shape it the way you like.



I quickly power sand with 80 grit; more to refine the form than smooth it off.



Then I switch to handheld sandpaper and work my way from 80 through to 500 grit.



The completed tea light ready for finish.



With beautiful maple burl such as this I usually just apply five or six coats of lacquer but sometimes stain can bring it to life. These two tea lights are stained using Burnt Sienna color.



These beautiful handmade flower candles were imported from Thailand but the company that manufactured them are no longer in business. There a number of other tea light candles available from many reputable retailers including Michaels or Ikea. Most houseware departments will also carry votive candles.