CHUCK-STYLE unsolicited advice from FRANK BAUER
Confetti Light Oil Lamp Instructions February 2006

1) Choose a DRY piece of wood suitable to your design, reasonably flat on the bottom.
   For ARTS for ACT the minimum finished size should be 6-8" diameter by at least 2" tall. Taller lamps are more esthetically pleasing as centerpieces, but short/wide designs are good. Choose your shape to best showcase the wood grain & color.
2) Locate and mark the center on both top & bottom of wood.
3) Choose orientation of the blank, and drill a _" hole no more than 1" into the top center of the blank.
4) Put a screw-center faceplate on the headstock. Mount the blank on the screw by twisting the drilled hole onto the screw, either by hand or by turning the hand wheel. If the lathe is equipped with a spindle lock, both hands will be freed to turn the block. The blank should be tight against the faceplate.
5) Pull the tail stock up to the marked center point on the bottom of the blank, and lock in place.
6) Position tool rest to clear all edges of the blank. Turn blank by hand to verify tool rest placement. Check your lathe speed before turning on the lathe.
7) This is faceplate turning, where fibers are running perpendicular to the bedways. Do NOT use a roughing gouge to round off the blank. A roughing gouge will tear out the end grain, or worse, break your tool! (If your blank is oriented with fibers parallel to the bedways, a roughing gouge is appropriate to use.)
8) Use a gouge with fingernail grind (swept-back edges) to start shaping a spigot no more than 2 _" in diameter by 3/8" to _" deep on the base (tailstock end) of the blank, continuing towards the headstock to rough shape the remainder of the blank. You will lose a bit of the final thickness of your blank using this method. The spigot should ideally just touch the bottom of the chuck, and the top jaws of the chuck should rest squarely against the shoulder of the blank. Measure the depth of your scroll chuck for reference.
   IF PREFFERD: Form a dovetail in the base. Note this method can cause cracking of the wood if you are "overzealous" tightening with the key chuck when later reverse-mounting the blank.
9) Remove blank from screw chuck. Remove screw chuck from lathe. Mount scroll chuck on the lathe. Mount your rough-shaped blank in the scroll chuck. Bring tailstock up to the predrilled hole.
10) True up the blank with the fingernail grind gouge. Continue rough-shaping the oil lamp.
11) The oil-lamp recess may be cut by hand with the gouge and finished with a scraper or skew, or by using a 1_" forstner bit mounted in a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock. If cutting by hand, a drill bit mounted in a jacobs chuck makes a useful depth drill.
12) Test fit the oil lamp in the recess. The depth of the recess is a matter of taste & style – you choose!
13) Refine the shape with a fingernail gouge, and add decorative touches as desired.
14) Sand through all grades of paper as desired.
15) Now is the time to decide what finish you'll use: Wax, oil, lacquer, polyurethane, varnish, shellac, etc. Techniques at this point will vary depending on the finish you select. Raising the grain before final sanding is a good procedure. Use a water mist, sanding sealer, or light coat of finish, depending on the final finish you plan to use. Make sure that all stages of the finishes are compatible!
16) If desired, the final finish may now be applied.
17) When satisfied with the surface, remove the oil lamp and prepare for reverse-chucking or part-off the flat bottom.
18) Prepare a waste block spigot or use a 1" chuck jaws to fit the oil lamp recess. This allows for further cutting and decorative finishing of the bottom. Extreme care must be taken that the piece is properly centered and securely mounted. Pull up the tailstock as a precaution when possible.
19) Turn off the spigot, sand, and finish the bottom.