

Confetti Light Oil Lamp Instructions

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- 1) Choose a DRY piece of wood suitable to your design. **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) Use a bandsaw & belt sander, or tool with wood blank "between center" on lathe to flatten the surface for the bottom of blank.
- 3) Locate and mark the center on both top & bottom of wood. If wood blank is larger than your faceplate: Draw several various sizes of concentric alignment circles on bottom end using a compass with center mark as your constant.
- 4) Prepare a "1 to 2" thick waste block and screw it to your faceplate. Use any DRY cheap available hardwood. An ordinary 2x4 is a soft wood and is not suitable! Orient the waste block FACEGRAIN; gluing to endgrain will NOT create a secure bond.
- 5) Glue your turning blank to the waste block, using the concentric circles as a centering guide. Use cyanoacrylate glue if continuing with the turning immediately. If using carpenter's wood glue, the blank should dry overnight.
- 6) Attach the faceplate to the lathe. Pull the tail stock up to the marked center point on the bottom of the blank, and lock in place.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.)
- 9) Use a gouge with fingernail grind (swept-back edges) to start shaping the lamp. Progress to the semi-final shape in this manner.
- 10) Turn off the lathe, and pull the tailstock back from the lamp blank. The oil-lamp recess may be cut by hand with the gouge and finished with a scraper or skew, or by using a 1/2" 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.
- 11) Test fit the oil lamp in the recess. The depth of the recess is a matter of taste & style – you choose!
- 12) Refine the shape with a fingernail gouge, and add final decorative touches as desired.
- 13) Sand through all grades of paper as desired.
- 14) 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!
- 15) If desired, the final finish may now be applied.
- 16) When satisfied with the surface, it's time to "part-off" the lamp from the waste block with a parting tool. Cut most of the way through the blank, then hand saw that final bit, so you can control the piece as it comes loose.
- 17) Prepare a jam chuck that will fit in your chuck jaws, sized to fit the 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.
- 18) Sand and finish the bottom.