HOLLOWED GLOBE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Each ornament consists of 3 parts: The hollowed globe, and a top finial & long icicle turned from a contrasting wood. The globe is turned first, and then the icicle and finial are sized to the opening in the globe.

GLOBE:
Start by gluing a 2 5/8” square (approx) by 1 5/8” long piece to a waste block held in a spigot chuck, or glue it onto a waste block attached to your faceplate. Rough turn the globe to a round cylinder, cutting downhill with the bevel rubbing. Turn the cylinder to 2 ½” in diameter. Then start refining the shape – a flattened sphere with a continuous curve and no flat spots, leaving a bit of thickness at the base to minimize the chatter during the hollowing process. For the final smooth cut, take very light cuts with a skew or spindle gouge. Start sanding with 180 grit and work through 400 grit paper to remove all sanding scratches.

Make a small indentation at the center point of the end grain with the tip of your skew. Drill a 3/8” diameter hole all the way through this center mark into the waste block. This can be done by bringing up your tailstock with a drill bit inserted, or using a handheld bit secured in a Jacobs chuck. Enlarge the hole only slightly with a square nosed scraper of skew.

Start hollowing the inside with a bent-angle tool, working out toward the sides gently in a swing motion. Stop frequently to clear the shavings by blowing into the opening through a plastic straw, being careful not to accidentally suck in any shavings! Clear the area closest to the opening first, then work toward the headstock. Listen to the sound of the cut – you will hear the difference as the wall thickness decreases. A uniformly thin wall will minimize the weight of the ornament so that it hangs well on a branch. A small penlight shined in the opening after clearing shavings can illuminate
any thicker spots, but most of this is done by “feel”. Part the globe off, continuing the gentle curve, when you are satisfied with the wall thickness.

Finish with several coats of spray lacquer, fine sanding between coats.

**ICICLE:**
The long, fine icicle calls for delicate control and a sharp skew. Control is achieved by gently flexing your hand as it rests on the toolrest. If your toolrest is nicked or dirty, sand the top edge and wax it, so that your tool slides easily. The icicle should have three tapered sections (in repetition, odd numbers are more pleasing to the eye) and a decorative cove leading to a wide cap, which will attach to the underside of the globe.

Mount a contrasting wood blank a (minimum) \( \frac{3}{4} \)” by 11” in the spigot of a 4-jaw chuck. Rough out the cylinder, tapering toward the unsupported tailstock end. Using pencil marks, divide the cylinder into 5 sections almost equal in length. Use a sharp skew to make delicate cuts with the bevel rubbing.

Starting at the unsupported tailstock end, taper the tip to a delicate bead (this knob will help absorb some impact should the completed ornament suffer a blow). Taper the first teardrop section down to the bead. Cut downhill with the bevel rubbing. Use a slight angle cut back toward the headstock to complete the first teardrop. Now start the second section in the same manner, cutting a downhill taper to meet the top of the first teardrop. When you are satisfied with the intersection of the first & second sections, sand the bottom section to its final finish. It is nearly impossible to go back to the outer sections once you have cut heavily into the upper sections! Continue with the second and third teardrops, sanding as you complete each section.

With three teardrops complete, create a small bead, and then use a spindle gouge to cut a cove toward the headstock from the 4th section, tapering out to
the maximum width of your wood. Add any decorative embellishments you desire in this portion of the icicle. Sand to the final finish.

Use a parting tool to cut a tenon the diameter of the hole in the underside of the globe. Undercut the section of the icicle that will be glued to the globe to insure a smooth fit. Your inside-outside caliper comes in handy during this procedure. Then part-off the icicle, leaving a small tenon intact at the top.

FINIAL:
Using the 5\textsuperscript{th} and final section of the blank, cut a bead for the top of the finial. Make a tiny indentation with the skew tip at the center, then use a tiny drill bit to make a hole for later inserting a screw eye for the hanger. Cut decorative steps or coves of an increasing diameter to the width of your wood, working downhill toward the bead.

Use a parting tool to cut a tenon the diameter of the hole in the topside of the globe. Undercut the section of the finial that will be glued to the globe to insure a smooth fit. Sand to final finish, then part-off the finial, leaving the small tenon intact.

Test fit the pieces before gluing, aligning the grain of the finial and icicle if the wood is highly figured.

FINISHING:
Assemble the 3 ornament pieces with (cyano-acrylate) super glue. Do not use activator! Insert a screw eye into the finial top. Do not use activator! Apply several coats of spray lacquer, and let hang to dry.