

Stump Box Procedure

By Bob Roehrig



Start out by roughing out a tapered cylinder. Tapered so the box can later have some taper like a typical tree stump would.

Turn spigots on each end to fit your chuck of choice. Part the box in two. You need to leave a fair amount of material with the top so you can later form the Chainsawed spikey timber top.

Form the inside of the lid as in a typical box. Chuck the base, slightly hollow and form the joint of the box. Leave a deeper joint because you will be cutting a lot of this wood away to form the shape of the trunk and the texture of the bark. Once it is good, do your final hollowing.

You should now have a tapered box with a tall lid. The actual area up inside the lid shouldn't be very deep.

Now carefully saw in from the sides and create the typical chainsaw cracked cut look of your choice. You can do this with the base in the chuck and lid held on top. But be careful breaking the wood away, as some woods crack easily.

Secure the lid onto the box . At this point I use a Dremel tool with a Carbide Kutzall Burr(from Woodcarvers Supply \$13.25) and begin to shape the trunk and give the bark the proper look texture. Does not matter what tool you use to shape the stump and give the bark texture. Mini grinders, carving burrs, "V" groove carving tools etc. Different barks on different trees, so again, it's up to you for the look you want.

Last step is to take a Butane Micro Torch(\$10.99 Harbor Freight) and lightly burn the textured bark to give it a just right colored look. Apply finish of your choice. I use Kylon Matt type finish (tree trunks are not glossy).

Have FUN and be SAFE using all the above procedures. Let your imagination be your guide.