

End Grain Box Demo Neal Brand

Basic Procedure:

1. Decide on design
2. Pick blank that is 1.5-2 inches longer than length of box
3. Mount blank on centers, turn round and add tenon on each end to fit chuck
4. Decide which end is the lid and mount lid tenon in chuck.
5. Part off lid
6. Hollow lid
7. Use square scraper to establish a clean shoulder where box will slide into lid
8. Sand and finish inside of lid – better not to sand the shoulder any more than possible
9. Turn lid to approximate shape and part off tenon
10. Mount bottom blank
11. Hollow box bottom to approximate shape
12. Turn tenon to fit box lid – This is a tricky part. It helps to wax the lid shoulder, bevel the box tenon and then hold the lid to the box while the box is spinning. You should be able to see where to stop to make a tight fit.
13. At this point, the lid should fit tightly on the box. With the lid in place, finish turning the lid and enough of the box to see that the lid and box match up properly. Beware; lids have been known to fly all over the shop at this point! Be sure that you have a good fit, your tool is sharp and use the live center for as much as you can. If the lid fits too loosely, you have a few options. You can remove more material from the box and make a new tenon, you can moisten the wood to raise the grain and hopefully get a tighter fit, or you can insert a paper towel between the lid and box. If you use the second or third options, your lid will always be loose fitting – desirable for some boxes and not for others
14. Sand and finish the lid and remove it from the box
15. Turn, sand and finish the box
16. Make final adjustments to the lid fit and then part off the box
17. Turn the box around and mount on a piece of waste wood (often the remaining wood after you part off the box works well). You can either cut a tenon in the waste block or a recess.
18. Carefully turn, sand and finish the bottom of the box

References:

1. Turning Boxes with Richard Raffan, Taunton Press, Newtown CT, 2002
This is an excellent book for teaching details on how to make a variety of boxes.
2. Turned Boxes – 50 Designs by Chris Stott, Guild of Master Craftsman Publications, East Sussex, 2007
As advertised, this book contains 50 different box designs. This is an excellent resource when you are looking for new ideas for boxes. Stott's book contains less detail on "how to" than Raffan's book, but Stott provides a lot of good ideas.
3. <http://www.restorationofatree.com> This is a website containing approximately 160 pictures of interesting boxes. This may give you some ideas on shape as well as wood species for a box.
4. Google "End Grain Boxes" or "Turning Boxes" and you will find a variety of information, including detailed directions, videos and many pictures that can inspire you in your own creation.
5. Off center chuck (to drill holes in salt shakers) Dan Hoffman shapeshiftertools.com