Aadiana WoodTurners October 2025 Demo Square Chacutarie Wine Glass Topper

By: *Monte Richard*

Disclaimer

- This is my first demonstration, I am by no way considered an expert turner.
- I was asked to make this demo in order to give our regular experienced turners a break.
- I intend to show you how I created these, this is not necessarily the only way.
- The lathe speeds I used were based on having truly square, well-balanced blanks. Use good judgement and slower speed if your blanks are not well balanced.

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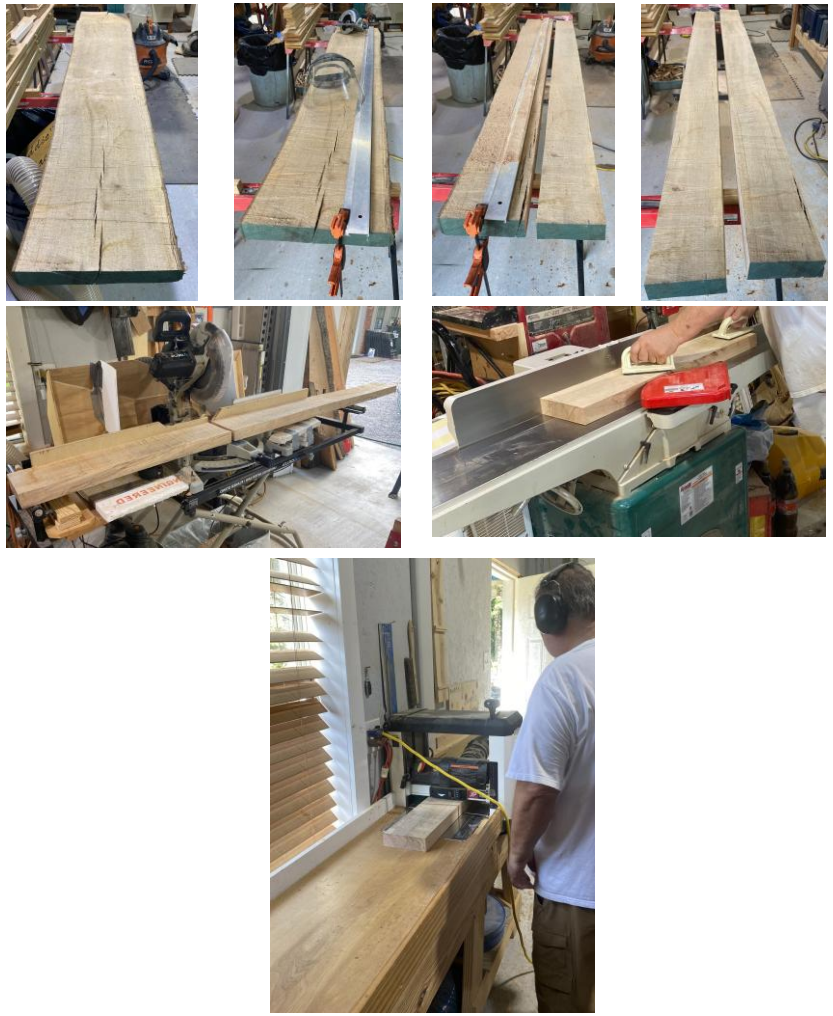
Blanks



- I started with a dried Oak rough cut slab ~ 16” wide x 8’ long x 1 7/8” thick. Cut it to 6 1/2” x 33” x ~ 1 ¾” thick pieces, then milled, as follows.
- Ran them over the jointer to get 1 flat surface, 1 flat edge and a 90 degree corner.
- Then ran them thru the Planner to get a 2nd parallel flat surface.

- Used my table saw to cut the boards to 6” wide, then the chop saw to cut out 6” x 6” Blanks.
- Resulting in square 6” x 6” x ~ 1 1/2” thick blanks with 2 parallel flat faces.
- 28 finished blanks

- Other wood species can be used, but I recommend you stick to close grain hardwoods. Soft open grain woods would be hard to clean, and food could get trapped in the pores.

Starting with a prepared blank

- Find the center, and center punch.
- Drill a hole for the worm screw
- My worm screw is a 3/8” thread so I drilled an 21/64” hole and drilled 5/8” deep.
- Then mount it on the lathe with a worm screw & donut spacer to keep it squarely faced. Size thickness of donut spacer to get 5/8” penetration of the worm screw into the blank.

Caution

- As you are turning a square blank, the outer ears will tend to disappear from view.
- Use extra caution when turning, these corners pack a punch.
- I found that when I’m turning, I was quite aware of this, it was when I stopped cutting to adjust my lathe speed, stop the lathe, or reach for another tool that my focus on these corners waned and surprises happened.
- Wear your face shield.
- Safety is your responsibility.
- Use extra caution.

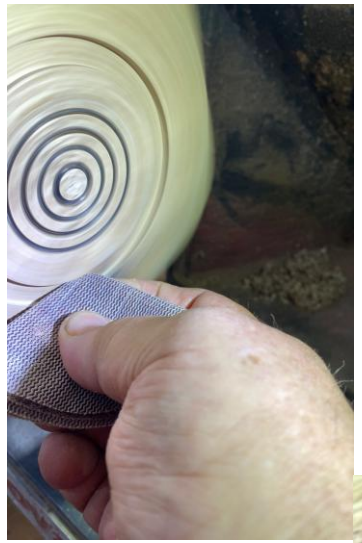
Starting the Bottom Face

- Using a 5/8” Bowl Gouge, lightly skim the face to freshen it, with a scraping pull cut from center all the way past the corners.
- Mark the groove locations to:
  1. Fit the wine glass. The I.D, on Mine was 3.08” This is the critical dimension as you want a snug but not tight fit on the wine glass I.D. you intend to use.
  2. To fit the chuck jaws. Mine were 3 5/8”.
  3. Mark ~1/4” toward center from the inner wine glass mark for a flat ring.
  4. Mark 3/8” outside the outer jaw mount ring, for a flat ridge to strengthen the jaw grip.

- Using a parting tool, Lathe speed ~ 1200 to 1400 rpm (use slower speeds if your blank is not well-balanced), gently turn the groove between the wine glass rim line and the jaw rim line, ~ 3/16” deep, to allow for mounting on the jaws when reversing the blank. Test fit the wine glass as you go to get a snug but not tight fit.
- Test fit the larger area jaws on the chuck and widen the groove as necessary to fit with chuck almost closed.
- Turn down the inner center area from the inside of the inner mark, leaving a ¼” flat area between the inner mark and the wine glass rim edge.
- You can leave the inner edge of the flat ring squared or slope the inner edge slightly to the center if preferred.
- Add decorative embellishments to this inner recessed area as desired. I chose to use a point tool to add a few rings in this area, then burnish them by turning up the lathe speed to ~ 1800 rpm and using a Formica sample to burn in these marks. Then light sanding to clean them up. (A skew chisel can be used for this in lieu of the point tool)

- Measure 3/4” from the top face on each edge of the blank and mark the edge at each corner, on the top edges facing you, the turner.
- Lathe speed at ~ 1200 to 1600 rpm, using a 5/8” bowl gouge, from the mark 3/8” outside of the jaw rim, start shaping and sloping the outer area of the bottom using light pulling scrapes until reaching these marks and obtaining the shape desired. Stop & check regularly so as not to pass the marks.
- Using a scraper, you can clean up any torn grain areas on the bottom by using light shallow passes.

Sanding the Bottom



- Using caution, you can sand the **center area up to the edge of the outer ring of the 3/8” flat area**. I accomplished this by turning the lathe at 350 rpm, while going thru the grits from 150, to 220, to 320 by hand with sandpaper. Depending on the surface condition you can start at a rougher grit if necessary.
- With the lathe stopped, and the blank flat on the top, engage the indexing lock, and using a 2” or 3” disc sanding pad (I preferred the 3”) in a drill sand each corner from the outside of the 3/8” flat area to the corner. I sanded the bottom right corner, then turned the piece 90 deg, locked it, and sanded the next corner on the bottom right, until all corners were done thru each grit. **Release the indexing lock**.
- Clean the surface with compressed air, or using rubbing alcohol on a paper towel.

Final sanding prep

- Turn the lathe speed down to ~ 250 rpm, then stop the lathe.
- Place a piece of parchment paper or cardboard over the ways of the lathe.
- Apply abrasive paste to the entire bottom of the piece.
- Cautiously, using a folded paper towel, spread the paste evenly over the bottom of the piece then start the lathe at 250 rpm and use the paper towel to go over the bottom, letting the folded paper towel rub near the corners (not your fingers).
- Raise the speed of the lathe to ~ 900 and continue rubbing the paper towel over the piece cautiously, refolding the paper towel to a clean area until all the paste is removed and the towel comes away clean.
- Stop the lathe and use a clean paper towel to wipe any excess from grooves or corners.

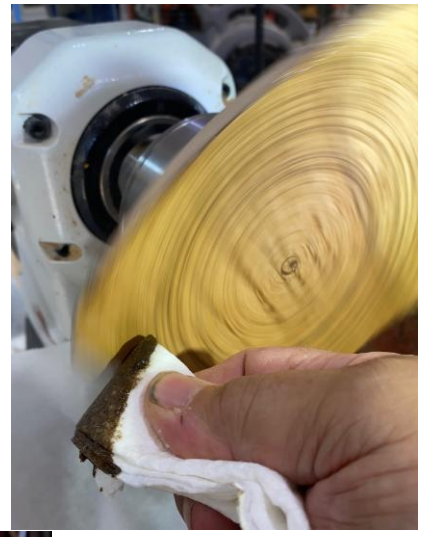
Finishing the bottom

- Set the lathe speed back to ~ 250 rpm, then stop the lathe.
- Apply Shine juice. Using a folded paper towel apply shine juice to the bottom. Start the lathe and rub shine juice over the entire bottom, adding more as needed to the paper towel. Speed the lathe to ~900 rpm and cautiously let the paper towel rub the bottom lightly. Do not use pressure against the piece as it rubs away the shine juice, the idea is to let the paper towel create some heat with a light touch to evaporate the alcohol in the shine juice and basically setting the shellac with a buffing action. The oil in the shine juice act as a lubricant and is dried off in the process. Allow about 5 minutes between coats and add as many coats as desired.
- Final coat is to apply one coat of Poppa's Polishing paste in a similar manner using the same lathe speeds. The oil in the paste is a lubricant and dries off in the process leaving a Beeswax finish, that can be buffed to a shine.
- Remove the blank by unscrewing from the worm screw.

Remount to turn the top

- Switch chuck jaws to larger jaws.
- Mount the blank with the jaws in the recess made on the bottom by expanding the jaws in the groove.
- With a 5/8” bowl gouge start near the center using a push cut to slope toward the center to work toward removing the worm screw hole, with each pass start slightly further out from the center slope gently toward the bottom of the hole. Basically, creating an expanding shallow dish shape as you work down toward the bottom of the hole. Switch to a pulling scrape cut as you near desired thickness and before going out to the corners. Use light cuts nearing the corners and stop to check them regularly.
- Watch as you near the corners not to turn them too thin. Watch the edge as it will be thin near the corners but thicker near the middle of the edge. Work toward thinning the center of the edge to ~3/8” while leaving the corners at a point without over thinning the corners.
- Note: the corner edges can get quite sharp in this process, use extra caution, and gentle shallow pulling scrape cuts when finishing the corners.

Sanding the top

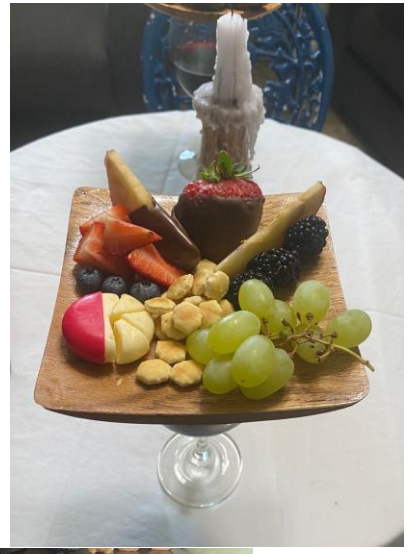


- As we did on the bottom, using the indexing lock, lock the part with a flat side level on the top. Hand sand the sharp edge while the lathe is off to smooth any sharp edges.
- Using a 2” or 3” pad sanding disc in a drill, sand from the center toward the lower right corner, then rotate the part 90 degrees and sand toward the lower right corner until all corners are sanded thru each grit from 150, 220, to 320.
- Unlock the lathe, apply abrasive paste to the top, with a folded paper towel turn the lathe at 250 rpm and let the folded paper towel flap against the top near the corners keep your fingers clear of the corners and applying a little more pressure as you move in toward the center and clear the corners. Increase the lathe speed to ~900 and carefully use the folded paper towel as previously described, refolding the paper towel to a clean area until all abrasive paste is removed and the paper towel comes away clean.

Finishing the top

- Set the lathe speed back to ~ 250 rpm, and stop the lathe.
- Apply Shine juice. Using a folded paper towel apply shine juice to the top. Start the lathe at 250 rpm and rub shine juice over the entire bottom, adding more as needed to the paper towel. Speed the lathe to ~900 rpm and cautiously let the paper towel rub the top lightly. Do not use pressure against the piece as it rubs away the shine juice, the idea is to let the paper towel create some heat with a light touch to evaporate the alcohol in the shine juice and basically setting the shellac with a buffing action. The oil in the shine juice act as a lubricant and is dried off in the process. Allow about 5 minutes between coats and add as many coats as desired.
- Final coat is to apply one coat of Poppa's Polishing paste in a similar manner using the same lathe speeds. The oil in the paste is a lubricant and dries off in the process leaving a Beeswax finish, that can be buffed to a shine.

Enjoy your creation



- Remove the finished piece from the lathe and wipe with a clean paper towel.
- Allow the finishes to completely dry overnight.
- Dress the board with a combination of your favorite fruit, chocolates, cheeses, and fancy crackers to your liking, and maybe toping it all off with a chocolate covered strawberry. Arrange it in a decorative manner. These can be stored in the refrigerator for a short time while preparing a table with a fancy tablecloth.
- Set your wooden turned wine bottle with the candle stick in the top of it in the center of the table.
- Pour your favorite wine in the glasses.
- Top them with the dressed chacutarie boards and share a romantic evening with your wife or girlfriend.


APOTHIC RED

Tools & Items used

- Chuck with 2” and 3 1/2” changeable jaws.
- Worm Screw
- Spacer made from scrap wood to limit the worm screw depth to a max of 5/8”.
- 5/8” bowl gouge, Scraper, Parting tools, Point tool.
- 3” sanding disc for drill (can use 2” sanding disc)
- Cordless drill with batteries
- Formica sample
- ~ 5” sand paper discs 120, 220, 320 grits
- 3” sanding discs 120, 220, 320 grits
- Drill bits (21/64” for 3/8” worm screw)
- Face shield
- Safety glasses
- Calipers
- Abrasive paste (see formulas)
- Shine juice (see formulas)
- Poppa’s Polishing Paste (see formulas)
- Paper towels
- Wine Glass (purchased at Dollar tree)

Finish Formulas

- Abrasive Paste:
- 5 parts Boiled Lind Seed Oil (Option: Mineral Oil instead of the BLO)
- 1 part Bees Wax
- 1 part Diatomaceous Earth (Food Grade)
- All by weight, not volume.
- There are other abrasives available in varying grits that Can be substituted for the D. Earth.
- I use the BLO version to impart a darker tint to the project, and the MO version on lighter colored woods that I want to keep fairly light. Note: mineral oil never sets, it stays oily, but the oils are used in this as a friction lubricant. If you turn the speed up on the lathe and rub the finish to create light heat then the oil is mostly gone in the end.
- Blend in a double boiler until bees wax is totally melted, then let cool to paste consistency. Abrasive paste must be stirred during cooling to prevent settling of the abrasive.

Finish Formulas continued

- OB's Shine juice:
- 1 part Boiled Lind Seed Oil
- 1 part Shellac (non-waxed) (Canned)
- 1 part Denatured Alcohol
- By volume. If you use shellac made from flakes with Denatured Alcohol, then do not add the extra part of Denatured Alcohol. (Too much DNA dulls the final finish)
- It will separate when sitting so shake it up each time before use. Keep in a sealed mason jar, and transfer to a squeeze bottle for use. Denatured Alcohol will evaporate if left open.

Finish Formulas continued

- Poppa’s Polishing Paste:
- 2 Parts Mineral Oil
- 1 part Bees Wax
- By weight, not volume.
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- Blend in a double boiler until bees wax is totally melted, then let cool to paste consistency.

Finish Formulas continued

- The following not used on this project but the formula thrown in for Lagniappe

- Lacquer Friction Polish
- 1 part Lacquer
- 1 part Boiled Lind seed oil
- 1 part lacquer thinner