

ACORN

Materials needed:

Lathe

$\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 1" wood block

$1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ " wood block of contrasting color

$1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wood block of contrasting color

Wood glue and clamp

Mallet

Gouge (spindle, bowl, or detail)

Parting tool

Sandpaper (180 – 320 grit or better)

Drive center and live center

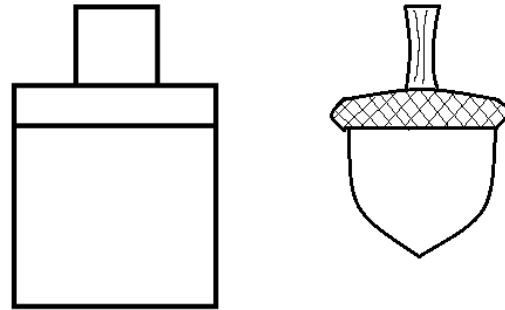
$\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit

Small length of $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{3}{16}$ " ribbon

Oil finish

Woodburner with fine point

Utility knife



Process:

Glue smaller woodblocks centered to the larger wood block lengthwise; clamp

Use center finder or $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit to mark the center of each end

Use mallet to drive the drive center into the smaller end of the woodblock gently

Mount woodblock, drive center onto lathe and bring up tailstock into center of larger end

Rough out each side, starting at ~1200 RPM

Increase the lathe speed to 2000 RPM

Shape the middle section using a gouge—the ends will need to be proportional to the middle

turn the larger end with a gentle curve towards the base, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " to part off

Turn the stem end with gentle concave curve -- leave $\frac{1}{4}$ " length at this end for parting off as well

Be careful reducing the stem-middle section junction

This ornament is about texture—progressively sand the sections with finer grit from top to bottom

Sand to 80 grit (top), 180 grit (middle), 320 grit (bottom)

Part the drive center end until around $\frac{1}{8}$ " remaining

Turn down the speed to around 500 RPM and part of the larger end off using a spindle or detail gouge

Use a fine tooth saw to cut off the remaining waste from the top end, sand and finish ends

Carefully use utility knife, Dremel, etc. to carve lines into stem lengthwise

Drill a $\frac{1}{16}$ " hole sideways across stem

Use woodburner with fine tip to decorate middle section—I cross-hatch

Finish with oil-based finish and allow to cure

Tie ribbon through hole in stem