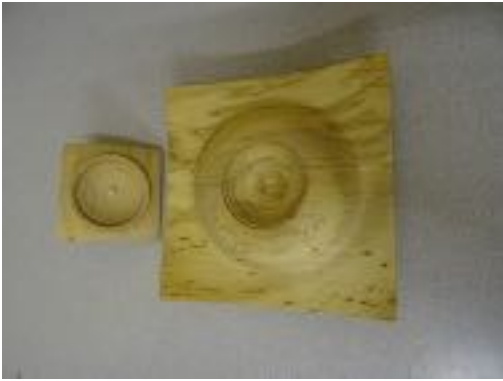


September 2018 - John Blake

This month we welcomed John Blake from the Pembroke Woodturners Club who announced that he was going to turn a square lidded oriental box. Whilst John covered in full detail the methods used to create the piece he also pointed us to a [40min demo by Jimmy Clewes on YouTube](#) which inspired his interest in this particular design.

The following 2 pictures illustrate the finished piece ...



... and as Jimmy Clewes's demo is so comprehensive I shall not report here each step of the process but rather concentrate on those hints and tips that John highlighted during his demo.

John used large (base) and a smaller (top) square pre-prepared pieces of slightly spalted sycamore and mounted the larger piece on a screw chuck. The first task was to accurately mark the diameter of the spigot to be formed.

Top Tip 1 - on a spare piece of wood mark as an aid both the optimum compression and expansion lines for the chuck to be used.

The bottom of the box was then turned to an ogee shape using the rule of thirds for each part of the shape. With the ogee shape complete reverse onto the spigot and use step cuts to minimise the risk of catches ...



Top Tip 2 - as ever when turning a square edged piece be aware of the position of the hands and keep well away from the revolving wings.

Create a spigot in the centre which will be the seat for the lid and then open out the inside of the bowl.



To create the lid, the smaller block was held by a revolving point and ring centre and gripped against the opened out chuck jaws **without using a faceplate etc** which all looked a bit hairy but as the small piece was tightly held there was no problem and was sufficient to enable a spigot to be turned to fit into the bowl recess.

Top Tip 3 - if, as can be seen from the above picture of the lid, it is required to incorporate a "surprise" on the underside of the lid make sure to mark the centre at this stage.

Top Tip 4 - note that whilst the base and the lid have very similar matching profiles make sure that the thickness of the lid is slightly thinner than the base thickness to achieve a visually proportional appearance.

The above only scratches the surface of the complex steps involved in creating this piece (the Jimmy Clewes demo will fill in the gaps!), but our thanks go to John for a very detailed explanation of the whys and wherefores of the process. We also enjoyed a lively interchange between John and his audience which made for a very enjoyable evening.

David Langan