

Bird House Ornaments

Bird House Ornament Demonstration

Reference: Woodturning Christmas Ornaments with Dale L. Nish

Authors: Dale Nish with Susan Hendrix

ISBN: 978-1-56523-726-1

1. Templates and gauges
 - a. ¼" Masonite
 - b. A variety of sizes
 - c. Diameter gauge
 - d. Flange and mandrel gauges
2. Mandrels
 - a. Straight, close grained hardwood: maple, birch, ash, or poplar
 - b. Tenon on one end to hold in chuck
 - c. Diameter and length depends on ornament – make a variety or as needed
 - d. Mark #1 jaw – always orient the same
 - e. Usually unique to chuck
 - f. Use masking tape or paper towel for snug fit
3. Finials and Perches
 - a. Dense, straight grained hardwood: blackwood, ebony, B&W ebony, pink ivory, holly
 - i. Maybe marble wood
 - b. Approximately 1" square by 6" long – pen blank size
 - i. Reuse small waste blocks by gluing to larger blank
 - c. Don't use too long of piece – wobbles
 - d. Turn perch then finial
 - e. Sequence
 - i. Select wood
 - ii. Fit to chuck – about half way in a pin jaw chuck
 - iii. Round
 - iv. Make perch
 - v. Mark finial length
 - vi. Shape finial
 - vii. Make tenon
 - viii. Sand and finish
4. Start with the Roof
 - a. Select wood
 - b. Cut and mark bock (cross grain)
 - c. Round to proper diameter
 - d. Drill hole for body
 - e. Drill hole for mandrel
 - f. Mount on mandrel
 - g. Shape
 - h. Sand & texture as necessary
 - i. Drill hole for screw eye
 - j. Finish
5. Make the body
 - a. Select wood
 - b. Round to proper diameter

Bird House Ornaments

- c. Mark flange and drill mandrel hole
- d. Drill entrance and perch holes
- e. Shape flange and shoulder
- f. Shape body
- g. Hollow out the body (leave enough for end of mandrel!!)
- h. Mount on mandrel
- i. Drill bottom hole
- j. Sand and finish