

Bird House Ornament

The directions which follow are merely suggestive. The dimensions and the order of operation may, in most cases, be modified to fit your equipment or method of work. I will be happy to assist you with doing this if you need it.

Bottoms Preparation:

Start with $8/4$ or 2" turning squares. I like poplar because it is relatively soft and is easy to bore with a Forstner bit.

The rough blanks for the bottom are 3" long so the length of the 2" turning square should be some multiple of 3". On the square blank, mark off the 3" lengths. Put a pencil dot 1 $1/4$ " down from the end that you will eventually bore out.

At a drill press, drill a $1/2$ " hole at each of the pencil dots. Then drill a $1/8$ " hole below and a little offset from the larger hole. *Be sure that the depth of both of these holes is about half the thickness of the blanks: about 1" deep.*

Using a band saw, cut the 3" segments apart. If you intend to use a chop saw you should probably make each of the segments a little longer.

Using a drill press, drill 1 $5/8$ in diameter hole about 1 $3/4$ in deep.

(You should not try to hold the segment with your bare hand. I use a drill press vice or a pen vice to hold the segment. You should also set your drill press speed to 500 RPM or less. It also helps to sharpen the Forstner bit occasionally.)

Mount each segment in a four jawed chuck and turn a 1 $7/8$ in tenon at the top. This should be about $1/4$ in wide.

The bottom segment is now ready for turning. *(See below.)*

Top Preparation:

Start with turning squares that are a minimum of 2 $1/2$ in wide. You can make the length of these anything you like but they should be at least 2 $1/2$ in long.

Drill a 1 $7/8$ in diameter hole about $1/4$ in deep in one end of each segment. *(See above for suggestions about using Forstner bits.)*

Turning:

I like to do the turning using a small chuck with pin jaws. The tops I sand and finish in one operation. If I dye or decorate the bottoms, I usually wait 24 hours to put on the friction polish. Choice of finish is optional.

