

Tea Light Candle Holder

Step-by-Step Guidelines

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1. Getting Started:

a. Start with blank 4¼” long by about 3” diameter; and tea lights.

b. Turn blank round.

c. Cut tenon on bottom to mount into your chuck; true-up top; cut notch 3” (77mm) from top of piece. This will become the bottom of your finished piece.

d. Begin to shape the bottom of your piece.

e. Remove waste material from remainder of blank.

2. Shape and complete main body of Candle Holder:

a. Mount the piece in your chuck.

b. True up top half of piece so it is 2” (50 mm) diameter.

c. Drill hole for tea light candle. I use 1½” Forstner bit. (Measure the diameter & height of your tea lights and size the opening accordingly).

d. Use scraper to eliminate hole left over from Forstner bit without changing depth of hole.

e. Measure down 2 1/8” (55mm) from top of piece and use parting tool to mark diameter (about 30 mm) of the stem of the candle holder.

f. Shape stem of candle holder.

g. Optional – insert grooves and burn lines on stem.

h. Hollow out the top of the base and flow into the stem.

i. Sand.

3. Complete the Candle Holder:

a. Part-off the nearly completed piece.

b. Reverse turn to finish off very bottom of piece. At least two options: jam chuck; or clamp top of candle holder with chuck.

c. Clean up and sand very bottom of piece.

d. Apply finish of your choosing. I use Min-Wax Antique Finishing Oil.

For what it's worth, a few of my learnings over the past several years:

- Approach your woodturning like a surgeon; not a hatchet person. Your mindset matters. Think about it!
- Do it your way – safely.
- Using millimeters is much simpler for smaller projects.
- Scrapers and sandpaper are useful wood turning tools.
- The difference between convex and concave (think 'cave').
- Practice your cuts while removing waste material.
- Small diamond sharpners work.
- Don't sneeze with your face shield on.
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