TURNING PROJECT

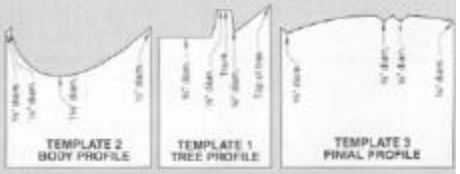
peek-through holiday ornament

Turn a scrap of wood, a piece of dowel, and a dab of paint into an elegant decoration.

This handsome ornament holds more than one surprise. The first is the tiny tree captured within the pierced body; the second, the ease in turning this difficult-looking project. Once you get the hang of it, you'll be able to spin them out by the dozen. And after all the admiring remarks, you'll need to answer the inevitable question, "How'd you do it?"

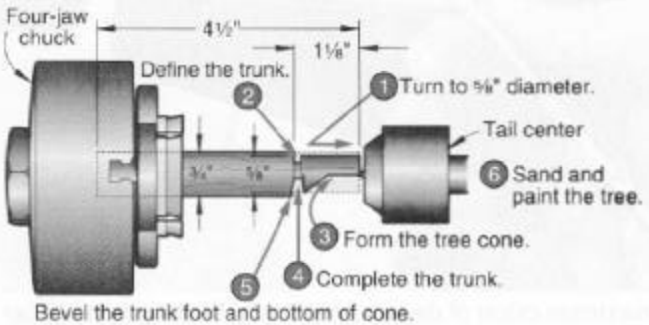
1 Create the templates

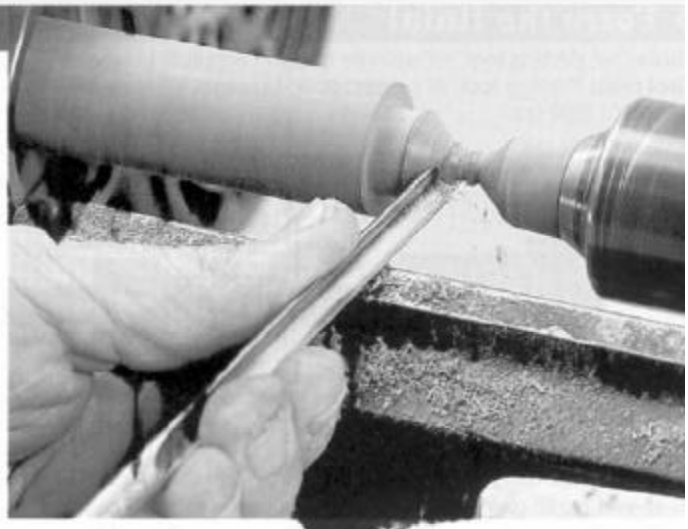
Make a photocopy of the three templates on the *WOOD Patterns*® insert, and adhere them with spray adhesive to ⅛" tempered hardboard. Scrollsaw and then file the templates to shape, as shown at *bottom*.



2 Turn a tiny tree

Tools: ¼" detail gouge, ⅛" parting tool.
Tool rest: Gouge, slightly below center; parting tool, at center.
Speed: 1,000 rpm.

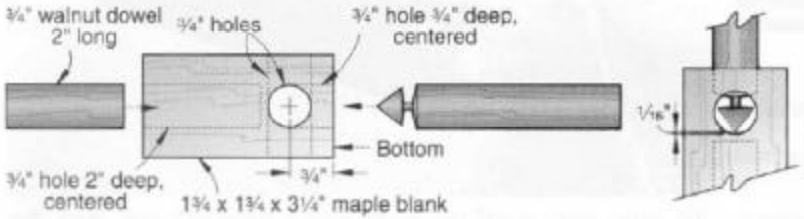


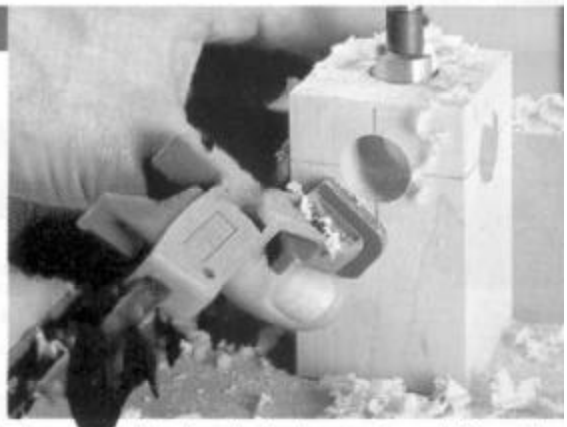


Mark the center of one end of a *straight* 4½"-long piece of ¾" dowel. (We used walnut.) Hold the other end loosely in the center opening of a four-jaw chuck, support the marked end with the tail center, and tighten the jaws. Using a detail gouge, turn 1⅛" of the tailstock end of the dowel to ⅝" diameter. Using **Template 1** as a guide, mark the location of the tree trunk and the top of the tree. Use a parting tool to define the trunk with a ⅛"-deep cut. Switch to the detail gouge, a form the tree "cone," as shown *above*, freeing the dowel from the t center in the process. Switch to the parting tool, and complete t trunk. Finally, bevel the area at the foot of the trunk and bottom the cone with the detail gouge. Finish-sand and paint the tree. (V used green glitter paint purchased at an art-supply store.)

3 Drill the body and insert the tree

Tool: ¾" Forstner bit.
Speed: 500 rpm.

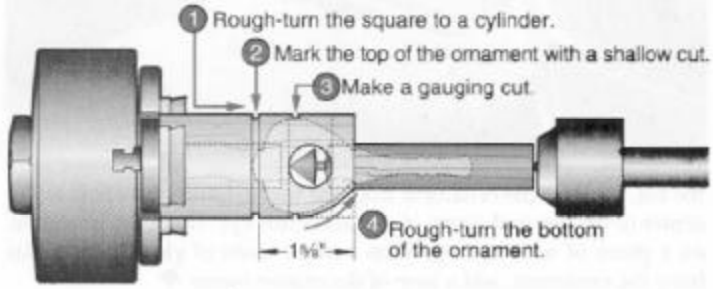


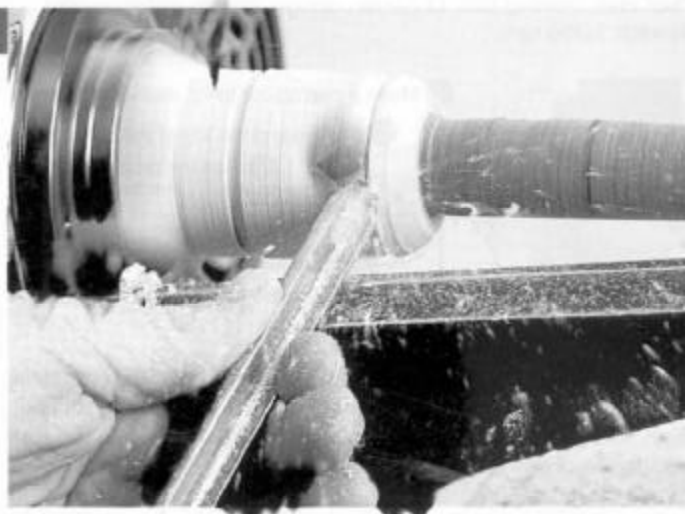


For the body, cut a 1¾×1¾×3¼" blank. (We used maple. You also can laminate the blank from thinner stock.) Chuck a ¾" Forstner bit into your drill press, and bore intersecting holes through adjacent faces, where shown *above*. Then mark the centers of the ends, and drill a hole in eac end to the depth shown *above left*, as show *above*. Cut a 2"-long piece of ¾" walnut dowel, and glue it into t top hole. Now glue the dowel with the tree into the bottom hole, po tioning it where shown *above center*. Let the glue dry.

4 Rough-turn the body

Tools: ⅜" spindle gouge, ⅛" parting tool.
Tool rest: Gouge, slightly below center; parting tool, at center.
Speed: 1,000 rpm.

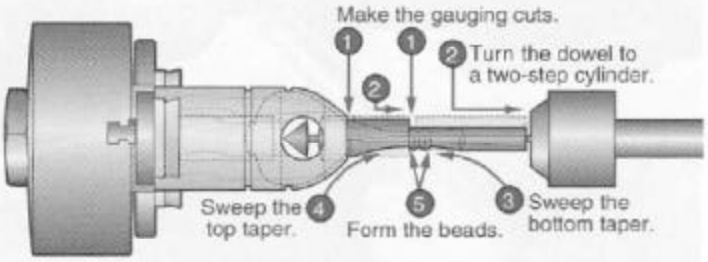




Holding the square blank loosely in the four-jaw chuck with the jaws gripping the sides and the corners between the jaws, apply *light* pressure to the center of the dowel with the tail center. Tighten the chuck. Use a spindle gouge to rough-turn the maple square to a cylinder. Using **Template 2** as a guide, mark th top of the body with a penc and make a shallow cut with a parting tool. Now mark the bo maximum diameter, and make a gauging cut. Starting at the gaugi cut, rough-form the bo of the body, as shown *above*.

5 Form the finial

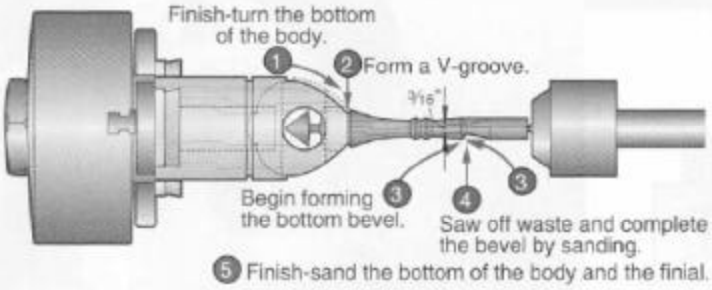
Tools: ⅛" parting tool, ⅜" spindle gouge, ¼" detail gouge.
Tool rest: Parting tool, at center; gouges, slightly below center.
Speed: 1,000 rpm.



Using **Template 3** as a guide, mark the critical finial diameters on the dowel, and make two gauging cuts with a parting tool. Then with a spindle gouge, rough-turn the dowel all the way to the end, forming a two-step cylinder, where shown *above*. Using the template, mark the maximum extent of the two finial beads. Working from the bottom and then the top of the finial, use the detail gouge to sweep tapers toward the marked bead area, as shown *above*. Mark the bead peaks and the center of the valley between them, and form the beads.

6 Finish the bottom of the ornament

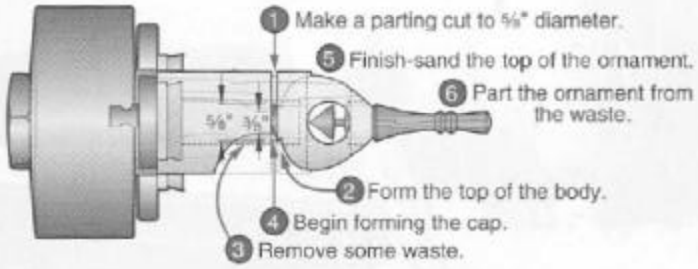
Tool: ¼" detail gouge.
Tool rest: Slightly below center.
Speed: 1,000 rpm.

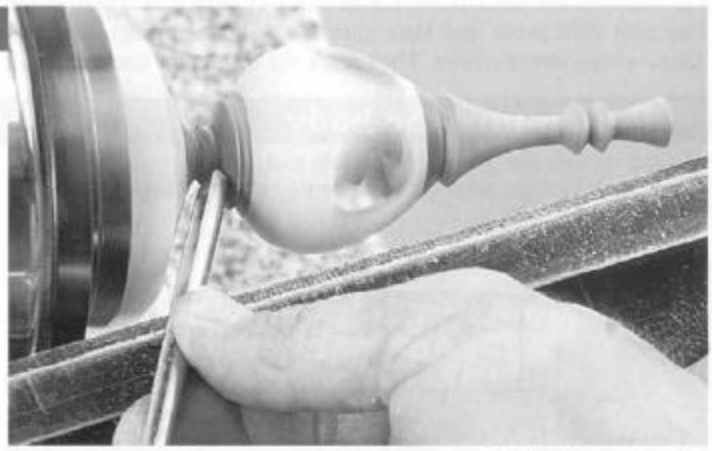


Using a detail gouge, finish-turn the bottom of the body, as shown *above right*, forming a V-groove at the top of the finial. Then begin beveling the bottom of the finial, reducing the diameter to 3/16". Stop the lathe, and cut off the waste with a fine-tooth saw. Back the tailstock away and finish the bevel by sanding. With the lathe turning at 850 rpm, finish-sand the bottom of the body and the finial.

7 Complete the body and apply finish

Tools: ⅛" parting tool, ¼" detail gouge.
Tool rest: Parting tool, at center; gouge, slightly below center.
Speed: 1,000 rpm.





Using a parting tool, deepen the cut marking the top of the ornament to ⅝" diameter, as indicated on the template. Then using a detail gouge, form the top of the body, blending it smoothly into the finished bottom. For tool maneuvering room when forming the beveled cap, use the detail gouge to remove material on the waste side of the parting cut. Now begin forming the cap, as shown *above right*, cutting to a ⅜" diameter. Finish-sand the ornament. Finally, alternately extending the cap bevel and removing material from the waste side of the cut, separate the ornament from the waste. Drill a pilot hole at the center of the cap and screw in a brass screw eye. Hang the ornament on a piece of wire and spray on several coats of gloss lacquer. To hang the ornament, add a loop of decorative twine.

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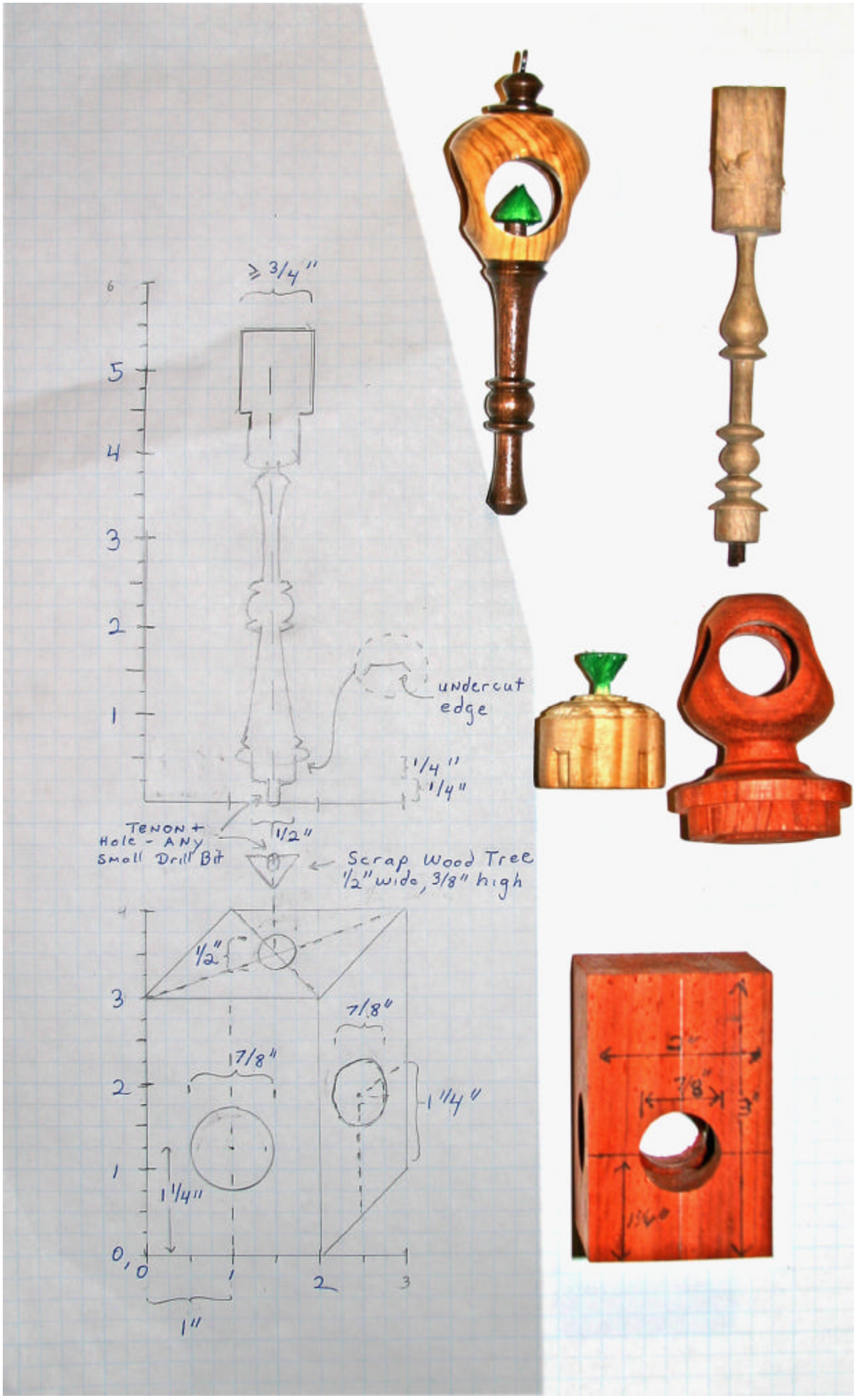
Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine**


≥ 3/4"
undercut edge
1/4"
1/4"
TENON + Hole - ANY Small Drill Bit
1/2"
Scrap Wood Tree 1/2" wide, 3/8" high
1/2"
7/8"
7/8"
1 1/4"
1 1/4"
1"
2"
7/8"
3"