



Simple Tops

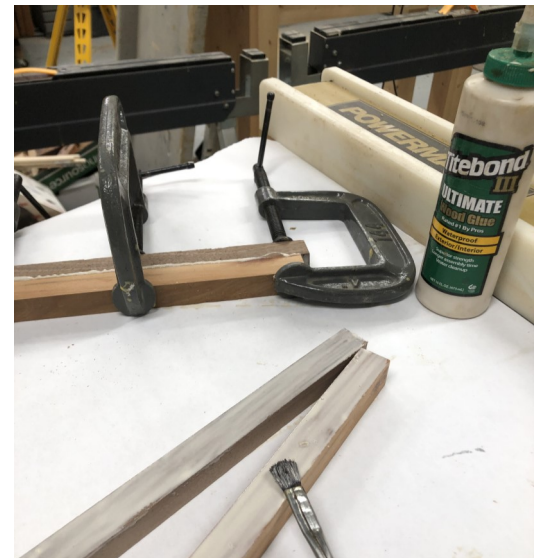
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MMAW Demo



Start by ripping select 1" stock of two contrasting woods into square boards.

*I'm using black walnut and cherry. 13" long work great!
(I'll explain why as we proceed).*

Glue up two sets of two contrasting woods. I used Titebond II due its characteristics of drying barker than Titebond Original, but either will work fine. Stager the boards about 1/2". This can help in the next step. Set aside to dry for at least 20 minutes.

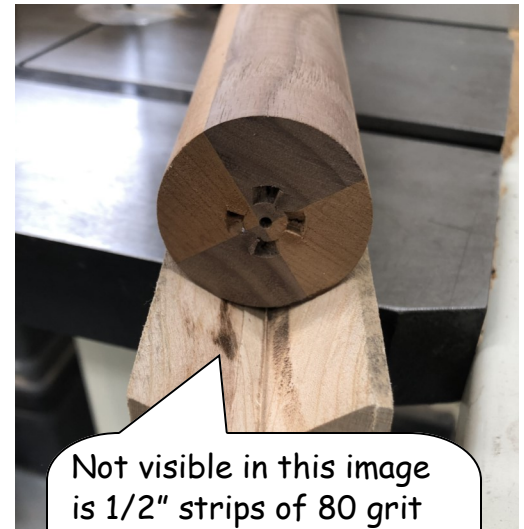


Once the glued set of two boards are dry, you'll need to flatten one side for a glue-edge. This can be done with a hand plane, jointer, thickness planer or simply a sanding block. Glue and clamp together. The 1/2" offset boards from the previous step can aid in aligning a perfectly centered intersection.



When the 4 board glue-up is dry, trim the ends on a miter saw or your choice to achieve square ends. Chuck the blank on your late centers as close to exact center as possible. (where to all 4 boards join). Use a Spindle Roughing Gauge to turn into a round billet.

In preparation of the next step, its **strongly encouraged** that you make a cradle base to cut the round billet into sections on the bandsaw. I made mine on a table saw with the blade tilted to 35 degrees. Two cleats nailed to a board can work too. This will help prevent the billet from spinning when it comes into contact with the blade.



Not visible in this image is 1/2" strips of 80 grit sandpaper double stick taped to the sides of the "V" to prevent the round billet from rolling.



Another **important safety step** is to attach a auxiliary fence set 1" from the blade and ahead of the blade to allow the section to fall free of the blade without pinching or binding between the blade and fence. Cut the billet into 12 one inch sections.



Chuck a 1" section and create a slight depression while rounding the corner over. Sand with 150 followed by 220 grit sandpaper. Apply "Gary's Walnut Wax" to the sanded surfaces at slow speed and buff in at high speed with paper towel. After this step, drill a 5/16" hole through the 1" section, Remove from the chuck and set aside. Do all the sections you've prepared.

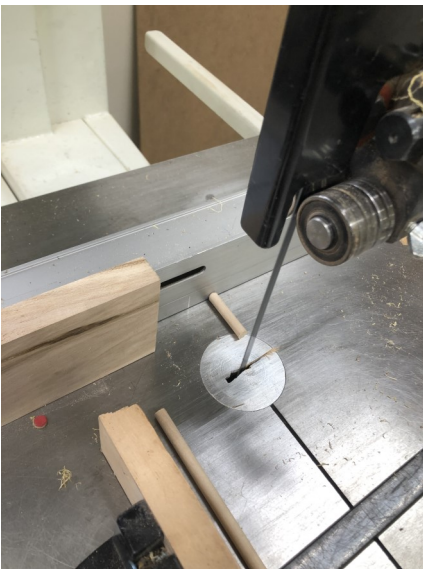
Gary's Wax

I make my own wax by mixing Carnauba wax flakes and boiled walnut oil in the microwave. I get both products from Amazon.com. Start by mixing 50/50 wax and oil. Heat until melted. The key to success is to continuously stir the melted mixture until cooled to near room temperature. This could take 30 minutes or more. If you stop stirring before totally cooled, it will likely harden versus forming a paste. If you don't want to invest the time and materials, you can purchase Mahoney's wax finish.

https://www.amazon.com/Carnauba-Wax-Flakes-Organic-Leather/dp/B07CLCGJPM/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=carnauba+wax+flakes&qid=1573249698&sr=8-2

https://www.amazon.com/Ultimate-Walnut-Oil-Mahoneys-Finishes/dp/B001F7JUDK/ref=sr_1_4?crid=30U93G7UWIRLN&keywords=mahoney+walnut+oil&qid=1573249763&sprex=mahoney+walnut+oil%2Caps%2C179&sr=8-4

https://www.amazon.com/Mahoneys-Finishes-Walnut-Oil-Wax/dp/B001F7R2Z8/ref=sr_1_5?crid=30U93G7UWIRLN&keywords=mahoney+walnut+oil&qid=1573249793&sprex=mahoney+walnut+oil%2Caps%2C179&sr=8-5



Next precut the 5/16" hardwood dowels using the same auxiliary fence set to 1 3/4" long. Before I cut the dowel, I round the corners on a disk sander, belt sander or other method before cutting. I do both ends of a 36" dowel to increase production.



With a dab of glue on a piece of scrap paper I roll the non-rounded end of the dowel in the glue and drive it through the previously turned and waxed section. Drive it flush out the other end or even a bit proud of the bottom surface. Whip off any excess glue. This is why you pre-waxed this surface.

After the glued dowel has time to set, put your pin jaws on your lathe and mount the Top blank firmly in the jaws, Shape the cone of the top and sand with 150 and 220 grit sandpaper.

"Tip" on the tip:

Don't leave the tip too sharp. A slightly rounded tip tends to spin better and last longer than one that's too pointed,



The last step is to apply the wax at slow speed and buff it in at high speed. Take the top off the lathe and wipe wax on the dowel and let 'r spin!

Questions or comments, contact me at gary@treesremembered.com