

Threading Options

by Dr. John Dekle

A threaded item leaves a lot of room for innovation and creativity. Threading an item may make this a little more challenging. However, we don't grow in our skills as woodturners if we do not try new things. Hand chasing threads can be an option if you have the tools to chase threads. The example is a small lidded box.

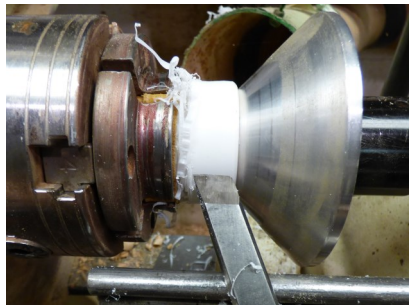


Step 1

Following will be three options that could be used beyond hand chasing. First will be the use of plastic (or PVC) threaded items inserted in the wood. Begin by preparing the inserts so you know the dimensions needed to cut in the wood.



The pipe was cut so it could be chucked in the lathe. Then behind the female threads the end was trimmed to 2" and the length was modified to fit into the box. Next the male threaded end was cut to fit.



Once the plastic fittings were cut the box could be turned and the holes cut to accept the plastic fittings.



Step 2

Turn the outside of the box. Using a 2" Forstner drill a short distance to accept the female ring. Leave a ridge to stop the plastic ring. The Forstner bit will give very straight edge which is needed for the rings. The rest of the box was drilled out with a 1/8" bit. Then leaving a ridge, for the ring to set on,

the rest of the box was hollowed.



Step 3

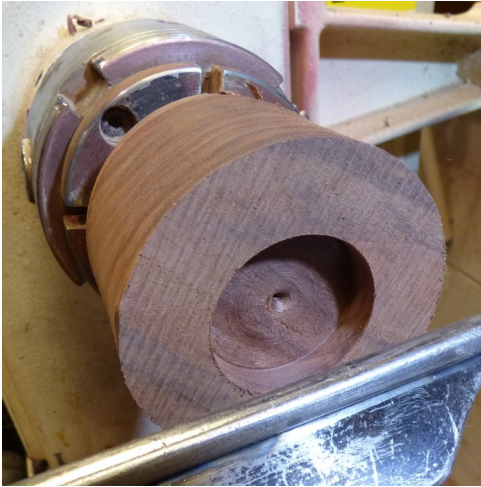
Sand and finish the box inside and out. Glue the female ring into the box. Any embellishment can also be done. Measure the depth of the interior and determine where to cut the bottom of the box. Using a parting tool cut the box free from the chuck. The male threaded fitting can be chucked and the box threaded onto it to finish the bottom or make and use a jam chuck. Sand and finish the bottom of the box.

Step 4

Select wood and turn a tenon for the lid of the box. Using a contrasting wood eliminates the need to match grain. Cut a hole to accept the male threaded piece. Clean up the inside of the lid then shape the outside. Sand and finish the lid.



Threading Options



Finished lidded box with plastic fittings



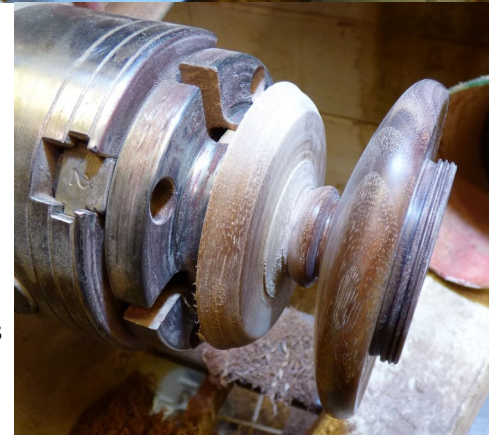
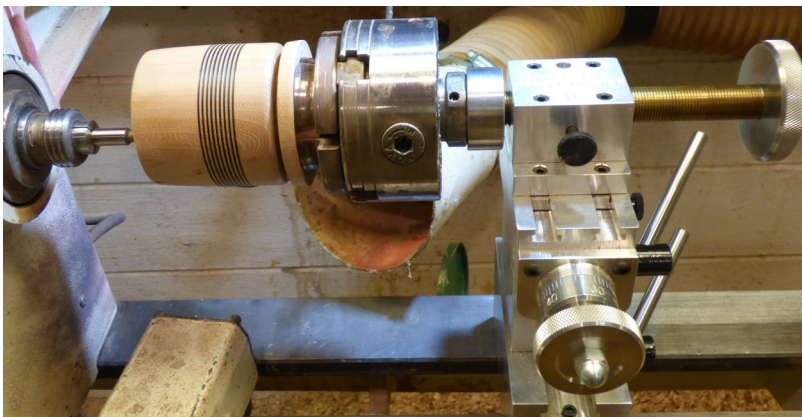
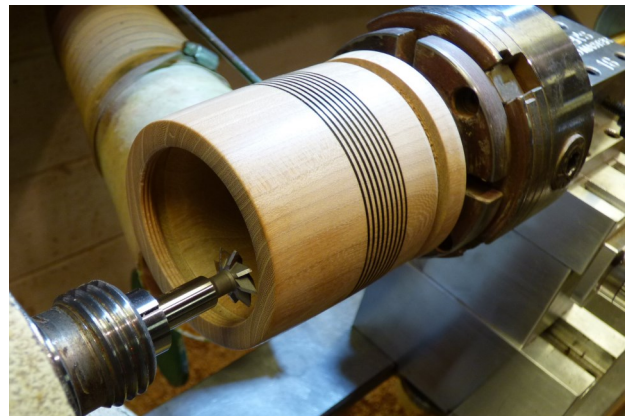
OPTION TWO

This option requires you have a Baxter's Thread Master or some type of threading machine.

Step 1



Prepare wood for the project. In making this box a tenon was needed so the box could be hollowed and female threads cut on the inside. Be sure the area for threads is very straight. The outside can also be finished including any embellishments desired. The threading machine needs to be positioned according to the instructions with the machine and the threads cut.



Step 2

Turn and finish the lid leaving the proper size tenon (according to instructions on threading machine) for the male threads.

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Once the threading is complete and project is finished you will have a nice threaded item. Two or three levels of threads are sufficient. A person using the object will not want to spend a lot of time unscrewing a lid to gain access to the contents inside.

OPTION THREE

Again this option requires special tools which are the Grizzly Wood Tap and Die set. These come in $\frac{1}{4}$ " increments from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Step 1

Turn the portion of the project to receive the female threads and finish it. Then drill an appropriate size hole to tap the threads. Note it may be easier to drill the hole first while the piece is square.

Step 2

Since this project was a candlestick a hole was drilled for the candle and an insert placed in it for the candle. Then the piece was turned to shape leaving a long tenon for the male threads. An easier way would have been to turn the male threads on a dowel and glued it into the bottom of the candle stick.

