

Using Woodturning to Reconstruct Everyday Items

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Wood Selection

- You can use any wood that you have handy.
- It must be dry or it will warp as it dries.
- Straight grain works best, but you can use burl, etc if you do not mind sanding.
- The length should be 6"-7", but length depends on your project.
- Any cracks or voids can be filled with resin, epoxy or crushed stone.
- Pyrography can be used to add design or embellishment.

Tools

- Spindle roughing gouge
- Spindle gouge or bowl gouge
- Parting tool
- Skew

Specialty Tools

- Texturing tools
- Point tool
- Bedan
- Chuck
- Calipers
- Ruler
- Bandsaw, hacksaw or rotary tool with cutting wheel
- Drill bit
- Jacobs chuck or drill press
- Masking or blue tape
- Sandpaper, sandpaper pads
- Sanding pads – get at a beauty supply store and cut into different sizes

Ideas for Reconstruction

- Strainers – tea or larger
- Screwdrivers of all sizes
- Bottle openers
- Spatulas
- Potato mashers
- Whisks
- Seam rippers
- Vegetable peelers
- Graters
- Micro planes
- Letter openers
- Garden trowels
- Any kitchen utensil or household tool!

Reconstruction Steps

1. Select an item you think will be nicer with a turned handle or piece.
2. There are several things to pay attention to before removing handle. Make sure that you will have at least 1" or more to glue into the handle. Use blue tape to cover the area where it inserts into the handle so that it is not marred during the removal.
3. Remove the handle using a bandsaw, hacksaw or rotary tool leaving at least an inch to glue into the handle.
4. Measure the length and circumference of the piece that will be inserted into the handle.
5. Drill the hole for the insert using either a drill press or a Jacobs chuck
6. Using a step center and a live center turn the blank round using the tool of your choice. Make a tenon on the step center end.
7. Insert the blank into a chuck and the hole end onto the live center
8. Turn the handle to a comfortable and ergonomic shape. If you add texture make sure that it is not uncomfortable to the hand.
9. Sand the handle through grits from 120 to 400 at a low speed, sanding lengthwise between grits.
10. Finish with finish of your choice.
11. Glue the piece into the handle using epoxy. You can color the epoxy so that it gives a better appearance.
12. Use a drying rack to allow pieces to sit upright while drying.

Allow yourself to work with any object that you think would be more interesting with a turned handle or as a part of it. Buy more than one item to try. It may take several times to figure out all aspects of your project to make it successful.