

Get A Good Grind

BY JEFF PARSONS

To the true coffee connoisseur, there is nothing better than freshly ground coffee, and the way to get it is to have a bag of beans in your fridge and your own personal grinder ready to go.

If you supply the coffee beans, I'll supply you with the plans for the grinder. These little grinders make excellent gifts and are good sellers at craft shows.

There are several ways to make the grinder and the method I'm using here is the simplest. All you need are two blocks of kiln-dried wood, 5"x5"x2" thick, and you're ready to go. I'm using sugar maple as it's a nice contrast with the black casting of the grinder unit and is a good turning wood.

Fig. 1

Mount the base piece in a screw chuck for turning the side and bottom.

Fig. 2

The side and base have been faced using a bowl gouge. The bottom face will be finished with a light cut from a square end scraper. Here you see the entry cut for the expanding collet of the precision chuck being made with a parting tool. Note how the parting tool is angled down, allowing the bevel to rub and produce a cutting action.

FIGURE 1

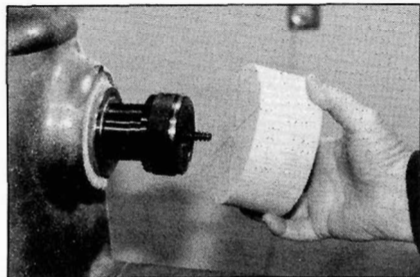


FIGURE 2

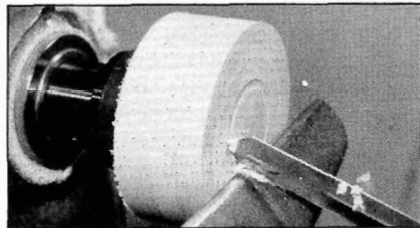


Fig. 3

The waste has been removed with a gouge, and light finish cuts are now made with a

square end scraper. Be sure the bottom of the recess is either flat or slightly concave. Check this with a small straightedge. If the bottom is convex, it could cause the piece to be off-line and to wobble with any chuck that uses expanding collets.

Fig. 4

Use a small shopmade scraper to cut the dovetail shape on the side of the recess.

FIGURE 3

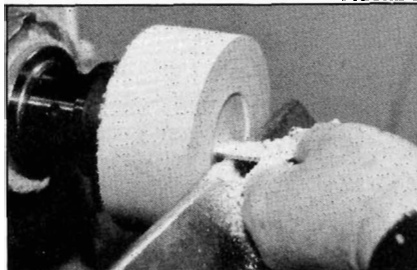


FIGURE 4

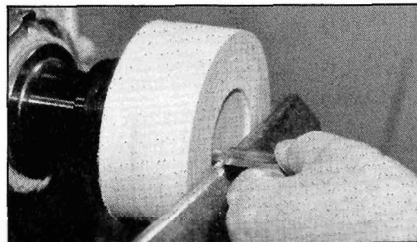


Fig. 5

Bottom and sides are power sanded using 120-180-240-400 grit, then burnished with shavings.

Fig. 6

A sharp parting tool is used to cut the rim for the top to fit on.

Fig. 7

Hollow the base with a small bowl gouge. This will be finished with light scraping cuts from a curved scraper.

FIGURE 5

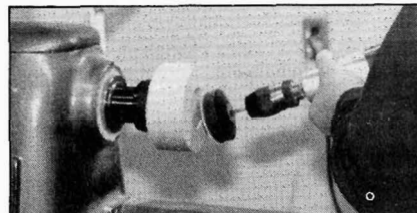


FIGURE 6

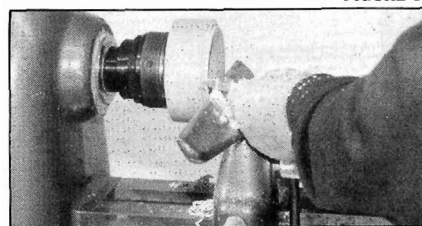


FIGURE 7



Fig. 8

To make the decorative beads on the outer edge, use a Sorby fluted parting tool. Burnish the beads with shavings. If your tool is sharp, this is the only finish you require.

Fig. 9

I've finished the piece with light teak oil. This is followed by a coat of beeswax, which is applied from the solid block shown in the picture, then buffed.

FIGURE 8

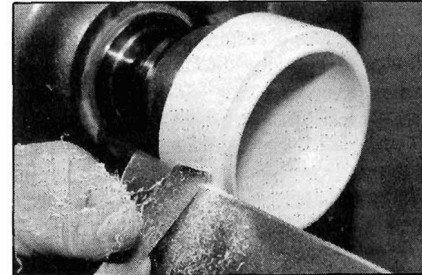


FIGURE 9

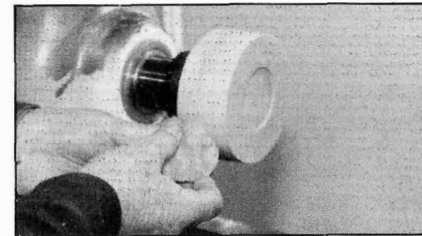


Fig. 10

To make the top piece, follow the same procedure as the bottom. Drill a 1½" hole to accommodate the grinder.

FIGURE 10

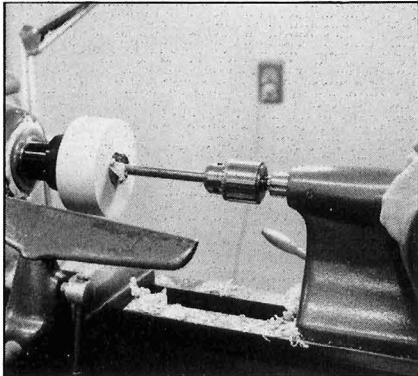


Fig. 11

Recess has been cut for the expanding collet. The piece is finished before reversing on the chuck for hollowing and finishing.

FIGURE 11

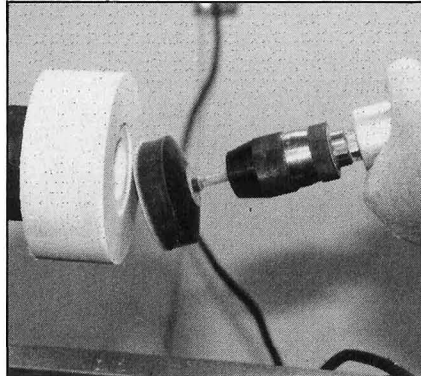
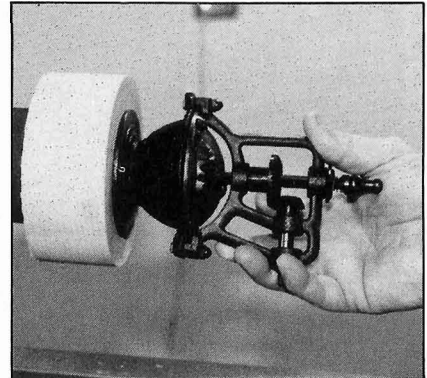


Fig. 12

Check the fit in the 1½" drilled hole.

FIGURE 12



When you're fitting the lid, make sure it's not too tight. Otherwise, you may pick up the unit with the base attached and have it fall off with the coffee in it.

This is not the same kind of fit used in box making. There are other styles of grinders that are slightly more difficult to produce, and I'll tackle one of these in a future article.

The coffee grinder mechanism may be purchased from Chalet Woodcraft, R.R.#7, Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 4K6. Phone (519)426-1077.

