

TURNING A BRACELET BOX QUICK NOTES

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Materials:

Box endgrain blank— 3 ½ X 3 ½ X 5

Bracelet crossgrain blank—3 ½ X 3 ½ X 1

Wasteblock—3" diameter X 1" thick

Double-sided woodturners' tape (I prefer Spec Tape from Wood Craft)

Bracelet spacers

Tools:

Bowl gouge

Spindle gouge and/or spindle detail gouge

Parting tool (a low-profile tool works best as we will be parting off in an enclosed area for 1")

Roughing gouge

Scraper

Hollowing tools (several kinds available—easy wood style, crooked neck style, etc.)

Center finder (if you have one)

Caliper

Sandpaper

Seamstress' flexible tape measure

Painter's tape

Forstner's bit and Jacob's chuck

Finish of your choice

Safety equipment

1. Determine the interior diameter of the bracelet by measuring the lady's hand. Divide that circumference by 3.14. Draw that diameter onto the bracelet blank. (2 ½" is average)
2. Round bracelet blank on bandsaw. Sand one side smooth.
3. Mount smooth side of the blank to wasteblock with double-sided tape. Bring up tailstock; use a spacer to protect wood (center will be used later for pendant and earrings)
4. Turn bracelet round and true outer edge. Final shaping will come later.
5. Remove tailstock. Use low profile parting tool and make plunge cut at 2 ½" mark.
6. When bracelet is free, remove wasteblock. Chuck bracelet in expansion mode and shape outer surfaces.

7. Turn bracelet around and shape the other outer surfaces. (Some sanding of the interior can be done while bracelet is in expansion mode. A Dremel sanding drum can be used later.)
8. Mount the box section into scroll chuck and shape exterior. The upper part must accommodate the bracelet plus an additional ¼" for the lid. Snug fit for bracelet but not too tight.
9. Use a hollowing tool to hollow interior of box. Wall thickness of about 3/16". Sand the outside and inside and **remove from chuck without removing the tenon.**
10. Mount the lid into scroll chuck. True the outer edge and turn lid round. Transfer outer diameter of the box to lid using a compass or ruler. Make a shallow plunge cut with a parting tool near this mark. Keep fitting the box to the lid until the fit is somewhat snug (lid must be removable with one hand). Sand interior. (Can apply finish to interior now)
11. Shape the outside of the lid to your liking. To shape that part of the lid next to the headstock, remove the lid, put the box back into the chuck. Put the lid on and use painter's tape to hold it in place. Bring up the tailstock for as long as possible. Take light cuts to finish shaping the top.
12. For the optional knob, leave enough room at the very top to drill a hole 1/4" in diameter about ¼" deep to accommodate a small knob. (Can apply finish to lid now)
13. Set the lid aside and remove the box from the chuck. Turn the box around and expand the jaws into the box. Bring up tailstock and lightly nibble away the tenon. Make final cuts with the tailstock removed. Sand. (Can apply finish now)
14. For the knob, use the same or contrasting wood. Make it large enough to be easily grasped and removed. Once turned, sanded, attach to lid with wood glue. (Can apply finish while on lathe)
15. Option—it is not necessary to make a knob. The lid itself can be removed without one.
16. Can apply finish at this time or add other enhancements.

Option:

17. To complete jewelry set, put wood attached to wasteblock back into chuck. Round over outer surface and turn sides round. Sand. Use a parting tool to part off the pendant. Angle the tool to match angle on the outer surface and part it off.
18. For earrings, round over the next section still on the wasteblock. Sand and part this section off. (Note: earrings may be turned to a smaller diameter than pendant)
19. To sand the back sides of the two disks, mount a sanding mandrel on the drill press or in the lathe. Sand through all the grits.
20. To make the earrings, cut the blank in half on the bandsaw or on a scroll saw. Sand the rough edges. Apply finish. Add jewelry findings to the necklace and earrings.