



# Cheam Woodturners Association

Associated with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Twinned with Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association

May 2015

## Paul Howard shows how to turn an off-centre finial box with a red stripe Richard Hoodless reports on Paul's demonstration

Paul Howard's off-centre finial box follows a design by Chris Stott. He explained that you can buy a chuck for doing off-centre turning or make your own — for which Paul markets a kit of parts.

Paul used a piece of beech which was made up by gluing three pieces of wood together with red veneer between each join. This was carefully marked with a line between the joins on each end and the true centre



Paul Howard

One piece was fixed in a chuck, turned to a true cylinder and the end cleaned up. Then the end was turned down to a spigot for the lid of the box to fit on, hollowed out using a spindle gouge moving from the centre to the outside and finally finished with a Simon Hope carbide tool.

The other piece, which was to become the lid of the box, was fixed in the chuck, cleaned up as before and the end hollowed out using a box scraper to ensure a good fit on the spigot of the base of the box. The two pieces were put together, placed between centres and a cove turned with a bowl gouge in the centre where the two pieces were joined.

The home made off-centre chuck with a piece of scrap wood fixed to it was put on the

headstock of the lathe and the chuck adjusted to run true on centre. The scrap wood was turned to a jam chuck to hold the bottom of the box. The chuck was off-set and the bottom of the box turned so that it lined up properly. The tailstock was brought up for support and sticky tape was wrapped round the joint with the jam chuck. A bowl gouge was used to turn the off-centre piece until solid wood was reached. Light cuts were used to



Starting to round the cylinder

marked together with offsets opposite each other. The blank was then put between centres and a chuck spigot turned on each end and the piece cut into two pieces.

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Plastic tape ensures that the jam joint cannot come apart

finish off in order to get a good finish. A bead was cut just under the base of the box using a skew chisel and a spindle gouge

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ground to a point. The off-centre chuck was adjusted to run on the true centre and the foot of the article was turned.

The scrap wood on the off-centre chuck was turned to a jam chuck to hold the lid of the box. The off-centre chuck was adjusted to run off-centre in the opposite direction used for the base of the box so that the grain matches, the tailstock was brought up for support and the join taped up as before. A roughing gouge and then a bowl gouge were used to turn



*Nearly there....*



*The off-centre jig with the adjustment bolts*

the top of the box and shape the finial. Paul used a sandpaper file to sand the

top and bottom of the box to remove any tooling marks.



## Some of the items made by Paul, on the display table



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