



Christmas Decorations by Mike Smetts

Start with a square block approx. 6-8 inches long by about 2 in. square. Then drill 1 3/8 inch diam holes, accurately contra to each other. You should end up with a block like so. Carefully centre up on the lathe as you are going to cut away around the holes.



Then put dovetail on each end so you can hold it in the lathe firmly and accurately. Drill through the free ends with the holes to take the bits and pieces later.

The next step in the process is to cut away around the holes. In effect turn a 'ball' around the holes.

Here is where you find out if you drilled those holes accurately enough.

The finished piece needs to look delicate, but as Mike warned a cut too far and you have a ruined piece and will need to start all over again.



Having got to this final shape you can proceed to clean up, sand and finish. In Mike's case he used normal sanding then applied sanding sealer using kitchen towel which is a mild abrasive in itself.

As to the lacquer used, this was clear car lacquer from Halfords.

Having got the central "bowl" the next rather simple step is to turn a small snow man to fit inside your globe and a finial to sit on the end.



The pendant and the snowman - straight forward simple turnings.

Dave Simms produced a Christmas tree with several very neat 'hangings'. These he suggested could be quickly produced as they were a very basic outline shape. Paint them up, put a hook on and a couple of plastic cut out wings and you have a fairy for the tree.



Dave also showed how he made a simple flower using a 'green' stick and a sharp pointed tool. The point is prodded into the edge of the stick



and it creates a shallow ridge which breaks up. Repeated this will give the effect shown in the left picture. The 'flowers' can then be coloured as shown in the right hand picture.



A tree hung with small turned snowmen and angels.

STOP PRESS

Nick has just informed me that Goodtimber at Upper Heyford have closed the shop. It has moved to Droitwich.

Forthcoming Attractions – 2017-2018

Meetings normally are on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections. Meetings start at **7pm**.

Jan 13th Christmas get together & party – 6pm
Feb 1st Turning a cup then carving the outside
Mar 1st AGM

Remember: members who demonstrate will receive payment.

Committee

Chairman	Nick Milton	nick.milton5@ntlworld.com
Vice-Chairman	Ken Croft	Kay_cee@talktalk.net
Secretary	Steve Jennings	01295 812147 stevejennings070@btinternet.com
Membership Sec.	Vacant	
Demo Organiser	Vacant	Nick Milton until AGM
Treasurer	David Williams	01788 810035 vrseurope@btinternet.com
Editor	Mike Sharman	michael.sharman1@tiscali.co.uk