

# Bread & Butter Hands on Session GCWA 2006 Spring Retreat

By Bill Tilson

## Drawer knobs:

A round knob is easiest to make. It is a disk with a tenon. The size of the knob is variable but usually between 1 1/4" – 1 7/8". The overall length should be about 1" and the tenon should be long enough and the disk thin enough to just allow room to put a part of your finger behind the disk so you can pull on it and not get your fingers stuck between the knob and drawer. The tenon can be plain with straight sides or fancy with coves, beads, and/or shoulders, it's your choice. The disk can have inlays or overlays or carving or can stay plain, again it's your choice. Here are the major steps in making a round drawer knob:

1. Condition a piece of wood for mounting into a chuck and mount it.
2. Round over the face of the disk. If you are going to inlay or overlay, now is the time to do so. If you do inlay, drill a 1/8" hole for threading prior to inlay or overlay.
3. Mark the overall length of the knob and part down leaving about 3/4". Develop the shoulder and blend into the disk.
4. Sand and finish prior to parting the knob off.
5. If needed drill a 1/8" hole into the center of the knob making sure you don't drill all the way through. Then tap with a #8-32 for the standard bolt size. After tapping drop a little CA glue in the hole and after the glue dries run the tap down the threads once more.
6. Mount on a drawer or cabinet door and pull away!

## Drawer pulls:

A pull is made up of a bar between two posts. The length of the pull is variable but is usually 4" between the centers of the posts. The overall length of the post should be about 1" and the bar should be thin enough to just allow room to put a part of your finger behind the bar so you can pull on it and not get your fingers stuck between the bar and drawer. The bar can be a straight cylinder or carved and shaped to your imagination. Here are the major steps in making a drawer pull:

1. Condition a piece of wood for mounting into a chuck and mount it.
2. Mark the length of the bar and shape it to desired shape. This is when you will do the carving, offset turning, etc.
3. Make a tenon on each end about 3/16" in diameter and about 3/16" long.

4. Cut off the waste past each of the tenons.
5. Put one of the posts into the chuck.
6. Drill a 3/16" hole about 3/16" deep.
7. Turn the post to shape and part off.
8. Make another one following steps 5-7.
9. Drill a 1/8" hole into the center of the post making sure you don't drill all the way through. Then tap with a #8-32 for the standard bolt size. After tapping drop a little CA glue in the hole and after the glue dries run the tap down the threads once more.
10. Mount on drawer front and happy pulling!

#### Weed vases:

Weed vases are vases designed to hold dried, silk, paper, etc. flowers and are usually small. I like to make weed vases that have character; some with the bark showing, bug holes, bark exclusions/inclusions, dyed, etc. They should be quick to make and the neck drilled with a bit or gouge. There aren't many steps to making a weed vase but here they are:

1. Mount branch with the bark and make a tenon on one end to fit in the chuck.
2. A good rule of thumb (if you like the golden mean) is to make the length of the vase about 1.6 the width of the vase and the neck about .4 of the length.
3. Mount in chuck and turn the neck and mouth and body of the vase.
4. Drill a hole in the mouth smaller than the neck's diameter and then finish the mouth's opening.
5. Sand and finish
6. Part off, sand the bottom and insert flowers. Enjoy!