

Twice Turned Disc Vase

JON SPELBRING

This project is a variation on the classic disc vase

By switching the axis a couple of times, we can create a vase with a distinctive shape.

Being accurate with both the faceplate and spindle centers is critical for the piece to look balanced.

Start with a disc blank - 1.5"x6" or 2"x8"

Tools/equipment required:

- 1/2" Spindle gouge or
- 1/2" Bowl gouge
- Drive/Live centers (Steb works well). Steb and 60 degree live centers. Using matched 5/8 or 7/8 Steb drive/live works best in my opinion
- (Optional) Spindle extender - makes it easier to shape the left side of the disc without flipping it
- (Optional) Texturing tools - decorate the faces
- 1"/25mm Forstner bit (for the cabochons)
- 3/8" drill bit for vase holes in top
- 1/8" drill bit (for centering)
- Drill
- (2) inserts. Glass, coins, Stone, etc
- Glass tube if using live flowers
- Medium CA glue
- Masking Tape
- Sandpaper
- Finish

Steps:

1. Mark center on both sides
2. Mark the top and bottom centers
3. Drill 1/8" hole through middle and bottom (to make sure you don't lose your bottom center when you cut the bottom).- <pic>
4. Use Forstner bit to drill 1" shallow hole on both sites for cabochon.
5. (optional) cut 1" off of the bottom on bandsaw (this will be the base).
6. Note: it's easier to do this now, while the blank is flat.

7. Drill 3/8" hole in the top for insert/dry flowers - 3" deep
8. Mount between holes (faceplate style) and true outside rim
9. Mount piece between centers (spindle style - hole to tailstock)
10. Mark center line, and outside lines 5/8 from center
11. Turn outside profile. It is helpful to draw the profile on one side of the disc. This needs to be very high speed. Heavy spindle gouge or bowl gouge
12. Remount piece in faceplate orientation.
13. Shape the disc portion. Try to keep to your guide lines and keep the piece balanced
14. Sand. The outside of the each side can be sanded on the lathe. The profile must be done by hand.
15. Apply details/texturing
16. Place tape in the 1" Forstner holes
17. Finish with your choice of finishes
18. Remove tape
19. Use CA to attach cabochons to each side

Hints and tips:

- Choose a wood with tight grain that doesn't split or splinter easily
- Turn at as high a speed as you are comfortable with
- The outside profile works best if the grain is vertical
- Stop frequently to check you progress and to make sure that the piece is still balanced

Other options/ideas:

- Use index wheel to drill holes around perimeter of disc, fill with aluminum rod, or contrasting wood.
- Take cut off from the bottom, flip 180 degrees and make it a foot for the vase.
- Use coins for glass inserts
- Make the bottom cut concave so the vase rests on 2 "feet"
- Don't make a bottom cut - drill holes and add pegs or bars for feet.
- Suspend disc from a stand with string/chains
- Use contrasting woods to make up the blank - light side, dark side
- Carve (chip) designs on disc faces
- Use non paper backed glass for the inserts, drill through bottom and add tiny LED.
- Air brush/stencil designs onto the faces