

November 2012 - **Fred Wright**

Fred, who as well as being a long standing member of our Club is also Chairman of the Diss Club, was not feeling 100% on the night but, ever the showman, he managed to put together a demonstration of simple projects with a Christmas theme.

Simple hanging decoration



of the square section.



Fred explained that this was inspired by a demonstration he had seen given by Tom Kittle and is not Fred's own design. These are made from scrap pieces of wood and the technique is the same for both. The first one is made from a short length of square section beech. Fred had painted a band of acrylic round the piece about 1" from one end. The blank was mounted between centres and slightly rounded shoulders cut with a skew chisel within the painted section. Either side of the painted section were then turned to round and a small bead formed either side

A small finial was turned on the short end while the long end was tapered, each end was then almost parted off with gentle cuts with a skew chisel. The piece was then removed from the lathe and the end stubs cut off with a knife. A hole was drilled for the loop.

The second decoration was made in exactly the same way except that it was from a rectangular sectioned piece of wood.



The photos show the two made on the night and two to which Fred has added glitter.

Ornamental Christmas cracker

Again a square sectioned piece of wood about 4" long was used, Fred had pre-drilled both ends to a depth of about an inch. It was mounted on the lathe using a friction drive and the tailstock to hold it firmly in place. With a roughing gouge Fred turned it to a cylinder and carefully refined it to get thin walls to the ends. He marked lines approximately 1 1/4" from each end and then used a spindle gouge to cut into the cylinder on the marks, rounding over the shoulders. Basically making two halves of adjacent beads. A quick sand and the lathe work was complete. All that remained was for the cracker to be coloured and glitter applied. Ribbon tied in the grooves could be used to hang the cracker from a tree.



Lantern

The blank, pre-turned to a cylinder, was mounted in the chuck and the tailstock end shaped with a spindle gouge to form the top of the lantern. A small stub was left in the centre to give somewhere to drill and put the thread from which to hang the lantern. With a small parting tool define the height of the lantern and with the parting tool make indentations about 1/4" from each end and about 1/4" deep. Using a spindle gouge join these two indentations, making curving cuts from the centre so that it looks like curved glass. Sand and part off, cleaning up the base with a knife and sanding. The glass portion can be painted and glazing bars painted on.

(Editor's note: while writing this it occurred that if this was made in three pieces i.e., top, bottom and glass, the glass portion could be drilled out with a Forstner bit and the whole decoration would be lighter for hanging on the tree.)



Christmas Tree

Again a pre-turned cylinder was mounted in the chuck and the various positions of the pot top and the top of the trunk marked. From the top of the trunk Fred turned the tree canopy to a taper using a small roughing gouge. With a thin parting tool he then cut into the taper at regular intervals and to a depth to leave a constant sized centre to form the layers of branches. Again with a parting tool he formed the trunk and then with a gouge he tapered the pot and parted it off. The photo shows the piece turned on the night and one



that Fred has coloured and added glitter and a very small one to hang on a tree.

Fred also started to show how he makes his snowman but time did not allow him to complete it. He had on show some other simple decorations and the one that stood out for me was the Father Christmas—just a cone and some paint! A good night, thanks Fred.

