A Mustard Pot With A Glass Insert

A very simple design with a lid and spoon, and a glass liner which also has a screw-on lid.

The wooden top has been designed to fit over the inner screw-on lid, and the spoon slot has been cut deep enough to allow the spoon to lay flat on top of the glass liner. This piece is made of Sycamore and African Blackwood, it is functional and attractive, and sells well at craft fairs.

Some basic measurements:

Glass pot with screw-on lid	40.4mm dia. 37mm high
Wooden base	40.9mm internal dia. 40mm internal depth 49mm external dia. 45mm bottom dia. (2mm taper per side) 45mm external height
Wooden lid	40.7mm x 2mm spigot to fit base section 55mm major dia. 3mm edge skirt 36mm to base of ball

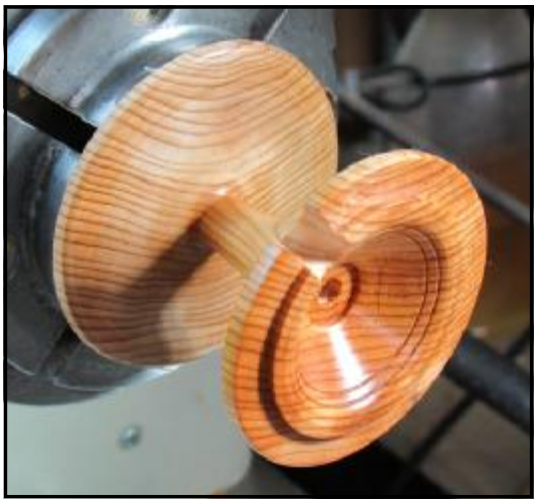
This project needs a timber blank about 5” long by 2.5” square, although I have managed to make it using a 4” blank. In this way, you can make 3 pots from a standard 12” blank. When the top and bottom are parted care needs to be taken so as to not waste too much timber at the joint line. This will help get the grain matching correct, and is essential if you are using a 4” blank.

Mount the blank in the lathe between centres and round off. Add a dovetail spigot at both ends. Mark a parting line 60mm from the left (the headstock end) and split the blank into two parts. The bit on the left will be the base, the other will be the lid. If you are using a 4” blank it would be a good idea to do this with a band saw as there is very little timber to spare.

Mount the base section in the chuck and face off the outer end. Use a 40mm forstener bit to drill into the end to a depth of 40mm (3mm more than the height of the glass pot with lid fitted). Use a sharp spindle gouge to open up the hole leaving a smooth sliding fit for the glass pot. NOTE - Only 0.25mm of timber needs to be removed from each side. With the pot lid fitted, make sure the wooden wall height is tall enough to allow the top spigot to locate without fowling the inner lid. Taper the exterior of the base by about 2mm per side. Sand, seal and polish the interior and exterior. Part off at the base, making sure you leave at least 5mm in the bottom of the pot. Use a piece of scrap in the chuck and cut a 41mm spigot to let you to reverse chuck the pot and finish the base with a little decoration, then sand, seal and polish.

Mount the second part of the blank in the chuck and skim off the end. Cut a thin spigot about 40.7mm diameter by 2mm thick. This needs to be a smooth, easy fit into the pot base, most importantly, with the closed glass jar sitting inside. When you are happy with it, hollow out the centre section of the lid to a depth of at least 10mm. Drill 4mm on centre through the blank from the inside. In the latter stages, this will allow the ball finial to be fitted. Cut a small recess on the inside of the lid to allow a closing disc to be inserted which will hide the hole you have just drilled.

Trim the outer diameter of the blank down to 55mm, and leaving a 3mm skirt, taper the exterior of the lid section back towards the chuck with a smooth curve. The finished diameter at the chuck end needs to be about 8mm, don't forget there is a hole running through the centre, so the timber thickness you are working with here is only about 2mm thick. Using some sort of milling action (or a saw and a sharp round file) cut the spoon gap in the rim. The gap needs to be big enough to allow the spoon to lay flat on top of the closed glass jar, and also, to lie at about 45 degrees into the bottom of the glass jar when it is open. When you are happy with it all, sand seal and polish to your



hearts content. Don't forget to sand and seal inside the spoon gap. Part off the top section with a slight undercut.

Using contrasting timber (African Blackwood) make a 3/4 dome finial on a 4mm shaft to fit into the top. When made, the shape of the ball may need to be adjusted to get a clean match with the crown of the lid section. This can be facilitated by mounting the finial shaft in a drill chuck, or if you have some, use a collet and holder. Collets are very useful, and are relatively unused in the woodturning world. A 1mm to 13mm set plus a Morse Taper tool holder can be purchased on that well known internet auction site for about £25. Sand and finish the ball.

While the Blackwood is still in the lathe, cut, decorate and finish a small disc to fit inside the lid section, to close off the inner hole and use epoxy resin to fit the ball in the top and the closing disc on the inside.

The spoon can be made from a length of African Blackwood, an outline of the shape to be turned is shown here, and then the front and back faces of the spoon end need to be sanded away to leave a flat profile. Alternatively, you can do as I do. it is easier, and a very cheap item to buy. I get mine from the Colman's Mustard Shop in Norwich for about 90p each. The last time I bought some they were made of Box Wood, as illustrated here.

Job Done, Jon Simpson