

Bear with me a bit longer as I feel a little more of the history and background may be of interest to some folks, especially those who will be making this project for a gift or adding it to their craft lines. Once again pulling information from the Japan-zone web site, it is stated that modern ikebana can be divided into two styles referring to the size of the vase

Whether (moribana) shallow or (nageire) tall vase styles. There are a series of patterns to help, beginners create their own arrangements that involve the use of three different levels or branches; the *shin* (truth) branch, the *soe* (supporting) branch and the *hikae* (moderating) branch. Diagrams are available on the web site or in one of the many books written on the subject to help explain and to show the arrangement of the three branches. My short description, that I use to simplify what could be a long dissertation on the subject, is the following; "that one needs only three flowers of varying lengths to produce a very elegant flower arrangement that is based on a more spiritual vision of the arrangement."

Design Considerations:

Wood choice is very important to the overall look and beauty of the vase. As most vases will not contain flowers all the time, it is important the vase looks and feels good when it stands alone. The use of figured and unusual woods aids in the overall appeal of the finished piece. The observer's eye is drawn to the beauty of the wood and the subtle curving lines of the turned vase. Using three live flowers set at different levels makes a striking flower arrangement. A major consideration is the type of finish to be used. Keep in mind that water droplets may affect the finish if not wiped off immediately, so be sure to use a water resistant finish. Some thought should be given to holding the Ikebana frog or insert in place. Especially if you are selling the vases, as the customer will pick it up look at the bottom and the insert will fall out and damage your other work or the table top. Be aware, one must also consider that the inserts may need occasional cleaning. I have used double stick tape and soft candle wax inserts designed to hold candles in their holders. I have found that a drop of silicone caulk works best but unfortunately, makes it more difficult to remove the insert for cleaning.

Materials:

Interesting block of wood 2 X 6 X 6 min
2 X 7 X 7 or larger preferred
2 X 8 X 8 is my preferred size

Ikebana Insert with or without a flange

Optional silicone or something to hold insert in place so that when vase is inevitably turned upside down the insert will not fall out and dent your table. Good quality double stick tape is a very effective method for temporarily holding the inserts.

Procedure:

1. Locate Top; in most cases the best figure will result with the bark side on top.
2. Mark the center points on both sides by drawing an X with a straight edge.
3. Draw circles with a compass
4. Mark the overall outside diameter