

Tips:

When doing a production run of vases, I sometimes pre-drill the hole for the insert in the top of the vase. When doing this I drill the hole a tad deeper than required as I have not yet faced off the top of the vase and the finished top will be slightly lower than the rough blank's top. Before taking the finished vase off the lathe, check to insure that the hole is deep enough. Be careful not to drill through the bottom of the vase. This method works best if the blanks used are fairly consistent in thickness or have been previously surfaced.

The reason I apply Watco Danish oil to the darker woods is to help bring out the rich color of the wood. It is best to wait thirty days for the solvents in the oil to completely cure but the label on the can says 76 hours is sufficient depending upon humidity. In my area we have relatively high humidity, so I try to let the finish cure for at least a week or longer.

On the lighter woods I apply only the wipe on poly or sometimes I use Super Blond Shellac that I mix myself from flakes or when in a hurry I just spray them with lacquer. Generally I try not to darken the color of the lighter woods at all.