

The Laminated Rolling Pin and Dried Flower Vase

Here are two strikingly attractive projects that are as much of a joy to make as they are easy to sell at local craft fairs

The Rolling Pin and Dried Flower Vase were designed and turned by Rude (pronounced “Rudy”) Osolnik, a master wood turner who was already retired from teaching generations of aspiring woodworkers at Berea College in central Kentucky when we met him and watched in awe as he originally created these two great projects for us in 1982.

Rude turned an amazing freeform bowl that now rests in Chicago’s Museum of Science & Industry...and a laminated bowl that’s part of the Smithsonian’s permanent collection of fine woodworking projects by the top craftsmen from all over America.

According to Rude, “Working on the lathe is fun because it doesn’t have to be bound by someone else’s rules. Newcomers to the craft are realizing that they don’t have to follow a textbook...and that once they’ve learned a few of the basics, it’s a simple matter for each turner to develop his (or her) own style. It’s a highly creative form of woodworking that you can start *and* finish on a single machine. Turn free-form and you don’t even have to worry much about critical dimensions – just the overall design. The lathe leaves plenty of room for innovation and improvisation.”



Work-Saving Production Note: Although we turned our examples using conventional Lathe Turning Chisels and workpiece mounting techniques, multiple copies of the Rolling Pin may be turned more quickly by using Shopsmith’s Lathe Duplicator.

Our Dried Flower Vase was turned between centers, then separated from the scrap stock. However, you could just as easily use a Lathe Screw Center ...or even a Lathe Chuck to facilitate faster workpiece mounting and removal.

The Laminated Rolling Pin & Holder

Here’s an attractive, contemporary style Rolling Pin & Holder that’s sure to be a real conversation-starter in anyone’s kitchen. For our example, Rude used purpleheart, 11-ply Baltic Birch plywood (imported from Scandinavia & free of all voids), walnut and maple...but you can use virtually any wood species you desire. In fact, the more different woods you use, the better your chances of having just the right Rolling Pin for every customer who walks your way !

Rude has turned many of these graceful Rolling Pins for an East-coast gourmet magazine that used to offer them to their readers for \$35 each...way back in the late 70's and early 80's. In today's market, they're worth even more.

Start by gluing-up your stock to create a 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" x 18-1/2" block. To achieve the slanted grain effect, glue up a block that's at least 7" to 8" wide, then use your Bandsaw to slice the stock on an angle (See Fig. 1). Glue everything together using waterproof resorcinol or polyurethane glue so the Rolling Pin can be cleaned with soap and water after each use (that is, **IF** it's used, since a lot of your buyers will surely use it merely for decoration).

Cut on a bevel, turning the stock will open up a lot of beautiful grain, but you'll want to be careful that the exposed plies don't catch your Lathe Chisel and tear themselves as you turn the Pin.

Mount your stock between centers. To prevent burning, use a Ball Bearing Tailstock Live Center. Start by using your Gouge to rough your blank down to a smooth cylinder. Always hold your Chisel lightly to prevent jerky movements and keep from wearing yourself out from holding the Chisel too tightly.

First, use a pencil to mark the handle locations, then use an Outside Caliper and your Parting Tool to establish the diameters of the middle portion of the Pin and the Handle Knobs. Then, return to your Gouge and cut the Knob nearest the Tailstock first – making each Knob as wide as it is thick.

Switch to a Roundnose Chisel to create the sweeping transition areas from the Knobs to the Pin Body.

Once the basic shape has been turned...and while it's still mounted on the Lathe...sand the Pin with 80-grit, followed by 100-grit, then 180-grit sandpaper to achieve a super-smooth surface. Finish with Salad Bowl Finish or non-toxic *Preserve* Oil Finish.

The Holder is made from a piece of scrap wood that's 1/2" thick x 3-1/2" wide, with 3/8" dowels and a 1/4" diameter hole at the top for hanging it on the wall. It's just that simple.

Suggested retail price: \$35 to \$50

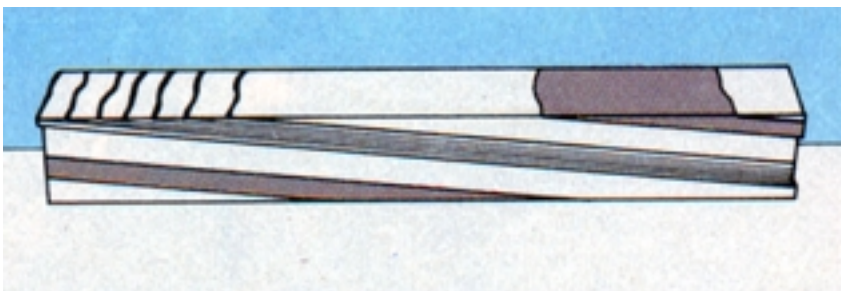


Fig. 1 Glued-up stock for Laminated Rolling Pin. Note that all stock is cut at an angle on the Bandsaw to reveal the laminated plywood and solid wood layers.

The Dried Flower Vase

This stunning little Dried Flower Vase is a true, free-form design that will look great with virtually any decor. We've included drawings for two different sizes and shapes, but your options here are limitless. Ours was turned from Eastern Red Cedar, but again, you can use any wood you like....even turn it from solid core plywoods (such as Baltic Birch) or woods laminated together from any combination of contrasting species you desire.



Start by mounting your stock between centers...on a conventional Faceplate...or even to a Screw Center, if you prefer. Depending on the intended finished shape of your Vase, you might elect to use an S-Shaped Tool Rest mounted in Shopsmith's Universal Lathe Tool Rest to ensure maximum chisel support, safety and working convenience during turning. Most of the work can be accomplished with an ordinary Gouge or Roundnose Chisel.

What about the Vase insides? Our example Vases feature either a 3/8" or 1/4" diameter hole bored down past the neck area for holding the Dried Flowers. If you prefer, they can also be hollowed-out to allow a small bundle of dried flowers to be displayed in a more "fanned-out" fashion. If you're using this approach, you may want to look into getting a small set of specialized Hollow-Forming Chisels for this purpose. However, it's important to remember that the single drilled hole approach requires far less time to complete...and therefore a considerably higher profit margin than the hollowed-out version.

About the only real design consideration for Vases such as these is that their necks be slender. If you're using "old" or scrap wood, let it show its age and imperfections. This just gives the Vase more "character". And, since the Vases are designed to hold **dried** flowers (requiring no water), there is no need for any special finishing operations. In fact, just a quick coat of furniture paste wax may be all that's required.

Suggested retail price: \$20 to \$30