

# Central Illinois Woodturners

present

## MAKING A WIG STAND

This presentation will detail the process of making wig stand kits and turning the finished product.

All wig stands are donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



These stands were decorated by a local high school senior art class.

- 3 items of importance allow our program to be successful.
- 1) Our club is very fortunate to have access to a company that supports our program by donating large amounts of their “scrap” hardwood.
- 2) Our membership is quite enthusiastic about participating.
- 3) We have been fortunate to identify non club members that are willing to help in the form of decorating the stands.

A wig stand kit consists of 3 components. A top (mushroom), stem, and base.

Top (mushroom)  
5" diameter  
2" thick

Base  
6" diameter  
1.5" thick

Stem  
1.5" sq  
12" long



Please note this is not the only way to prepare the material.

If you think I am over explaining feel free to skip content, it's just my anal engineer side showing.

All stock is run through the thickness planner to remove any imperfections (this makes glue ups a whole lot friendlier). Remove as little material as possible.

Begin by cutting the stock into 2 different lengths and widths.

***The first is for the top (mushroom).*** This is a glue up of boards sized 2" wide x 11" long. Depending on the thickness of your stock it should take 8 to 10 boards to make a glue up. The finished glue up for the tops (mushroom) should be 2" thick x 5.5" wide x 11" long.

2 top pieces will be cut from this block.

***The second is for the base.*** This is a glue up of boards sized 1.5" wide x 13" long. Depending on the thickness of your stock it should take 9 to 11 boards to make a glue up. The finished glue up for the base should be 1.5" thick x 6.5" wide x 13" long.

2 base pieces will be cut from this block.

Stem pieces should be 1 ½" (min) square x 12" long

You can use 6/4 and 8/4 stock if available thus eliminating any glue ups.



I use Elmers White Glue-All, interior. The boards are sitting on aluminum angle to elevate during glue application and clamping. The foam applicator can be placed in a zip lock bag and kept moist indefinitely.



After removing from the clamps run the blocks through the thickness planer to make both sides smooth and parallel.

The circular templates are 1/8" hardboard with the center located.

The base templet is 6" diameter.

The top (mushroom) templet is 5" diameter.

Pieces are cut round on the band saw.



A more complete showing can be seen at [CentralllinoisWoodturners.com](http://CentralllinoisWoodturners.com)



# Turning a wig stand

- The procedure I am going to cover is how I turn a wig stand. Its not the only way, it's the way that works best for me.



Drill a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole approximately 1" deep.



Home made vacuum chuck with self sticking "Fun Foam" attached. Fun foam can be purchased at a store that carries hobby material.

With the top (mushroom) mounted, turn and sand the underside. I like to slightly dish out as this gives a nice feel when you pick up the completed stand. This feature isn't necessary. The bottom can be left flat with a rounded corner.

Because the tail stock is holding the mushroom I do not use vacuum.



To hold the top while finishing the dome I use a Beall expanding collet. Other holding methods could be a jam chuck or vacuum.



**Turn and sand the base.** The purpose of the concave feature would be to hold rings or a watch. I turn a slight concave on the base as well to insure the stand will sit flat. A few lines to decorate the base.

Turning the bottom concave and line decorations is the only time I use vacuum.



Start turning the stem by forming tenons on both ends. I use a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wrench with rounded corners as a sizing tool. I hold the tool to the wood as I am turning until the tool drops onto the tenon. Tenon length is approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".



Undercut both ends so the stem sits squarely onto the top and base.

*Fix a loose fitting tenon by making a shaving with a hand plane. Wrap and glue the shaving around the tenon. Let dry before assembling the stand.*





**Stem examples.**



The finished product ready to be stained and finished or decorated.

Mushroom can be between 3" and 5" diameter.

Base can be between 5" and 6" diameter.

Assembled height should be between 13" and 15".

**The stand must be finished with Polyurethane to protect against moisture.**