

Antique Candlesticks Demo

by **Carl Ford**, 01/13/2014

Turning new Antique Candlesticks is a great way to improve your spindle turning skills and use up scraps of wood.

I call them "antiques" because I use up old scraps of wood with cracks and knots. Then I use Milk Paint to give them that antique look and feel.

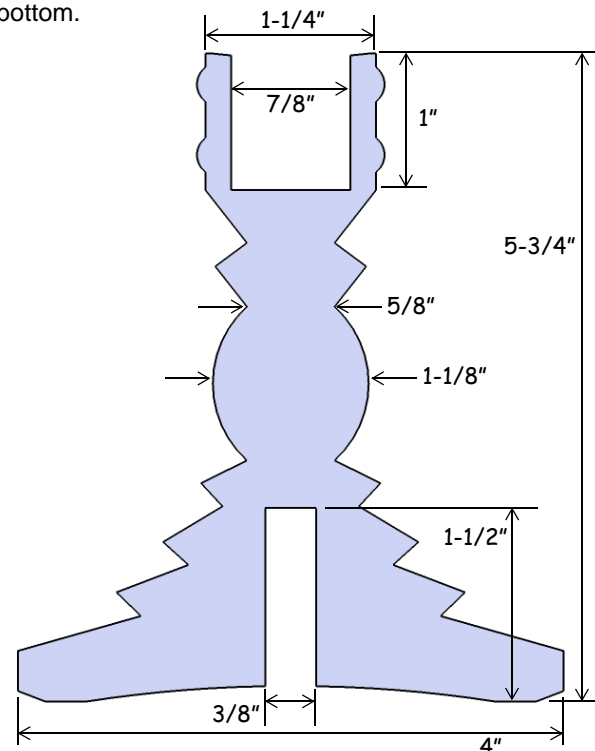
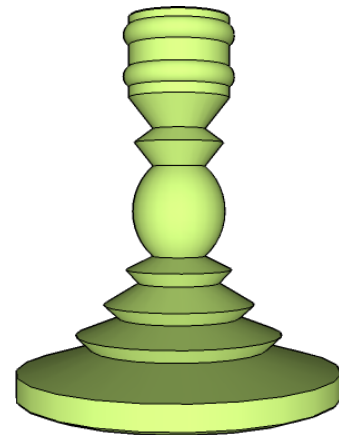
If they are antiques, then I don't need to turn a pair of matching candlesticks because somewhere back in time one of the pair got lost when the candlesticks got passed down from generation to generation.

I don't need to sand the candlesticks because I want that antique look and feel. When I Milk Paint the candlesticks it will cover up and fill any torn grain or other imperfections.

Milk Paint on Cherry wood is magic! The paint reacts with natural tannins in the wood to create a rich deep red/brown color under the Milk Paint that can be exposed to create a wonderful finish with an old world feel.

Antique Candlesticks Process:

1. Start with a 4" x 4" blank of any hardwood that is 4" to 8" tall.
Remember, Milk Paint on Cherry wood is magic!
2. Get the blank ready for mounting in a Screw Chuck.
 - a. Mount the blank between centers.
 - b. Use a Spindle Roughing Gouge to turn it round.
 - c. Use a Parting Tool to turn a tenon on the **TOP** that matches the specs of your 4 Jaw Chuck.
 - d. Mount the blank in 4 Jaw Chuck.
 - e. True up the bottom and turn a shallow depression in the bottom.
I like to use a 1/2" Detail Gouge with a Michael Hosaluk style double bevel.
 - f. Drill a hole in the **bottom** that matches the specs of your Screw Chuck.
3/8" diameter by 1-1/2" deep for a Oneway Woodwork screw.
 - g. Remove blank from 4 Jaw Chuck and mount on Screw Chuck.
Make sure it is good and tight. Rock solid in the Screw Chuck!
3. Drill hole in top for candle. 7/8" diameter by 1" deep.
4. Bring up the tailstock with a cone center.
5. Turn a candlestick shape that floats your boat.
I like to use a 1/2" Detail Gouge with a Michael Hosaluk style double bevel.
Start at the top and work your way down to the bottom.
Start by roughing out the shape and then refine the details.
6. Sand and apply finish.
I like to use Milk Paint that I sand thru using Synthetic Steel Wool. This creates a worn antique like appearance.



Milk Paint:

Most people like and use Milk Paint by the **The Old Fashion Milk Paint Company**, www.milkpaint.com

Colors: Pitch Black, Tavern Green, Salmon Red, Marigold Yellow

Use Snow White color to create lighter shades of colors. See color chart at www.milkpaint.com

Beware! The tannin reaction with Cherry wood significantly darkens and dulls colors. So color charts are not accurate. Milk paint on Poplar wood comes very close to color chart. Pitch Black is really black even on Cherry.

Mix the Milk Paint in paper coffee cups. 50/50 powdered paint and water. Let stand 15 minutes before using paint. Apply with a foam brush.

You need to top coat the Milk Paint to prevent blushing (white powder residue) in humid environments. I use 1 coat of spray can semi-gloss or satin lacquer.



Synthetic Steel Wool and 3M Radial Bristle Disks:

You need to remove some of the Milk Paint (sand thru it) using Synthetic Steel Wool and/or 3M Radial Bristle disks to reveal the rich deep red/brown color under the Milk Paint. Beware! Milk Paint is tough stuff this is not easy! Don't let the Milk Paint dry for more than 24 hours before you try to remove it. 3-4 hours of drying works good.

Synthetic Steel Wool (aka Scotch-Brite pads)

- Green Pads - I use these to do most of the work with the lathe running or by hand after removing from lathe.
- Gray Pads - Finer grit than Green pads. I use these to finish up before I apply a top coat over Milk Paint.
- Brown Pads - I use these more course pads when I get flustered with Green pads.

Beware! The grit of the pads based on color varies! You can get gray pads that are fine, medium or course! It depends on if they are Aluminum Oxide or Silicon Carbide. Search for "About Nylon Mess Abrasives" on www.mcmaster.com web site for a good summary table.

The quality of pads you get from local big box stores often sucks or they are way to expensive. I recommend you order a "21-Piece Hand Pad Kit" (a 21 pad assortment of Gray, Green, Brown, and Maroon pads) from www.mcmaster.com part # 46635A75 around \$30. I also buy my synthetic steel wool in 2" x 30 ft. rolls for example www.mcmaster.com part # 4659A41

3M Radial Bristle Disks

These work good when synthetic steel wool is to slow or tedious. Mount in a Foredom Flex Shaft tool, hand drill or drill press. However, you need a set of disks for each color of Milk Paint because they get contaminated by Milk Paint.

Mcmaster-Car is the cheapest source. However, McMaster does not tell you they are 3M brand on there web site. Trust me they are. I use only the 120 grit disks. 120 grit is white color disks. www.mcmaster.com 6 of # 4494A38 (disks) and 1 of # 4568A22

(arbor) around \$18 total. Note: This is not the \$17 3M arbor. I user a generic \$3 arbor. The disks are only 1/16" thick with a 3/8" hole in center. I stack 6 of the disks on the arbor to create a nice 3/8" wide brush.



Chalk

Eraser