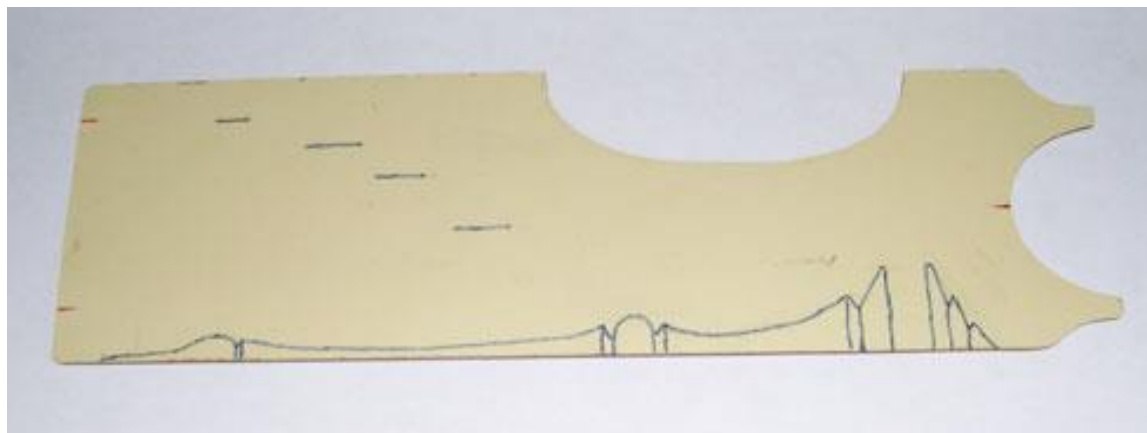


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(updated 6/2015)

## **Christmas Ornaments** by Tim Moore

I have been turning ornaments for a few years now after taking a class with Bob Rosand at Maryland Hall. The ornament consists of three parts – a hollow globe, an icicle (finial), and a cap. To turn the globe I start with a 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 2" block of wood on a glue block. I shape the outside with a gouge and hollow the inside with hollowing tools I made in the Rosand class. The wall thickness usually ends up between 1/16" to 1/8". The last batch of globes I turned weighted around 15 grams (1/2 ounce) each. The icicle and cap are turned from a piece of wood 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 7" that is held in four jaw chuck. These are turned with a 1/4" round skew and a detail gouge. I must give credit to both Bob Rosand and Cindy Drozda for teaching me the techniques I use to turn them. If I am going to add color to a part I do it before assembling the pieces and I use alcohol based dyes. The parts are glued together with carpenter's glue and a brass screw eye completes the cap. For the finish I spray a couple of coats of Deft Gloss Lacquer. The final touch is a wire hanger I make using brass wire and a simple jig.



I have two special tools that I can't do without. The first is a piece of Formica (see above picture) that contains all the information I need to turn the ornament. This template has all the diameters, layout lines, and profiles I need to turn ornaments consistently the same. The second is a caliper (see picture below) I use to measure wall thickness on the globes. I first saw this caliper at the 2006 AAW Symposium at a session with J. Paul Fennel for which I assisted. It is easy to make and easy to use.



I am often asked about the stands I make. For the base, I turn a flat disc (usually maple) with slightly rounded edges. I use wire insulation supports that you can find at any home center to make the support arms. If the stand has multiple arms ~~they are held together with epoxy—don't~~

use CA glue, it will fail (2010, I now braze the wires together). The stands are painted with a black spray finish.

I will bring all the tools, jigs, and other stuff I use to turn ornaments to the December meeting.

If you want a good article on turning ornaments see American Woodturner, Volume 19 Number 3, Fall 2004 or find it on Bob Rosand's website <http://www.rrosand.com/articles/19-3.shtml>

## Supplies

### Tools

Bob Rosand, hollowing tools and round skewers  
<http://www.rrosand.com/tools.shtml>

#59 drill bit for pilot holes for screw eyes

Calipers, call Tim Moore, \$10

### Brass screw eyes

Woodworks Ltd. <http://www.craftparts.com>  
SCB175

Brass Screw Eyes, 7/16" overall length, #17 wire size,  
inside eye diameter 1/8", length of shank 3/16"

JPG312

Brass Screw Eyes, 5/16" overall length  
inside eye diam 1/32", length of shank 13/64"

### Brass wire for hangers

Michael's

### Insulation support wire

Home Depot or Lowes

### Brass Rod

Hobby Lobby

### Finishes

My daughter's fingernail polish ☺

Feibings USMC Black leather dye – Tandy, Inc.

Chestnut alcohol based dyes – Craft Supplies USA <https://www.woodturnerscatalog.com>

~~Def~~ spray lacquer - Home Depot or Lowes

### Boxes

MrBoxOnline <http://www.mrboxonline.com>

7x3x3 White Die Cut Mailers [Model M733]

Tim Moore

[tim@TMwoodturning.com](mailto:tim@TMwoodturning.com)