

Turned Wooden Flashlights

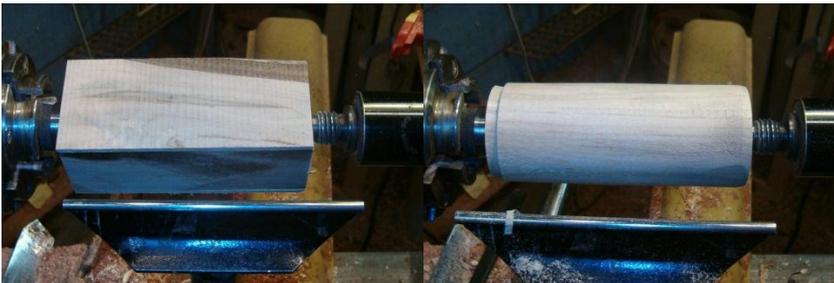
By Ian Manley



Customize your flashlight, with a wooden sleeve.



The flashlights I used for this project are the Harbor Freight, Item # 69111, they are 1" in dia. And 3-1/2" long.



Start with a piece of hardwood 1-1/2" to 2" Square by 5-1/2" long. Rough to a cylinder and put a tenon on one end.



Mount the cylinder in a chuck, and drill to a depth of 3". Check to make sure the flashlight slides into the cylinder. If not, sand the inside for a smooth fit. Bring up the tailstock and retrue the cylinder if needed.



Turn the first 3" of the cylinder to the shape of your choice, remembering that there is a 1" bore down the middle.

Sand and finish this section, then part off.



True up the face of the remaining section and bore with a 1" forstner bit to a depth of 5/8". Then bore a 5/8" hole

1/2" deeper beyond the 1" bore. Shape and part off this section for the cap. I usually remount the piece on jam chuck to finish the top.



The cylinder is now completed, except for the button. This can be made from the remaining part of the cylinder or a contrasting wood. I usually use a piece of wood 1" square turn down to a 7/8" dia.



Turn a tenon just under 5/8" dia. About 3/4" long. Use the cap to make sure the piece is a loose fit, and to mark the finished length of the button. Trim the tenon to length, sand and finish.



Part off the button leaving a 1/8" shoulder. The 3 part for the project are now complete.



Slide the flashlight into the main sleeve and apply a couple of drops of medium CA near the lens end of the flashlight to hold it in place. Put a couple of drops of CA on the sides of the flashlight cap and install the turned top. Line up the grain between the two pieces. And don't forget to put the button in. The cap can be screwed off to change the batteries.

one last note, before gluing on the cap. Test fit to make sure the button moves smoothly, and the light turns on and off easily.

If there is resistance sand the button to ease the restriction.