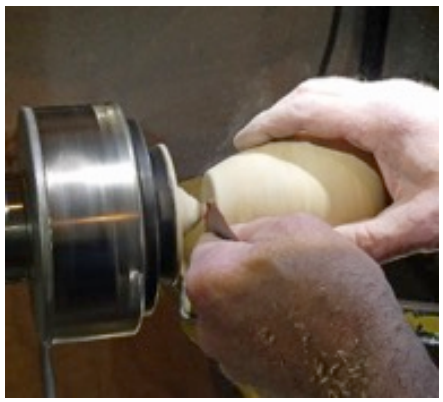
"BLANK TO HIGH-GLOSS LACQUER HOLLOW-FORM IN 90 MINUTES"

The major key to success in this and really all good finishes is surface preparation. Get as smooth of a cut as you can, then sand. I use a random orbit sander to 400 grit. If you use regular sand paper by hand you could leave circular scratches around the piece that will be visible under the finish. The random orbit sander eliminates that concern. Sand at 500 RPM or lower on the lathe for good results. Faster could create enough heat to cause the hooks on the sanding pad to melt and wear down you sandpaper prematurely. Walk through the sanding grits on the sander to at least 400. If you are turning a vessel, as shown here, sand inside the vessel with 80 to 120 grit. That should provide smooth surface to the touch.



Sand the inside using a hemostat clamping sandpaper around a wad of cloth. Move the angle of the sandpaper to match the angle of the inside contour. Sand the outside with a random orbit sander hooked up to a vacuum.

After you are finished turning and sanding and are satisfied with the quality of the surface, partially cut the foot, about 80 to 85% or so, leaving a stem connecting the piece to the tenon portion of the wood. Sand the foot to the same grit as you did the main body of the piece.

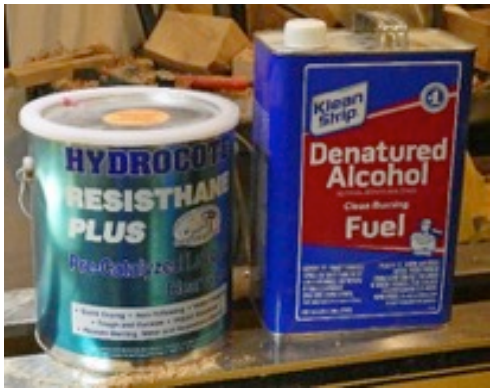




Turn down the foot and prepare it for finishing.

The water-based lacquer I use is Hydrocote Resisthane Plus, Gloss Finish, from Hood Finishing Products:

http://www.hoodfinishing.com/HYDROCOTE_finishes.html

It is their water-based lacquer. Thin the lacquer 50/50 with denatured alcohol. Once you mix it, keep the container sealed. Alcohol evaporates quickly.



Mix the lacquer and denatured alcohol 50/50.

Turn your lathe up to 1200 to 1500 RPM. Apply the thinned lacquer with a rag. Apply moderate pressure through the first few coats. Apply gentle pressure in the final few coats. Touch for dryness between coats.

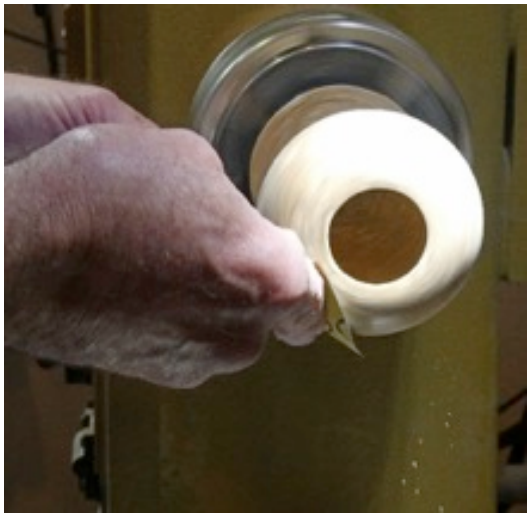
Apply multiple coats

After the sixth coat let the piece spin on the lathe until dry. The piece should feel dry to touch and not cold, slightly cool is OK, room temperature preferred.

Ambient air temperature and humidity will dictate just how long it will take the lacquer to really dry. If you try this, your results may vary because of these factors.

After you have built the lacquer finish, it is time to sand with a high-quality wet/dry sand paper. Sand dry. Start at 400 to 600 grit and go up to 2000. The lathe should be turning at about 500 RPM or less. Use very light pressure and keep the sandpaper moving. A fine white powder should be coming off as you sand. You want to smooth out the surface, not remove it. The finish should look even and smooth after sanding.

Sand with a light touch, with the lathe turning slowly to produce fine white powder.



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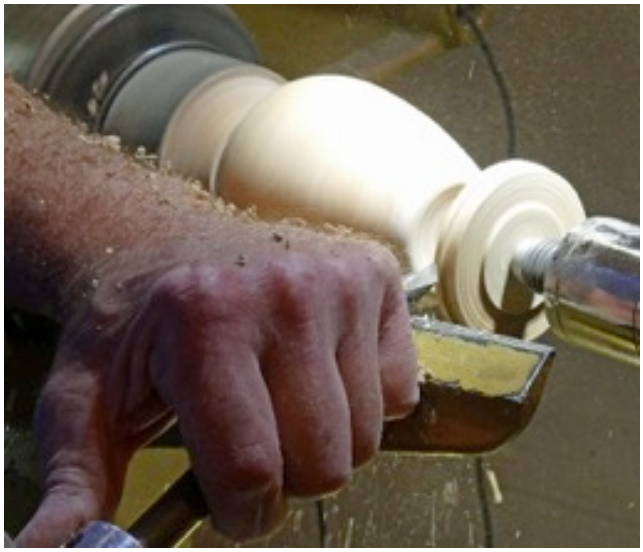
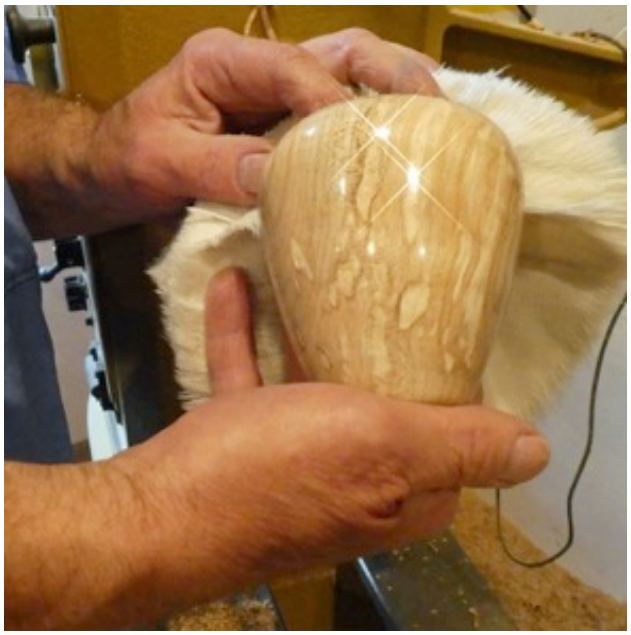
At this point it is time to remove the tenon and finish turning the foot. When removed, sand lightly to even out the surface and apply a few coats of the diluted lacquer to the open area on the foot, or finish in a manner to your liking.



Carefully start cutting the rest of the foot. I use a jamb chuck for this step. Sand and apply lacquer.

The last stage in the process is buffing. Using the buff at around 1000 RPM on your lathe, start with a Tripoli wheel, then white diamond and finish with carnuba wax.



Run the buffing wheel at about 1000 RPM. Hold the piece securely.