

Back in 2019 BC (Before Covid) I had brought to Show and Tell my large blue vase. This year my daughter decided that she would like to have one as well. This became my summer project.

The vase stands 24 inches tall and is 11 1/2 inches wide at it's largest point. The first row (Bottom) is a solid piece of wood. The next 31 layers are made of 12 segments each for a total of 373 pieces.

The design profile is thanks to Gordon Marshall who looked at my initial design and suggested a design that he had built previous. All I had to do was upscale it in a program called Woodturner Pro. Again with Gordon's help that was a simple undertaking. Once in the program I am able to print a summary that tells me the size of each ring and the all important segment edge length. This measurement will dictate the size of the ring. I decided to use Ash as I had done before.



I start by milling and cutting strips to the appropriate width ( again as dictated by the summary). Then on to the Segeasy Jig to cut the segments for the first row. Then readjust my stop block to adjust the segment edge length for the next row. I usually cut enough segments for 3 or 4 rows. A bit of sanding, some glue and a large hose clamp and the rings come together. Next I add a waste block on a 3" faceplate. I then use my Oneway Jumbo Jaws to hold each ring while I flatten the face of the ring ( a drum sander would be great to do this but since I don't have one this is how I accomplish it). With the faceplate mounted on the tailstock with the Oneway live centre and adapter for a 1 x 8 thread. Apply some glue and squeeze it together for an hour or two. Instead of watching the glue dry it is a perfect time to keep building new rings. Repeat this procedure again and again and again...! I will stop and turn the shape as I go as I have limited reach inside if it is to big. Once the base is getting big enough I add my Steady rest as soon as possible to support the piece. I stopped at about 18 rows as I am then running out of bed length. I build two more sections to complete the shape and size. I am able to join those two sections together on my General Maxi lathe but I cannot finish the two large pieces together.



The above picture is with the top two sections glued together but is sitting together at the centre unglued. From here I have to bring my trusty old Beaver Lathe back in service to put the sections together. Once the glue has dried I give it a final shaping and the final sanding. I accented the grain by coating the wood with Speedball India Ink. It seems to sink into the grain pretty well.



Then I sanded the vase again revealing most of the raw wood with the accents in the grain. Now it was time for the Blue Transtint Dye.





Since I forgot to first spray the wood with a bit of water to raise the grain I had to give it a bit of a sanding at this point. I then re-coated the blue. Then onto the Wipe on Poly (Satin).



I added about 4 coats of Poly before I started sanding between coats so as not to damage the blue. I did this for 3 or 4 more applications. I did thin the poly for the last coat.  
The vase on the left is the new one.



The one thing that I will watch out for next time is that I had run out of material about half way up. The new board that I picked out was slightly darker in tone. If you look close you can see the shift in colour. Anyway it was another fun project that pushes my personal limits as well as the limits of my equipment. If anyone has questions feel free to email me.

Thanks for watching.

Glenn McCarron