

WIG STANDS

Material needed

Top: 1 1/2"–2" thick x 5" diameter disk

Base: 1 1/2"–2" thick x 6" diameter disk

Stem: 10"–13" x 1.5 x 1.5 block

Any species of dry wood will work for this project. It can be solid or glued up.

Process

Turning the stem allows for plenty of options and it can be the piece on which to show some design creativity. Mount the wood between centers and true up using a spindle roughing gouge. Turn tenons on both ends to match the holes you drill in the top and bottom. Slightly undercut the shoulders next to the tenons so it will fit cleanly onto the top and base. The rest of the stem can be turned to any shape you wish. This is an excellent opportunity to practice spindle work. Turning the stem first allows you to dry fit it to the top and base later—just in case your holes in the top and base need any adjustment in diameter or depth. You can also mark the width of the stem shoulder onto the top and base.

Drill a 3/4" to 1" hole in the center of the bottom of the top piece and the top of the bottom piece. The depth will depend on the thickness of your material. Plan on drilling 1/2 to 3/4 of the depth of the wood. This should provide sufficient strength to hold the stem in position.

The top and bottom can be held on the lathe for turning in any number of ways (collet chuck, jam chuck, pin jaws on expansion chuck, vacuum chuck, or any other method that works for you). Use tailstock support for as long as you can for safety. On the shoulder adjacent to the holes, make sure that the width of the shoulder matches the width of the shoulders on the stem so it fits cleanly. Turn the top to a curved mushroom shape. The bottom can also be a curved mushroom shape or any other shape that you like. If you are using thicker wood, you may be able to dish the base so that it can hold rings, earrings, or other jewelry in addition to the wig itself.

Sand all parts as you turn them. If you wish to add embellishment, each of the parts can be embellished separately or all at once after assembly. You can use pyrography, carving, painting, collage, or any other type of embellishment that you wish to enhance the look. Or you can do nothing at all! Have fun with whatever you choose!

Assemble parts using wood glue, epoxy, or any other strong adhesive. Finish with a couple of coats of polyurethane to protect from moisture—this is a must. You may sign and date your work if you wish.