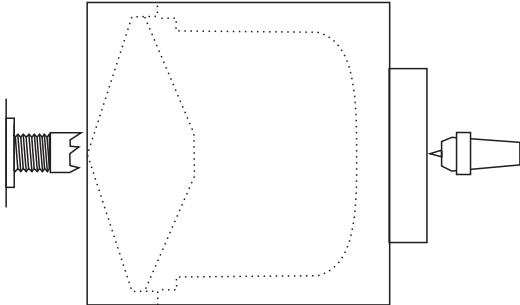


Spinning Top Box

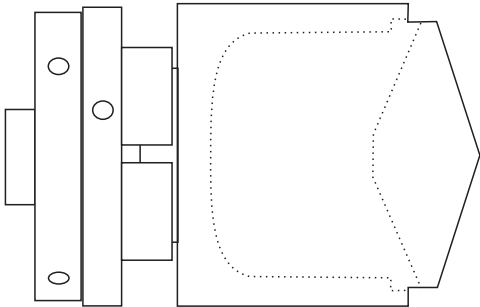
As demonstrated by Terry Scott

The lid of the box is a spinning top made with part of the same block of wood. The underside of the box has a curve designed for use as a spinning surface.

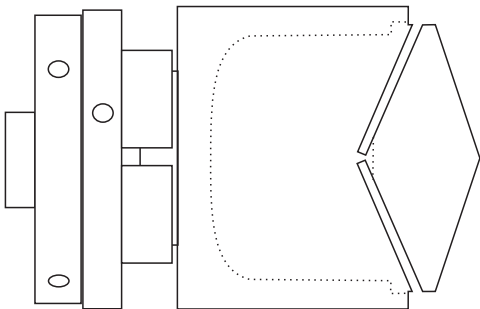


Start with a block of wood about 80mm square and 90mm long. It is best to have the grain along the longer axis but will be ok with cross-grain.

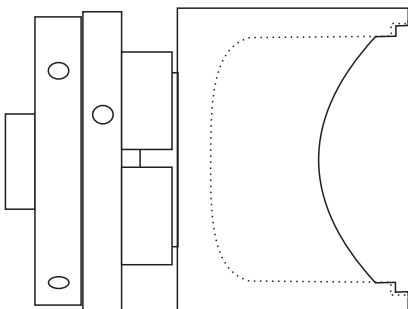
Mount the wood between centres, round it off and cut a spigot for a 50mm chuck on one end.



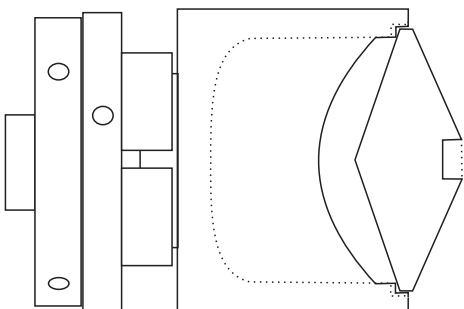
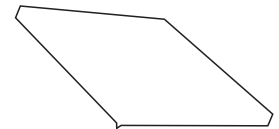
Shape the outer end of the wood to be the underside of the spinning top. Cut a little down the sides too. Note that this spinning top will be jam chucked into the box later so judge the diameter of it for that fit. Sand, decorate if desired and finish the underside and edges of the planned spinning top.



Use a fine parting tool to part the spinning top from the body of the box.



Set the parted off spinning top aside and hollow a little of the box body and then prepare it for use as a jam chuck to take the spinning top.

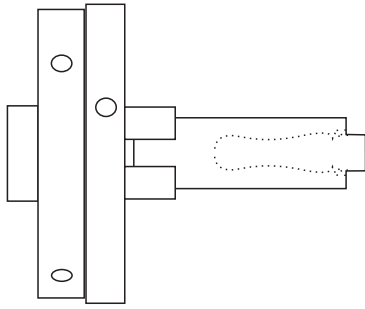


Jam fit the spinning top into the body of the box. Note that the edges of the top are proud of the box sides so that the surface of the top may be finished and sanded.

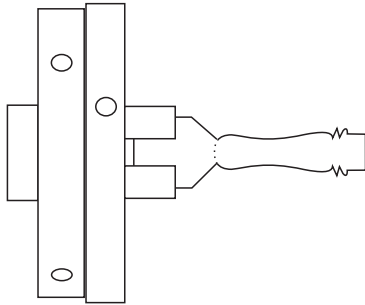
Make a hole for the spinning top handle to fit into. Add any decoration you wish to the top. Sand and finish.

Keep these parts together and on this chuck.

Spinning Top Box P2

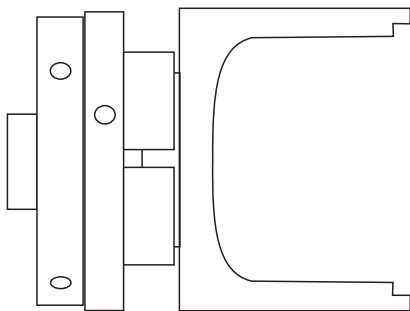
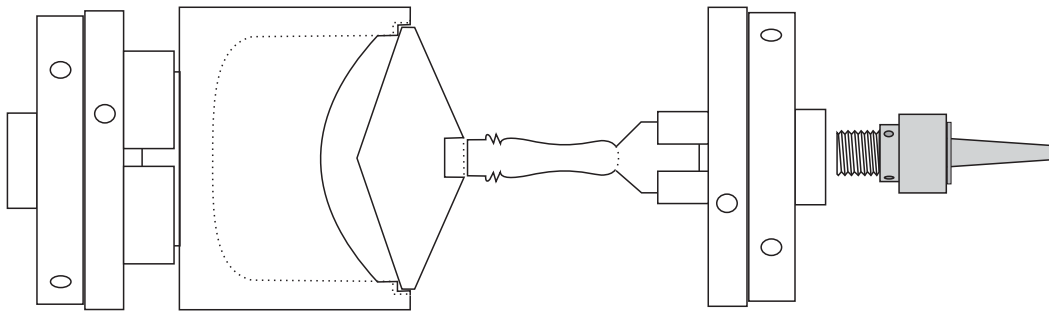


Use another chuck to make a handle for the spinning top. This needs to be 30 to 40mm long and 8 to 10mm diameter where it is held. A piece of wood at least 20mm square and 60mm long is needed. Cut a spigot on the end to fit the hole made earlier in the spinning top.



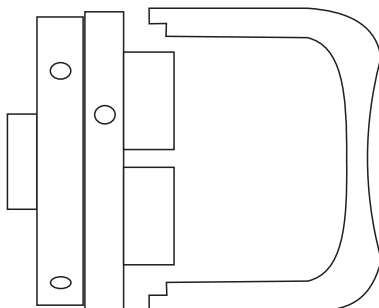
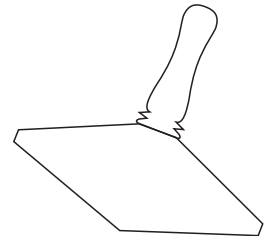
Cut the handle to shape but do not part it off yet. Sand and finish the turned surface.

This handle needs to be glued perfectly straight into the spinning top. You may part the turned piece off from the wood in this chuck. Or you may mount this chuck on a reverse adaptor held in the tailstock and remount the box body and jam-chucked spinning top on the head of the lathe. Then bring the two together with glue in the joint.



Finish the handle and set the spinning top aside.

Complete hollowing the inside of the box. Enlarge the lip of the box a little to allow the spinning top to be a loose fit. Sand and finish the inside.



Turn the body of the box over and mount it on a jam chuck, a vacuum chuck, or scroll chuck with the jaws expanded.

Shape the corners and cut a concave in the bottom for the spinning top to spin in. Add any decoration to the outside and bottom. Sand and finish.

