

Traditional Pepper Mill

- Using a Fence Post Section and “Crushgrind” Mechanism

1. Cut section between rails from fence post
2. Square timber
3. Mount in lathe between centres and bring to round – mount timber firmly at all times
4. Make sure you have a clean cut at each end and slightly undercut
5. Measure off 240mm for body of unit and make a deep parting cut using the parting tool ensuring parts sit “flat” – balance of material is used as top (ideally you would have around 90mm to work with for the top)
6. Remove from lathe and cut into two where you have parted

Body

7. Mark end centre point in piece to be used for body where you have just made the cut
8. Remount the 240mm section with “parted” end in chuck
9. Preparing the blank for turning
 - a) Take 45mm bit and drill to 20mm depth
 - b) Take 38mm bit and drill further 35mm to receive mechanism when inserted
 - c) Drill with 20mm – 25mm bit (depends on hole size required) to half way through the length of timber
 - d) Reverse timber
 - e) Check that timber is slightly undercut – rectify if required down to less than diameter of 35mm hole to be drilled
 - f) Use 35mm bit to drill to depth of 22mm
 - g) Remove 35mm bit and drill with 20mm – 25mm bit to meet the hole drilled from other end
10. Mount body of unit on “special” insert blocks made to hold each end
11. Mark out with pencil at key points on work
12. Carry out spindle turning to achieve design selected
13. After sanding remove from lathe and set aside

Top

14. Mount piece in lathe – top of the unit in the chuck to ensure timber grain flows through your work
15. Bring tail stock up to find centre
16. Take 22mm bit and drill receiving hole – need to be deep enough to receive the drive spindle – always check for depth before inserting driver unit
17. Turn 18mm long spigot down to 35mm to fit receiving hole in body of unit
18. Turn top to design selected and match top to body of unit
19. Part off last section
20. Reverse the top and grip in chuck by spigot
21. Turn off remaining timber and blend in

Finish

22. Polish as required – because of handling and use, ideal to have a hard wearing surface – I have found Rustins Danish Oil the best

Assembly

23. Grind lugs off mechanism and driver
24. Insert mechanism into body of unit **FIRST**
25. Test that when top is put on the driver spindle does not bottom out because 22mm not drilled deep enough – rectify by drilling deeper if required but be sure not to go too far – alternative is to shorten the drive spindle
26. Insert drive unit
27. Bring top and body together ensuring all runs freely

These notes are prepared for guidance only.