

# Woodworkers of Central New York, Inc.

## Triplets

Demonstration by Charlie LaPrease at the May 14, 2019 Turners Meeting



This demonstration was inspired by an entry in the Member Gallery in the *American Woodturner* magazine, the journal of the [American Association of Woodturners](#). In the February 2018 issue (1:33), *Michael Maffitt* showed a set of weed pots. He was inspired by *Robbie Power's* YouTube channel *Robbie the Woodturner* ([here](#)) who in turn credits Nova Scotia woodturner *Derek Andrews* with the idea.

There are several ways to create *Triplets*. This is the way I feel is the easiest. Please read through the directions before starting so you understand the process.

**Equipment Needed:** Lathe, drill, saw (hand saw, miter saw, band saw, or table saw)

**Beneficial Equipment:** Drill press, miter saw

**Accessories Needed:** Face plate, screws, drill chuck for lathe, drill bits, turning tools

Step 1: Select the wood you will use. Plan on three (3) squares of 1½" to 2" that are 6" to 8" long. Obviously, the length cannot be longer than the swing of your lathe! Any wood can be used.



Step 2: Attach a waste block/holding block to your face plate. The block should be at least as long as the length of your squares as you will be screwing the squares to it on both ends. The width needs to be wider than the sum of your blocks width.

Step 3: Drill 4 holes, one on each side, on each end of each blank (24 holes total). Countersink the holes. These holes should be in the center of each side.



Step 4: Locate center on the long length of the waste block and draw a line along center.

Step 5: Screw the center blank onto the waste block on center.

Step 6: Clamp the remaining two blanks to the center blank. Screw the remaining two blanks on either side of the center blank.



Step 7: Mark the one end of each blank to identify top.

Step 8: Use a colored marker/pencil to identify where the holes are located on the top and bottom. Why? So you don't turn past as you could hit the screws with your tools. Also, a square top and bottom gives you a registration flat surface.



Step 9: Turn your design on the front. Sand as necessary, and if desired add color.

Step 10: Unscrew and reposition the blanks to turn the back, starting with the center blank. Flip the center blank over to show the back. Screw in. Unscrew the right blank, turn it over to the back and move to the left. Unscrew the left blank, turn it over to the back, and move to the right. Screw in the former left on the right. Screw in the former right on the left. BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THIS STEP!

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Step 11: Turn your design on the back. Sand as necessary, and if desired add color.



Step 12: Unscrew and reposition the blanks. Turn to a side, sand as necessary. Repeat process for turning for the second side.

Step 13: Remove all pieces from the waste block.

In the next steps you will create the hole in the top for your *weeds*, refine the shape of the top, and remove the section where the holes that secured the pieces to the waste block.

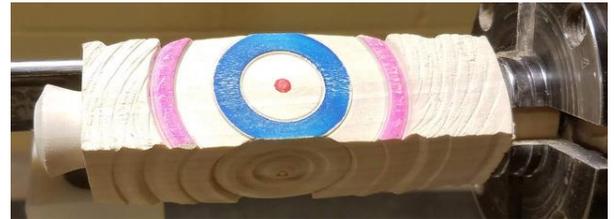


Step 14: Find center on the ends of each piece.

Step 15: Working with one of three pieces, chuck the bottom of the piece loosely then bring the live center in your tail stock to the center of top of the piece. Drill a hole with a drill bit. What bit? Whatever size you want your entry hole to be. I start with 5/16 and then increase to 27/64.



Step 16: Shape and sand the top and remove area where mounting holes were.



Step 17: Part off the completed piece from the chuck. Alternately, use your saw (hand, miter, or band) to carefully remove the bottom.

Step 18: Repeat steps 15-17 for remaining two pieces.

