

# Turning a Wooden Apple – Demo by Dave Grant – Feb 10, 2026

(Information based on an article in American Woodturner December 2024 by Richard Findley)

**Blank** – about 3 in. square and about (3/8" less in length/height) 2 5/8" long.

## **Shop made screw chuck**

Cut off a 3 1/2" length of 2x4

Use the tailstock to hold the piece against a 4-jaw chuck

Round up the piece a form a tenon to fit in the chuck

Put the piece in the chuck and make an indent with the tailstock and drill a 1/8" hole

Remove from the chuck, countersink the tenon side, and insert a screw with a dab of epoxy through the blank. (I use a standard construction screw)

## **Rough turn the blank**

With the work mounted between centers, rough turn the blank to a cylinder. Then form a chucking tenon at what will become the top of the apple.

Mark the widest point of the apple about 3/16 to 1/4" above the actual center height of the blank.

## **Turn the bottom half of the apple**

Use a spindle gouge to shape the lower curve of the apple working from the widest point to the base.

Drill a 1/8" pilot hole for remounting the hole on the screw chuck.

Use a spindle gouge to create a dimple at the base of the apple and blend in the curve.

Sand the bottom of the apple 180 to 320 grit.

## **Remount the apple on the screw chuck**

Fold a paper towel three times and push it onto the screw chuck for cushioning and mount the apple onto the screw chuck.

## **Turn the top half of the apple**

Bring up the tailstock live center for added support to shape the top of the apple with a spindle gouge. You are turning a wide bead with the highest point being 3/16 to 1/4 in. from center height.

Turn down to the live center point and then pull the tail stock out of the way.

Adjust the tool rest across the top of the apple. Drill in with a spindle gouge (fingernail grind) and blend the dip into the outer curve already turned using light shearing cuts.

For the best look get the dip in the top to go as deep as possible.

When you are happy with the overall shape, sand and blend into the bottom half if required sanding from 180 to 320 grit.

Drill a 1/8 in. hole for the stem.

## **Finishing up**

Remove the apple from the screw chuck and finish as desired.

Use a clove with the ball portion removed for the calyx or base of the apple and an apple stem for the stem. Use a dab of glue to attach the calyx and stem.