

February 2012 meeting

Treen: A Raffan Style Spurtle

Although I was taught how to turn this spurtle by Richard Raffan while taking a course on handling the Skew, I have modified the design quite a bit after getting feedback from my wife and daughter-in-law.

This spurtle is about 11" long overall. The "blade" is 6" long, the remainder being handle.

I start with a Sugar Maple blank 2" X 2" X 12" (Cherry or Soft Maple works as well)

Select the "flat" grain for the top and write "up" on it. Mark key positions of the handle and blade with a dark pencil lines all the way across the top.

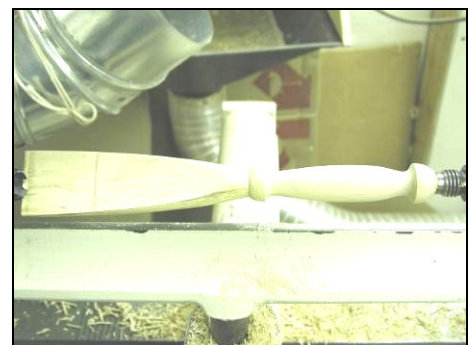
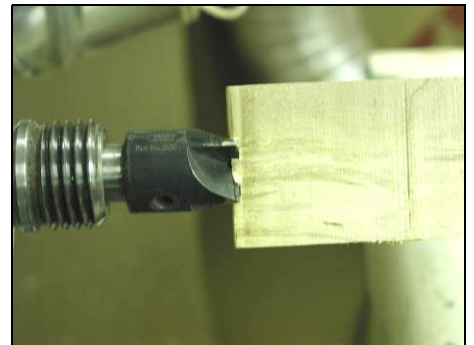
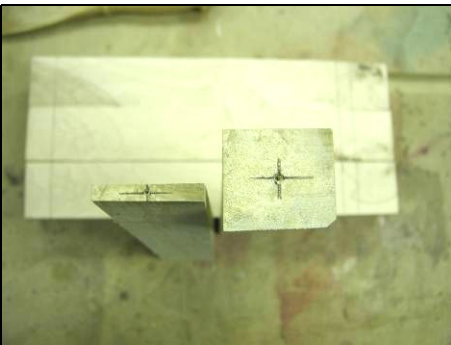
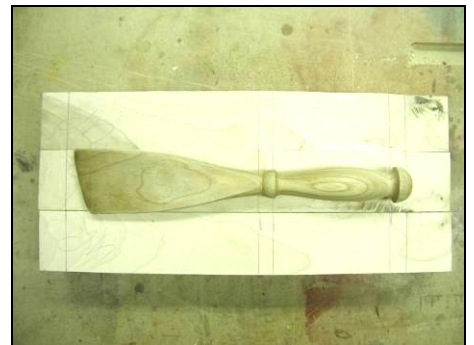
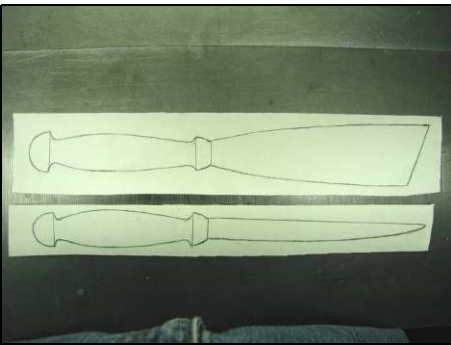
Roll over to the side (edge grain). Mark a point 1/4" from the corner on one end and the same at the diagonally opposite corner. Draw a diagonal line from point to point.

Bandsaw along the line to separate the blank into 2 triangular pieces. Arrange the 2 pieces side by side and extend the top lines across to the second piece using a dark pencil. Find the centre of both ends of both pieces and indent them with an awl.

The following pictures describe the turning process. Note that the blade is mounted diagonally between the teeth on the drive centre. Also, if you have a Oneway centre you can retract the centre point until it extends the same distance as the teeth, making it less likely to cause a crack. In theory, all the turning can be done using a skew but I like the transitions at each end of the handle to curve so I use a 3/8" spindle gouge for that purpose. I turn this spurtle at about 2000 rpm but suggest that you use a speed that you feel comfortable with.

After it is turned, use a bandsaw to slant the end of the blade (right or left handed) and trim the lower curved profile up to a knife-like edge. A belt sander or disk sander can blend the lower part of the blade into a nice smooth curve.

Enjoy but don't forget your safety procedures. I strongly recommend using a face shield as you will be cutting intermittently as the flat material rotates and a catch could result in the piece being knocked loose which could cause injury.





Gary Miller 12.01.31.