

PROJECT GUIDE

Suggested Skill Level:
Beginner

HOW TO TURN A CANDLE HOLDER

Hone your woodturning skills by crafting a sophisticated and functional candle holder. This project emphasizes precision shaping and clean detailing, resulting in an elegantly balanced piece that enhances any space. Follow these step-by-step instructions to create a refined candle holder, perfect for display or practical use.



MATERIALS & TOOLS

- NOVA Comet II lathe
- NOVA G3 Chuck with 50mm standard jaws
- NOVA standard 4 prong spur drive and live center
- NOVA Keyless Drill Chuck
- NOVA Mortise and Tenon Jig
- Forstner bit sized to candle
- Spindle roughing gouge
- Standard spindle gouge
- Parting tool
- Hampshire Sheen High Gloss Wax
- LED candle

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1. Wood Selection

Candle holders can be made from any type of wood, with any grain orientation. However, for longer and thinner designs, it's best to use spindle-oriented stock, where the grain runs parallel to the lathe bed. This guide uses Walnut, with a blank measuring 7 inches long and 3 inches square.

2. Preparing the Blank

Mark the centers on both ends of the blank. Secure the workpiece between a 4-prong drive spur in the headstock and a live center in the tailstock. Rough the blank into a straight cylinder, then create a dovetail tenon on one end.

- The tenon can be made on either end; selecting the tailstock side may provide easier access. Once the tenon is made, mount the blank in your chuck.
- When sizing the tenon, ensure that the gap between the closed chuck jaws does not exceed 1/4 inch for maximum holding power and support. For precise tenon sizing, the NOVA Mortise and Tenon Jig is a valuable tool.

(Refer to Pictures 1, 2, & 3 for visual guidance.)

3. Drilling the Candle Cup Hole

Measure the candle's diameter and choose a Forstner bit slightly larger than its base. Using a Jacobs chuck (drill chuck), drill to the appropriate depth for your candle.

- Mark the depth on the drill bit with blue tape for accuracy.
- Drill slightly deeper than needed to allow for sanding or shaping of the top.
- If using a battery-powered candle, create a shallow groove with a parting tool to accommodate the power switch, allowing the candle to sit flat.
- Once the hole is drilled, reposition the tailstock live center for additional support during the remaining turning process.

(Refer to Pictures 4 & 5 for visual guidance.)



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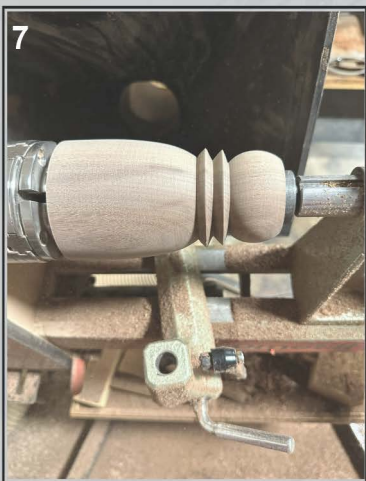
4. Shaping the Candle Holder

Use your preferred turning tools to shape the candle holder. For stability, a wider base than the top is recommended. Additional decorative details beneath the candle cup can enhance visual appeal.

Once satisfied with the shape:

- Sand the piece—Walnut typically requires sanding up to 220 grit.
- Avoid over-sanding the lip of the candle cup, as excessive material removal may expose more of the candle than desired.

(Refer to Pictures 6, 7 & 8 for visual guidance.)



5. Finishing and Assembly

Once sanding is complete, apply a chosen finish. A high-gloss wax can be buffed to a shine.

- If using an electric candle, any finish is suitable.
- If using a real candle, consider that heat from the flame may affect the finish around the candle cup.

To complete the project:

- Part off the candle holder and finish the bottom by hand.
- A felt bottom or adhesive felt feet can help protect surfaces from scratches.

(Refer to Pictures 9 & 10 for visual guidance.)



⚠ If using a real candle, always install a metal cup or liner. NEVER leave a lit candle unattended.

Pro-Tips from a Turner for Success:

- Always use a metal candle cup or liner if using a real candle.
- Drill at a lower speed (250-350 RPM) for better control and accuracy.
- Vary the heights if making a set of candle holders to avoid the need for exact matching.
- Create crisp and clean details by finishing V-cuts with a spindle or detail gouge. Roll the tool so the flute faces 3 or 9 o'clock to prevent catches and maintain sharp details. For additional visual effects, you can burn in lines with a burn wire.



Get your NOVA Tools for this Project:



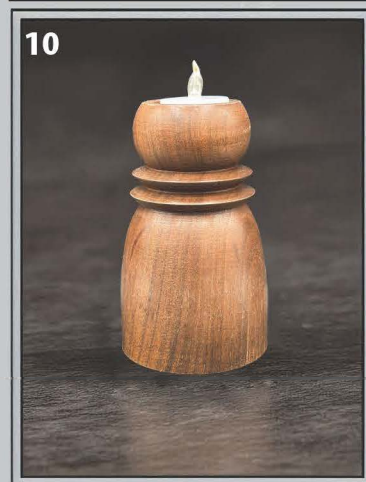
SKU 48293 -
PRO-TEK G3 Chuck Bundle

SKU 9049
Keyless Drill Chuck

SKU 6106-AE
Mortise & Tenon Jig

SKU 2MTLC
Live Center

SKU 2MTSPUR
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