Galloway Woodturners

Project Notes - Garden Dibber



Wood required – 9" long by 1" diameter. Any hardwood, not too coarse grained would be suitable.

- 1. Mount blank between centres, turn to a parallel cylinder 1" in diameter using a spindle roughing gouge.
- 2. With the lathe running, place a ruler on the tool rest parallel with the wood and use a pencil to mark the total length of 8", and a line in the centre of the 8".
- 3. Part into the waste wood at the right hand end, leaving sufficient wood to support the work.
- 4. Start to shape the end of the handle, using a spindle roughing gouge or spindle gouge.
- 5. Shape the narrow section of the handle, minimum diameter ½", forming a smooth flowing shape that feels good in the hand.
- 6. Part into the waste wood at the headstock end, leaving enough wood to support and drive the work.
- 7. Start to shape the taper, from just to the right of the centre line to about ¼" diameter when finished at the headstock end. Rough out the taper with a spindle roughing gouge and finish off with a skew chisel.
- 8. Use abrasives to smooth the work, say 120 grit, 180 grit, 240 grit, 320 grit.
- 9. With the lathe running, place a ruler on the tool rest parallel with the wood and use a pencil to mark the four depth lines, 1" apart.
- 10. Make a small V-cut at each pencil mark, using a skew chisel, corner of a parting tool or point tool. Press a wire to each V-cut in turn to friction burn a black ring.
- 11. Separate the work from the waste wood at both ends and finish the handle end by hand.
- 12. Sharpen the other end to a blunt point by rotating it against an abrasive disc revolving in the headstock.

For example, mount a Velcro faced sanding pad with 120grit abrasive in a Jacobs chuck in the headstock. Or, glue abrasive to a circle of scrap ply or MDF and mount via a face place ring or screw chuck.