

Offset shaker

This shaker uses a piece of branch wood with interesting bark. Two thirds of the bark will be turned away to reveal the grain. Look for a piece that does not have a knot in the area where the bark will remain.

Hollowing the shaker - Phase I

Between centres, turn a spigot or dovetail on the end where the bark will be removed. Holding the blank in compression mode, first drill the holes for the bung and the start of the reservoir hole, to a depth of 2in (51mm). Reverse, holding the base of the shaker in expansion mode, and part off to the desired length.

Jam chuck

Mark position 1 at each end of the blank for the jam chuck, and position 2 at the tailstock end, 5/16in (8mm) away from position 1. Mount the blank between centres, using position 1 at each end, and begin turning the jam chuck as shown. A Stebcentre is advantageous. Turn the stem that will fit into the reservoir as accurately as possible. Now reposition the blank so the tailstock engages position 2, and turn piece A to fit your compression jaws. Finally, cut off piece B.

Turning the shaker – Phase 2

Mount the jig in compression jaws and place the shaker blank over it with the tailstock supporting it. If the stem is too loose a fit in the reservoir hole, wrap a piece of masking tape round it. Before turning the outside, cover the part of the bark which will remain with a thin coating of superglue (cyanoacrylate), to reduce the risk of the bark falling off.

Rough-turn the concave shape before drilling the 3/8in (10mm) hole to meet the reservoir hole already drilled. Open the top to a diameter of 19/32in (15mm) to a depth of 1/8in (3mm) to receive the insert, which will be glued in later.

Completing the shaker – Phase 3

Remount the jam chuck and shaker, ensuring it is running true. With tailstock support, complete the turning of the outside of the shaker. Sand and seal. Superglue the insert and, when dry, turn a dome. Finish as required.



