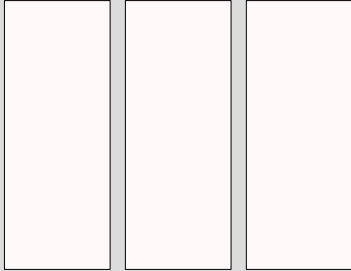




Salt & Pepper Shaker (Cut List)

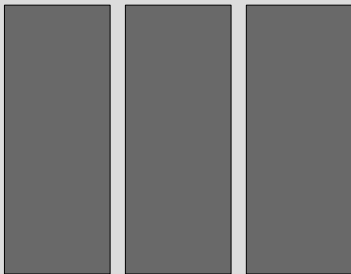


(3) 2" X 6" Pieces
3/4" Thick

Salt Shaker Block

Using 3/4 inch hardwood stock, select Holly as shown in the video or a clear white tone Maple, cut 3 pieces at 2 inches by 6 inches to build your starter block.

Starter block metric measures: 150mm X 50mm



(3) 2" X 6" Pieces
3/4" Thick

Pepper Shaker Block

Using 3/4 inch hardwood stock, select a dark hardwood like Wenge as shown in the video, though Black Walnut or a dark stain on Maple will work just as well. Cut 3 pieces at 2 inches by 6 inches to build your starter block.

Starter block metric measures: 150mm X 50mm

Wood Choices:



While I recommend using the hardwood options mentioned above, almost any hardwood would work well for this project and is your personal preference. Choice of wood should reflect the type of finished look you intend for the shakers and they can be monotone in color if you prefer. I liked the lighter look of the Holly for the salt shaker and the dark "pepper" look of the Wenge hardwood. I would advise against using soft woods like Pine, Yellow Cedar or Birch, even though they are light in color as the soft woods do not hold up well on the lathe. They have in the past, splintered apart or self destructed on the lathe if I got too aggressive with my chisels or if the wood just felt like freeing itself from it's spinning carnival ride. :) Hardwoods simply hold up better.



Salt & Pepper Shaker (General Instructions)



Please refer to the YouTube Video for the general build steps and please be careful using any power tool, following all safety and operating instructions for each tool you use.

Initial Cuts: You will need 3 small cut boards 6 inches by 2 inches or 150mm X 50mm. Use $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick wood or 20mm for metric comparison. We're really not against the rest of the world and metric measurements, its just that the lumber here in the U.S. is still cut that way.

Surface Sanding: Pick the flattest boards you can find for the initial cuts but they should be surface sanded to make sure the pieces are actually flat for glue up. If you have a surface planer, that works too provided you do not take too much material off each board. This will reduce the overall diameter of your shaker and make drilling more difficult.

Glue Up: Glue up each of your (2 Sets) of boards like in the video to give you a rectangular block for the salt and pepper shakers. Clamp the blocks ensuring the edges of each board are still in alignment with the block. Wait 8 hours or more for the glue to fully dry.

Tool Limitations: Back to our observation that most "Family" woodworkers may not have a wood lathe down in their shop, but I think this project looks just as cool in a square rectangular block or in an octagon form. Work safely with the tools you already have!

Lathe Work: Secure the wood block in the lathe, centered on each spindle and locked into place. Rough turn each blank to round out the square sides and get to a consistent round diameter or 2 inches or about 50 mm.

Rough sand the blank on the lathe and with a pencil, mark out any decorative lines you might like to cut into the blank. Cut the decorations lightly, leaving the cut depth shallow. You do not want to compromise the structural integrity of the turned cylinder when you drill out the center.

Stop the lathe and add a 1 inch Forstner bit on the tailstock to begin the centered drilling of the each shaker blank. **NOTE:** This step forces all the locking stress be managed by the headstock chuck, and at 6 inches away from the headstock, drilling out the center caused the piece to vibrate. I chose to only start the centered drilling of each shaker on the lathe, and then finished the core on the drill press once the piece was secured and clamped to the drill platform. See the video for how this was set up on the drill press.

After centering and finishing the initial hole placement at the bottom of each shaker, replace the tailstock and rotating center back over the bottom hole to secure the piece at both ends. Determine your final cut length at 4 inches and mark with a pencil that position towards the headstock. Prepare the piece for cut off at that line. Use your parting tool to narrow down the cut, finish the cut if necessary with a hand saw.

Salt & Pepper Shakers (Assembly Page 2)

Following the removal of your shakers from the lathe, clean up any cut lines on top and bottom of your shakers to leave a flat surface.

Drill Press: Secure each piece separately on the drill press table. Using two hand screw wood clamps and placing the clamp openings 90 degrees off from each other, they will help ensure a perfect straight alignment for the opening of the shaker hole. Lock the clamps to hold the shaker blank and position the hole opening in alignment with the same 1 inch Forstner bit. Secure the wood clamps to the drill press table and complete the hole drilling of each shaker, leaving 1/8 inch thickness left at the top of the shaker. Mark your drill bit (you may need to add a bit extension) so that you only drill out the desired hole without damaging the shaker top. The depth of the drill is dictated by the total length of the shaker blank. If the blank is exactly 4 inches long, your drill depth would stop at 3 and 7/8 inches... as an example. If the blank is slightly less than 4 inches, adjust your drill depth accordingly.

Epoxy: I chose to coat the inside of the shakers with a thin epoxy to help prevent moisture from the wood affecting the shaker contents and also preventing salt and pepper from sticking to the wood. Not sure you need to do this, just mentioning this as a step from the video.

Cutting A Plug Recess: The silicone plugs I ordered required that I drill a 1 3/8 wider hole on the bottom of each shaker to accommodate the thickness of the plug. Place your shaker back on the drill table and drill in that wider hole to a shallow depth, enough to cover the plug and have the shakers sit flat on the table.

Finishing: This is your choice! A butcher block conditioner or oiled wood finish would look great though I chose satin polyurethane for mine. My finished dimensions are listed below, but feel free to adjust these cuts and embellishments to your suit your own style!

