

Making a Point Tool

Making a point tool is an easy project that results in a very useful tool. You can use a point tool to make the grooves for burning wires, small beads or just use it to define the boundary between areas of embellishment.

The materials are simple, a piece of drill rod, something to use for a ferrule and wood for a handle.

Mount the wood in a four-jaw chuck and bring up the live center with the ferrule over the end. That way you can size the tenon for the ferrule.



Turn the end of the tenon so the ferrule just fits.



Epoxy the ferrule to the just sized tenon. Drill the tenon and the body to fit the drill rod.



Using a cone on the live center put the blank back between centers and turn the handle to your desired profile. Sand and apply the appropriate finish.

Epoxy the drill rod into the handle. Now it's time to sharpen the tool with three flats to create a point. The three flats must be equal and meet at the center of the rod for the tool to work correctly.

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I just read Steve Forrest's tip on making a point tool (American Woodturner, December 2020) and noted that grinding the point took some time. I have made many of these, both for myself and as a project in our classes, and I am sure I will not be the only one to suggest this improvement. Epoxy a six-sided nut to the top of the ferrule. This will provide a reference against the tool rest when grinding and will practically guarantee that the point is symmetrical and centered.

