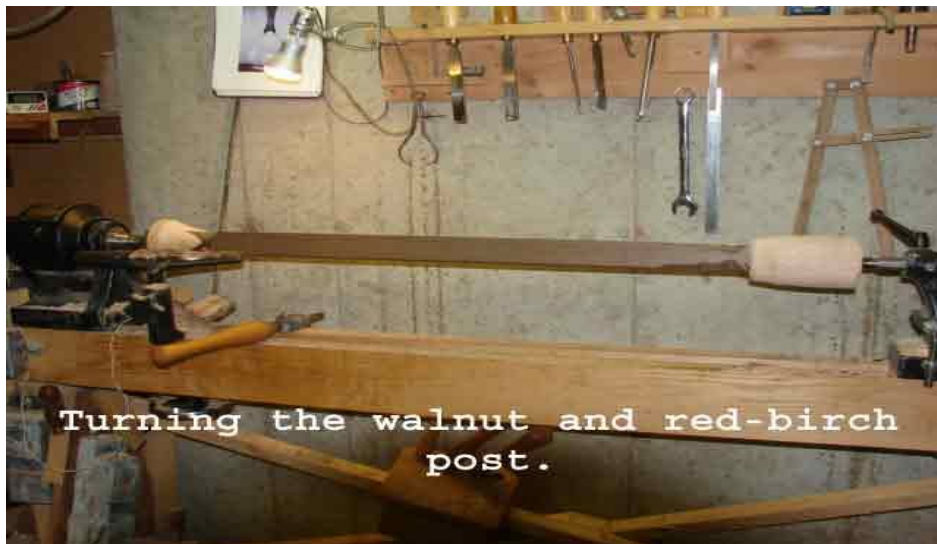


How I Make Floor Lamps

Below are a series of photos showing how I make floor lamps. The one illustrated is made of red-birch and walnut. It is a style we call "Contemporary".



I have added dimensional details to the photo for the turner. The 2X2 post is made of two 1X2's glued together and a slot is routed down the center for the wire. I use a router table but a dado blade in a table saw will do the job nicely too.

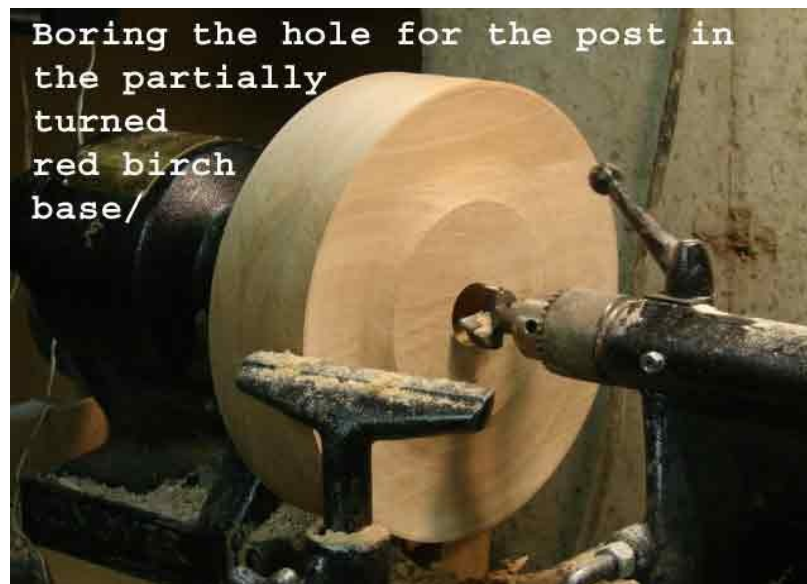


Before going further I must mention that I purchase 4/4 kiln dried hardwood boards and then plane until smooth. So all the wood I use is approximately one inch thick. When I need thicker pieces than one inch, I laminate. The above photo shows the post at the start of turning and a close-up view of the lower flare is below. If you look closely

you can just see the portion of walnut protruding to the left of the flare. That portion will be turned to fit into the base hole. I bore a 1-1/2 hole into the base while turning it.



The next photo, below, shows the boring operation.



Another bit of info; I power my lathe with a 1-hp DC motor whose speed can be continuously adjusted. For the boring operation I turn the piece quite slowly.

Turning large diameter, unbalanced pieces is a *dangerous* operation if attempted at a high speed! BE CAREFUL!

Turning a long thin rod, such as the lamp's post, can be difficult because of vibration. There are various kinds of steady-rests described in turning literature but I've found my left hand does the job nicely. The following photo shows how I hold the work.



Note, post vibration is more of an issue when cutting in the middle of the piece than at the ends

Below is the finished post. After sanding – starting with 80 grit and finished with 320 grit, the piece is sealed with a saturating coat of cut polyurethane. (I wipe off any left on the surface after allowing it to soak in for ten or fifteen minutes.) The sealer is allowed to dry and the piece is then buffed (0000 steel wool) and waxed.



The finished lower and upper flared ends are shown below..



Post and Base.



The 'pin' on the base end of the post is turned to be an *easy* fit into the base since I use a two-part epoxy cement rather than wood glue for this operation.

Three dowels protruding about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the bottom of the base provide space for the lamp cord. Three rather than four dowels --- a tripod...

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