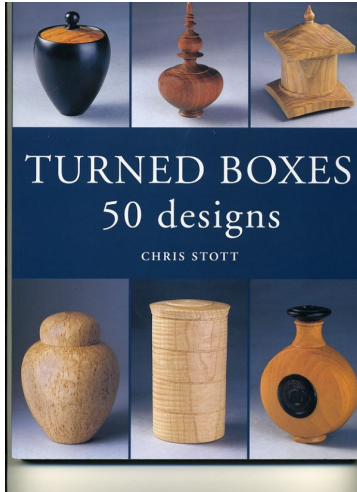


TURNED BOXES – 50 designs  
by Chris Stott © 2002, 177 pages

Availability: WCW library, Sonoma County Public Library



The book is presented in three sections:

Part I contains the back story of Chris Stott's life as a wood turner and full details of the tools, timber and finishing techniques used in making the boxes. (For me this introductory section alone was well worth the price of the book.)

Part II is the core of the book and the 50 turned boxes of the title appear with excellent color photographs, clear line drawings (most at full size) and excellent explanatory text. The boxes are variations on two basic designs – a simple box in which the lid fits into the box and a box with a hollowed lid which fits over the box. Making these is described in full detail.

Chris subdivides the two basic designs into “craft fair” boxes which can be produced relatively quickly and “gallery” boxes which are more time consuming and involve more expensive wood.

Part III is a gallery of work by some of the top international turners – a beautiful bonus section to round out an excellent book.

**IMHO:** This is an easy book to read and easy to follow in the shop. I particularly enjoyed (and envied!) the concise and informative style of the notes on the timbers used and the description of the craft fair circuit.

And more to the point everything I have tried - not just the turning but also the tool shaping, inlays and finishing methods - has worked precisely as described. While my first efforts may not cause Cindy Drozda to lose any sleep they have turned out well and have been fun to make. And as a bonus the techniques learned here have transferred quite nicely to other projects.

If you have found making boxes intimidating (*You mean the lid has to fit?!)* or possibly uninteresting you might check this book out. It's an ideal book for us beginners and definitely a keeper...

Iain Jamieson December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007