

# Creating a lidded bowl

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When creating a lidded bowl the interaction between the bowl and the lid is important. Choosing the wood is the first step. If the bowl is busy wood (lots of grain or figure) a lid from either the same log or a wood that is fairly plain works well. Sometimes a painted lid is a good choice but think about how the two pieces work together. That's first big decision in the design of the piece.

The wood for both the lid and the bowl must be dry or they will change shape enough that the lid won't fit the bowl.

I like the lid to be slightly curved, but occasionally a flat lid can work if the surface and knob are interesting.

I usually create the bowl first. I like a shallow bowl.

I create a fairly wide rim and cut a thin ledge below the rim for the lid to rest on. Deciding how far from the rim the ledge should be is another design decision. I prefer that the edge of the lid is below the rim of the bowl but that is my esthetic and each maker should make their own decision.

Turn and finish the bowl and then consider the lid.

A lid can be created from a fairly thin piece of wood. If you have enough wood, cut a tenon on what will be the top of the lid. If I am using something so thin that doesn't allow me to cut a tenon I will glue on a temporary piece of waste wood to use as a tenon. Put the lid between centers with the tenon side (that will be the top of the lid) at the tailstock end and create a tenon. Turn the piece around into the chuck and level the underside. Create a mortise on the underside that is barely larger than the closed exterior diameter of the chuck you will use. A mortise is a very good hold so the depth doesn't have to be more than about 1/8".

Now is the time to cut the diameter of the lid to fit into the bowl. It should fit the bowl with only a very small amount of wiggle room. Because the underside of the lid is exposed, it is easy to try the bowl against the lid to make sure it fits right.

Shape the underside of the lid. Leave enough wood in the center for the hole that will be drilled to support the knob. Sand and finish the underside of the lid. You won't have access to this side again.

Turn the lid around with the chuck jaws expanded into the mortise. If the jaws are completely closed and the mortise is only slightly larger than the chuck jaws there will not be any marks from the chuck left in the mortise when it is expanded.

Shape the top of the lid. Because you have a mortise on the underside of the lid you can take the lid off the chuck as often as you want to see how the lid shape works with the bowl.

After the lid shape is finalized, sand and finish the lid.

The knob can be made from leftover wood from cutting the blank or whatever you have that works well with the bowl and lid. If the bowl and lid are different woods, I like the knob to be made from the bowl wood. If you choose an interesting natural branch for the lid, it must be thick enough in the center to drill a hole to pin it to the lid. Some sort of separation between the lid and knob is necessary for good design. Use a bead or turn a small post. If you use a bead, be sure the hole is large enough for a piece of thin rod to be used as a peg. 1/8" or a bit smaller will be strong enough. Drill a careful hole in the center of the lid...know how thick your lid is in the center!

Cut the ends of the branch at an angle to show off the wood, sand the ends and finish them.

Drill a similar diameter hole in the branch and use the metal rod or a turned peg to connect the knob and lid with spacers between if those are being used.

I use 5 minute epoxy to hold the knob parts together and into the hole in the lid.

Accept compliments 😊