

Chuckie Wears Gloves

A Halloween Hack for Small Jaws

Late October, 2020

As the holiday season approaches, lots of turners are busy making small objects—ornaments, finials, toys, kitchen gadgets.

We're using our small chucks, and lots of these projects require multiple chuckings for both turning and finishing. And there is a big problem: Metal versus Wood usually means wood loses. I got tired of using gorilla tape (even though it's better than duct tape or blue tape) to protect delicate edges from cruel steel. Neoprene is too compressible to make a reliable grip on a small diameter spigot. Harder rubber, while really handy for larger diameter objects, is difficult to configure in tight spots.



Naked spigot chuck for small caliber work. Even with “smooth” jaws, you're going to get creases. It's a big hassle to make and mount jam chucks if you have 10 or 20 different projects going.

Also, you may want to protect your work in both gripping (compression) and expansion modes. Tape can be a nuisance, and it leaves goo on your work.

Solution? Leather cylinders.

You probably have the raw materials in a box somewhere because you couldn't bear to throw that old glove away, even if it had holes which allowed briars to get you.

Cut the fingers to match the protrusion of your chuck jaws.





Ready for service.

This cowhide glove was on the thick side, but worked great anyway. I think I'll get a tired old deerskin one for the next run.



Grip the tenon for an ornamental knob



Expansion fit to grip incurved bowl



Wee hollow form on the ways
Hate to scuff that delicate rim.



Mounted in non-marring fashion

Enjoy these shorter days. Consider buying some LED lights for your shop as a treat for the holidays.

Cheers,
Wells