**Turning a Spinning Top**

**Supplies Needed**
- 11/64” Drill Bit
- 2” x 1 3/4” Blank
- Spinning Top Mandrel
- Glue (Thick CA or Epoxy)
- Sandpaper/Finish
- Drill or Drill Press
- Eye and Ear Protection

**Wood Preparation**

*Hint: Select a wood that is dry, dense, and free of defects. This will help with the balance of the top.*

1. Choose a blank of hardwood 2” square x 1 3/4” long.
2. Mark the center on the top end of the blank. Drill a 11/64” hole about 7/8” deep.
3. Mount the mandrel in a drill chuck. Screw the blank onto the mandrel until it reaches the face of the mandrel. Bring the live center and tailstock up against the blank to support it while turning.
4. Rough turn the blank while supporting it with the live center. Finish turning, sanding, and finishing the top with the live center removed.

**Assembly**

Read the assembly instructions completely. Lay the parts out according to the drawing. This will help to familiarize yourself with the parts and how they will go together.

1. Slide the axle through the finger ring, passing through the large hole first.
2. Screw the axle assembly into the hole drilled in the blank. Stop when you have a 1/32” gap between the finger ring and the wood blank (see diagram 1). The finger ring must spin freely in order for the top to work properly.
3. Thread the string through the string hole in the axle. Tie a knot in both ends of the string and cut off any excess. Notice that the knot will seat in the larger hole drilled in the axle.

**Spinning the Top**

Wind the string around the axle, hold the finger ring between your thumb and index finger, and with a quick motion pull the string with the other hand. The string will rewind itself onto the axle. Now drop the top onto a hard surface. Pulling and dropping the top will take some practice. It happens very fast, so timing is very important. Be patient, with practice it will become easy. Place a small drop of light oil where the axle goes through the finger ring to reduce friction.