Flask

Find the center on the long axis of a 6 x 8 ½ x3 inch blank. Find the center of the top and center punch it. Find the center of the bottom of the blank and center punch it also. Transfer the center line from the top and bottom to the front face. Scribe a line so as to divide into two 3" sections, fig 1.

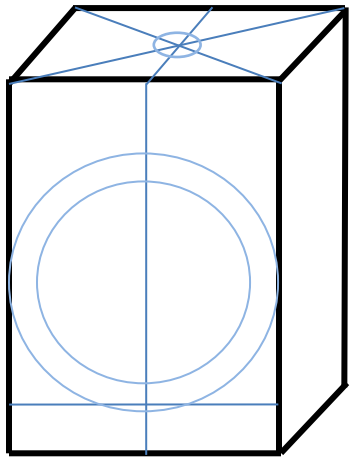

Fig. 1

Make sure the top and the bottom are both flat and square (all sides 90 degrees to adjacent sides). This is critical so as to get a perpendicular hole at the top of the part.

Drill a 5/8"Ø hole as deep as possible, minimum 4 ".

Scribe another line perpendicular to the first at 1" form the bottom edge.

Prick a point up 2¾" up from the second line, on the center line. (3¾" from the bottom edge)

Scribe 2 circles at this point. One being 6"Ø and the other 5"Ø. Darken the circles so they are in high contrast. The intersection of the 6" circle and the line on the bottom of the blank will be where the flat or bottom of the flask will be.

Draw your spigot shape, anything pleasing to **YOUR** eye. (This is only for reference and to focus your thought process) Remember to leave about a 3" wide section on the bottom of the part for a tennon.

Darken the 5" circle, the spigot, and the bottom of the blank with a marker.

On the bandsaw, cut away the excess wood. Fig. 2

Using a safety center at the head stock and a ball bearing center in the tailstock mount the blank in your lathe. (I like to use a large cone so as to trap the spinning piece better.) The ball bearing center goes in the hole drilled.

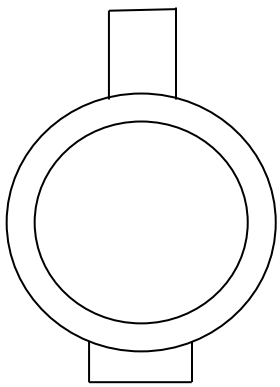

Fig. 2

Turn at a speed you are comfortable with. I prefer to turn at 2000 RPM for this part. Make a tennon to fit your chuck. Remount in your chuck.

Turn speed up to 2500 RPM and start cutting the body of the flask. Because you are cutting the 6" Ø circle away from the curve of the sides, you will see the 5"Ø circle as a reference. As the part is spinning you will see the circle you drew on the front face. Cut to this line. Cut the spigot to your desired shape.

Remove the tailstock and shape the inside of the spigot. Remove from lathe. At this point I drill a 2 1/8"Ø recess ¼ to 3/8" deep on one side of the flask at the center of the 5"Ø circle and remount on the chuck. For smaller flask, I have drilled a 1 ¼ in. hole. Once remounted, I put another recess in the other side. These are for mounting to the chuck, the medallions and for hollowing the flask (totally optional). I hollow till I break through to the 5/8" hole.

Sand and set aside.

Medallions

Using a 3x3x3" block, find the center on the face grain and mark with a center punch. Mount this in your lathe using your tailstock pressed up against the block at the center point and this in turn is pressed up to your scroll chuck. Cut a tennon and remount to your chuck. If you have spigot or pin jaws you can make the medallion smaller. Embellish as desired. Cut a tennon on the back to fit the recess on the flask and part off. Repeat for the other side.

Stopper

For the stopper, I use a wine stopper or make a stopper to fit the hole in the spigot. Remember, if it fits too tight, you may have trouble removing it.

Notes

This project can be made with just two lathe tools. I use a 5/8 bowl gouge and a parting tool. I don't think this is something you can make with carbide tools. Remember you are making interrupted cuts. You need to take light cuts and not rush the project.
You do not need to hollow. I like the extra mass to add weight so the piece doesn't tip when used as a vase.
Be safe. Wear a face shield, and keep body parts away from spinning parts.

Above all have Fun.

This is your art, anything you do will be fine.