

# WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

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## Classic Project

### In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

## Hourglass

**GIFT SHOP**

### HOURLASS



segments, place the compass point anywhere on the 4 in. diameter, transcribe a 2 in. radius arc, move the compass point over to where the arc intersects the circle, and transcribe a second arc. Repeat this until you've formed six petals. The point of every other petal is one of the three spindle center points. You can also get the center points by making just three arcs. Mark your first arc as we did, then mark an additional arc from each of the points where the first arc intersects the circle.

Drill the 1/2 in. diameter by 3/16 in. deep spindle tenon holes, located at each of the center points. Then drill the 1/2 in. diameter by 3/16 in. deep holes for the hourglass ends. The edge detail in the top and bottom is routed with a ball-bearing guided 3/16 in. radius round-over bit. Set the router bit to establish the 1/16 in. deep step.

We used the lathe to turn the spindles. Cut three turning blanks, each measuring 1/2 in. square by 10 in. long. Use our full-size spindle pattern to make a template to check your progress. To make the template, trace the pattern, then cut it out. Use the cutaway edge as a gauge to check your lathe work. We did all the turning work with the gouge, parting tool and skew. Don't forget to turn the 1/4 in. diameter by 1/4 in. long tenons on the spindle ends. Note that the tenons are not quite as long as the tenon hole depth. This prevents the tenons from bottoming out. Final sand the spindles while they're still on the lathe.

We finished the wooden parts of our hourglass with Minwax Colonial Maple stain, followed by two light coats of orange shellac, and a coat of Minwax Antique Oil finish. Take care not to get any of the finish on the tenons or in the tenon holes. A little masking tape around the tenons will protect them, and short lengths of 1/4 in. diameter dowel in the tenon holes will keep any finish out.

Assemble the spindles into the bottom, then add the hourglass and finally the top. Don't use too much glue in the spindle holes or you'll be spending time cleaning off the excess that squeezes out. Also, apply only light clamp pressure. The hourglass fits snugly into the holder, and too much clamp pressure could crack the glass.

**Q**uartz watches beat it hands-down for accuracy, and honestly now, how many times have you said to yourself "I wish I had an hourglass?" But place this hourglass on your desk or coffee table, and it's a safe bet that guests will inexplicably reach out and turn it over, and watch with curiosity as the sands of time run out. The hourglass is accurate to within about one minute.

The woodworking required for this project can be completed in an afternoon. It's a perfect scrap wood project for that special cutoff you've been saving. We used bird's-eye maple for the top and bottom (A), and cherry for the spindles (B). The hourglass (C) was ordered from Constantine's (see Bill of Materials for ordering information).

Make the top and bottom by cutting 5 1/2 in. diameter circles out of 1/2 in. thick bird's-eye maple. Lay out the circles with a compass, then use the bandsaw or saber saw to make the cut, staying just outside the line. Round to the line using the disk sander.

Next, again using the compass, mark a 4 in. diameter circle on the top and bottom, and divide the circle into 120-degree segments. As shown in the detail, in order to get the 120-degree

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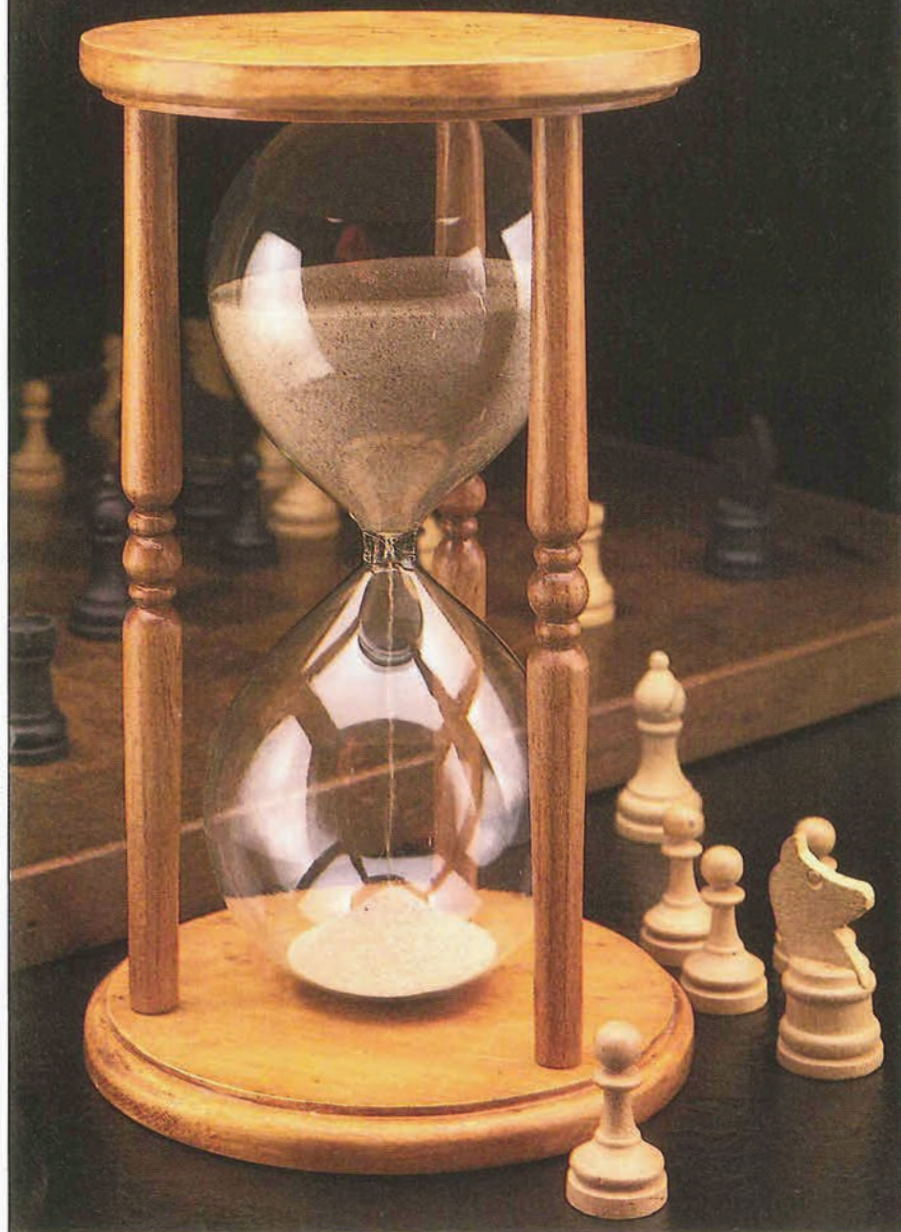
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## H O U R G L A S S



**Q**uartz watches beat it hands-down for accuracy, and honestly now, how many times have you said to yourself “I wish I had an hourglass?” But place this hourglass on your desk or coffee table, and it’s a safe bet that guests will inexplicably reach out and turn it over, and watch with curiosity as the sands of time run out. The hourglass is accurate to within about one minute.

The woodworking required for this project can be completed in an afternoon. It’s a perfect scrap wood project for that special cutoff you’ve been saving. We used bird’s-eye maple for

the top and bottom (A), and cherry for the spindles (B).

Make the top and bottom by cutting  $5\frac{1}{8}$  in. diameter circles out of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick bird’s-eye maple. Lay out the circles with a compass, then use the bandsaw or saber saw to make the cut, staying just outside the line. Round to the line using the disk sander.

Next, again using the compass, mark a 4 in. diameter circle on the top and bottom, and divide the circle into 120-degree segments. As shown in the detail, in order to get the 120-degree

segments, place the compass point anywhere on the 4 in. diameter, transcribe a 2 in. radius arc, move the compass point over to where the arc intersects the circle, and transcribe a second arc. Repeat this until you’ve formed six petals. The point of every other petal is one of the three spindle center points. You can also get the center points by making just three arcs. Mark your first arc as we did, then mark an additional arc from each of the points where the first arc intersects the circle.

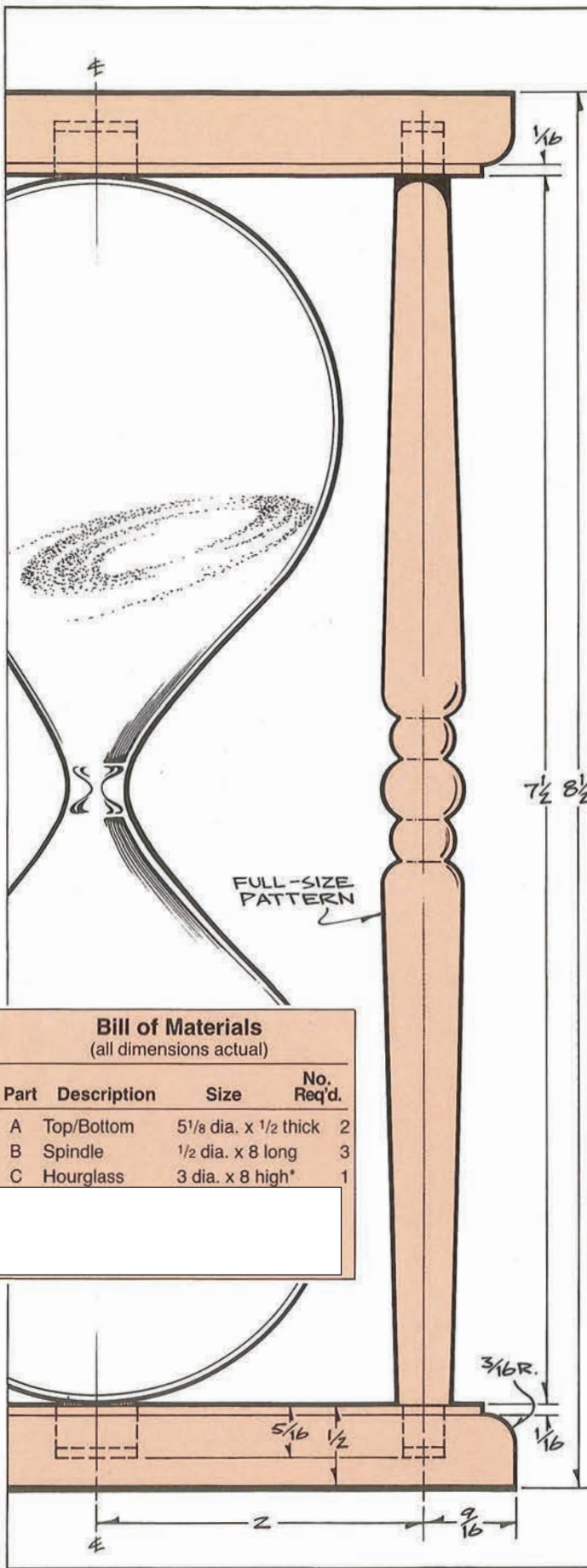
Drill the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. diameter by  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. deep spindle tenon holes, located at each of the center points. Then drill the  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter by  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. deep holes for the hourglass ends. The edge detail in the top and bottom is routed with a ball-bearing guided  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. radius round-over bit. Set the router bit to establish the  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. deep step.

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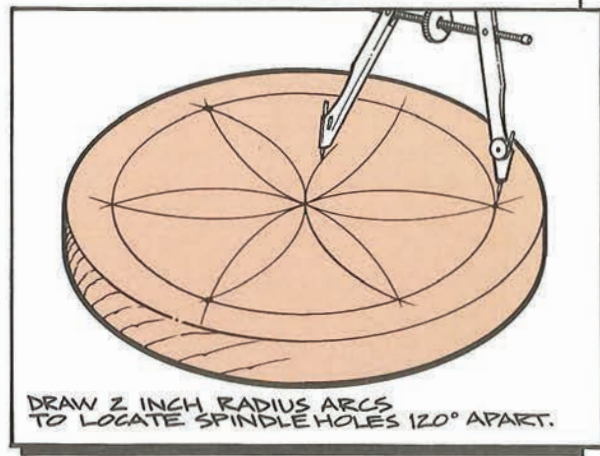
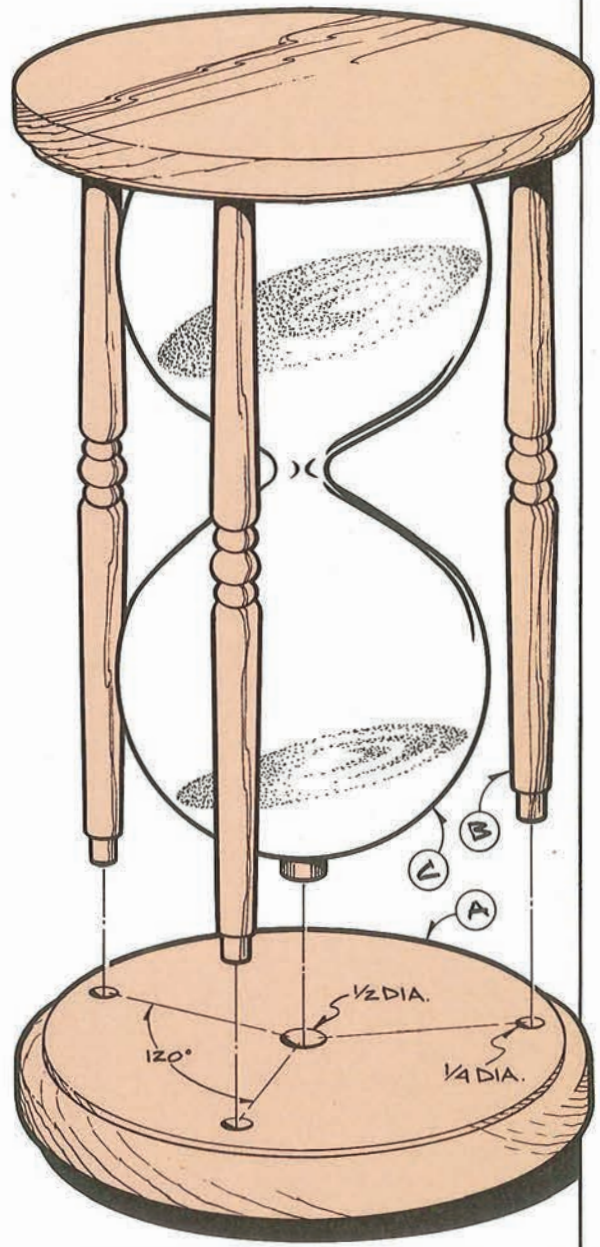
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**Bill of Materials**  
(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Top/Bottom	$5\frac{1}{8}$ dia. x $\frac{1}{2}$ thick	2
B	Spindle	$\frac{1}{2}$ dia. x 8 long	3
C	Hourglass	3 dia. x 8 high*	1



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Matt Becker  
Internet Production Coordinator