

JOHN LEONARD

The Twice Turned Bowl

From

A wet blank to a dry bowl

Resource List:

Videos:

Aesthetics & Properties of Wood – John Jordan – Discussion, session that will answer a lot of your questions about the properties of wood and how to use them to your advantage

Bowl Turning - John Jordan – An older video that is still relevant. Excellent close ups.

Turning Bowls Made Easy – Bill Grumbine - Excellent for beginning and intermediate turners.

From Tree to Table – Mike Mahoney – Nice presentation – includes as an alternative using the McNaughton coring system to remove the inside of the bowl. Mike is also left-handed.

Finishing Secrets – Russ Fairfield – Only presentation that I know of that is devoted to finishing turnings.

Articles:

AMERICAN WOODTURNER – Sp. 2006 – Twenty Ways not to Turn a Bowl – Nick Cook

How to lay out a bowl on a log

Look at the end of your log and mark the pith. Then look at the growth rings. There are probably some that are close together on one side of the pith and some that are further apart on the other side of the pith. Layout your bowls **centered on the pith** using the closer growth rings in one bowl and the wider ones in the other bowl.

Grumbine and Mahoney videos show how to chainsaw blanks from a log.

Use cardboard (plywood, hardboard, etc) templates to bandsaw blanks

Turning the outside of bowl

Mounting on the lathe:

1. Between centers – most flexible

2 Screw chuck - more secure (using tailstock also makes it even more secure) but “locks you in” – can strip out in soft wood

Glaser- screws directly on spindle – threads very sharp and hold well

Chuck screw – advantage is that chuck is already on lathe when ready to turn the inside

3. Faceplate – Most secure and use of tailstock makes it even more secure. Use steel screws such as sheet metal screws to attach. **Do not use drywall screws.**

Turning:

Use bowl (deep fluted) gouge (**Do not use Spindle Roughing Gouge**)

45/45/45 cut across bottom

Arching cut on edge

Rough out shape of bowl

Locate top and bottom

Decide how you are going to mount bowl to turn inside:

1. Chuck

2. Faceplate

3. Glue block

For chuck -cut tenon – make sure it is larger than the minimum size of chuck (3/8 inch larger) –

Make sure you leave a center mark on the tenon

Define width of bottom and mark a line with a pencil

Make a smooth curve from bottom width to top width by taking small bites

Mount blank to turn out the inside

Turning inside of bowl

Mount bowl using the method you have chosen to hold it

Measure bowl width and mark a line from the edge at 1/10 of diameter – that is our wall thickness

Set depth gauge for depth

Use bowl gouge to turn the inside

Turn to reach wall thickness and depth

Remove sharp edges

Remove from lathe

Record wood species, date turned and weight on blank and brown paper bag

Seal with Anchor seal (A.S.) – let A.S. dry and place in paper bag for 3 to 6 months

DRY BOWL BLANK

Bowl has dried for 3 to 6 months or until it stops losing weight, it has gone oval, the edge is humped, and the tenon is oval

Where do you start?

Use chuck as friction drive and mount bowl between chuck and tailstock using the center mark you left in the tenon to center. (Alternative – use vacuum chuck as friction drive, second alternative – use vacuum chuck) True up tenon and flatten the bottom of the bowl. Bottom is now wider than it should be so mark the width with a pencil and then blend edge to shape – go a short distance up the wall to give a truer place to start truing up bowl

Remount bowl using chuck, faceplate, or glue block

True up out side of bowl – you can sand now or later

True up the edge by first truing up top inch of inside of bowl then doing the edge. Shape the edge at this point.

Finish recutting the inside of bowl to desired wall thickness.

Sand and finish.

TENON REMOVAL

Using chuck – mount and true up a piece of wood to use as a friction drive. Cover end of wood with a soft material- use center mark on tenon to center bowl between chuck and tailstock

Using vacuum system – use center mark and tailstock to get bowl centered

Using Cole jaws – open jaws and insert bowl

Cut off tenon, shape bottom of bowl, sand and finish bottom

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