



LYLE JAMIESON

sculptor + instructor of turned objects

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“I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.” Author unknown

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FEEDBACK

CALENDAR

It has been nice to have some summer time at home and great to get some time with grandkids again. I am planning some foundations and advanced hands-on classes here in Traverse City, Michigan in September. If you are interested in a visit to my part of paradise and want to include a class give me a call or send me an email.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month: Reminder of 3 reach capabilities needed

I have had a number of students recently that asked about bulbous shapes and undercutting severe shoulders through small mouth openings. Some did not realize my hollowing system has 3 reach capabilities to reach into any shape you want to create. The boring bar is dual purpose with a hole in one end for the cutter assemblies to be put straight out the end of the boring bar. In the straight end there are two possibilities. The straight shaft swivel assembly is needed when you do simple shapes and especially when you need to get down in the bottom of a tall slender shape or a small footed shape. If you use a bent cutter assembly or bent/hook boring bar the bar gets in its own way and will rub the inside wall and make it impossible to cut in the middle of the bottom. So we need a straight cutter.

The second use for the straight end of the boring bar is to use my bent swivel assembly. This little bend has an amazing reach capability. It will not only let you turn through smaller holes than the straight one, but will undercut shoulders and reach most traditional bulbous shapes.

Most of you have seen and/or used these options. Some of you might be surprised that you have a third option available to you. On the other end of the boring bar I have a hole drilled on a 45 degree angle to accept the straight swivel assembly. Turn the boring bar end-for-end and put the straight cutter in on a 45 degree angle to the bar. This reach will allow you to reach radical vessel shapes that have a larger diameter than they are tall, and still get through relatively small mouth openings. I designed this end of the boring bar to mimic the same reach from the hook tools that was started by the Stewart tools. I used these for years and knew how versatile they were, so why reinvent the wheel. If you want to do squatty shapes or reach up under a severely undercut shoulder you need this kind of reach. With these three reach options you have the capability to do any shape you want to create on the outside and can be confident you can hollow it out and make the desired uniform wall thickness.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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CHUCK ADAPTERS

Lyle,

I am getting a new lathe and I was thinking about getting an adapter from 1"x 8 TPI to fit my 1 1/4" x 8 TPI chuck. The threads for the Delta are 1" x 8 TPI. My Vicmarc 100 chuck is 1 1/4"x 8 TPI.

Then I could still use 2 of my favorite chucks. What do you think?

Richard from Texas

Hi Richard,

I know Oneway chucks have an insert, I don't know about the Vicmarc. Look at the threads on the back. Are they threaded right into the chuck body? Or is there an insert that is removable? The insert is built into the chuck body. The adapter adds two threaded surfaces both male and female as weak points and the worst part is the adapter pushes your turning stresses away from the spindle and bearing support and results in vibration and weakness. Especially for a mini/midi lathe you don't want this.

I know the adapter is the worst case scenario for chucks, faceplate or anything you want to use to drive or support wood with. I have been forced to use them several times and they ALWAYS fail to do the job and result in significant obstacles and limitations.

JUMBO BAR SHOULDERING

Jumbo bar shouldering

Lyle,

Hollowing outfit & bowl gouge arrived in great shape. Been going over instructions and putting it all together.

I have only one question (so far)...When the Jumbo Bar is mated with the "D-Handle" is the bar supposed to slide into the D-Handle so that the shoulders of each meet? Photo attached shows the bar bottomed out in the handle but the shoulders don't meet. Thanks, James



Hi James, from Washington

Good question, I like the fact that you are looking at this kind of detail. The tendon on the Jumbo bar is always longer than the hole remaining in the handle. Just push the boring bars into the handle as far as they will go and grind the flat spots for the set screws. They will not shoulder.

VIBRATION PROBLEMS

Lyle:

Thanks for your reply.

I do have vibration. The failure may be my fault. Let's see how the replacement does. I will call you regarding the vibration.

Thank you, Tom from California

Hi Tom,

Take a look at the articles about hollowing on my web site and look at the DVD again and see if you can spot any adjustments that will eliminate the vibration. It's not fun and something very bad can happen if you force it past the vibration point. You should hear a hissing sound and the cut will be effortless.

INDEXING SCALES

Lyle,

Do you have any information on making my own indexing scale?

Thanks, Lou from California

Hi Lou,

I have not had a use for an indexing scale. I have hand carved and put patterns around pieces many times but always "wing it" without exact indexing. It has been good enough for my needs and manual spacing can be surprisingly uniform in the overview. I used a strip of paper the same length as the diameter of the piece to be indexed and divided the paper strip into the number I needed. Then I used a pencil mark on the vessel to keep the stages uniform, if you are doing segmented patterns than the accuracy would be needed.

It would be relatively easy to put a disk on the hand wheel with holes in it and hold a pin or dowel on the headstock to be pretty accurate. I don't have plans but have seen home built indexing rigs. Ask on a forum/chat room like Woodturning Online or Wood Central and I'm sure a plan would be available.

GLUE BLOCK MATERIAL

Lyle,

Thanks for the information on my indexing query.

Have another one, what is a good wood for glue blocks?

Have tried popular, pines and a few others and think there must be a wood I haven't used that would be better.

Thanks in advance for you input.

Lou from California

Hi Lou,

The best wood for glue blocks is hard maple, the tighter the grain and the harder the wood the better. Any wood will work but some deteriorate faster than others. The harder and tighter grained woods will last a lot longer. You can get 20-30 bowls before they need replacing.

FINISHING AND CENTERING THE OUTSIDE BOTTOM OF HOLLOW FORMS.

Hi Lyle,

I've watched your hollowing DVD a few times now, and have a question regarding the finishing of the bottom on piece you demonstrated. It appeared you used the tailstock live center in the dimple made when you first turned between centers. When I try that, I find the piece off center and wobbling because when I attach the faceplate, it's not exactly on center. How do you deal with this?

Many thanks, Ron location unknown

Hi Ron,

Great question! Yes, I do not spend time or energy centering the faceplate, so the tailstock will never line up the piece in the old center point dimple left from starting between centers. When reversing, it will usually not be running true for another reason, it has usually dried and warped out of round and will wobble from drying too.

I always adjust the axis to reverse turn by putting my finger on the tool rest close to the bottom on the outside and spin the wood by hand to find the high spot(s). Shift the tailstock point with the cone so it will run as true as possible. Now go up and put your finger near the top of the vessel and check the wobble at the top and adjust the top to run as true as possible. (I usually use a "donut" type friction

drive to hold the top of the piece. The donut allows me to move the axis slightly if necessary.) This will only take a minute once you get the hang of it.

I have usually already carved the tendon off, where the live center was, before I put the faceplate on. If the cone slips into the hole from the drive center and it is not running true, it might be necessary to carve a slight notch or flat area to smooth out the center of the bottom that allows you to position the cone where it needs to be to run true.

Now even with all this centered up as best as you can, it will never run perfectly true. When I do the outside shape I always finish the sidewall completely so when I reverse it I only need to turn the bottom. I do not try to go back to refine the outside shape...never! If the side wall is wobbling it will be of no consequence.

FEEDBACK

Hi Lyle,

My name is Jim, I'm the retired Massachusetts Trooper who bought a hollowing rig from you at the Pinkerton Academy demo in NH this past spring. To further remind you, we have received the wrong DVD (Basic Bowl Turning) and you sent the proper one and told me to keep the double set you had given me. Let me say this, I think they are both Excellent and will recommend the Basic Bowl turning to anyone from beginners to experienced turners. If you remember I was a newer turner with a vast amount of experience in furniture manufacture. Anyway, I told you I would send you a picture of my first vessel and here it is. It is black cherry crotch finished with Tung oil.

Also I had purchased your hollowing rig for my Powermatic #3620B. I was asked to do a demonstration at my club with your hollowing rig. Our club only has a few Delta 46-460 mini lathes I was perplexed with a problem, the center was too high on the assembly I bought and the smaller center on the Delta with respect to the rear rest. I drew up this solution and my son Jeremy fabricated, welded and powder coated it.

Let me know what you think about the first vessel Ever and the rear rest we made.

Be safe and happy, Jim from Massachusetts



Hi Jim,

You have made my day. Thanks for the feedback and photos, very nice job on the vessel. I wish my first vessel looked half that good. Nice shape, nice detail on the mouth opening, nice use of materials. You nailed it!

The back rest was well done too. The only thing I would do differently is to weld the square tubing on top of the plates. You want to have freedom to move it in and out and pivot it sideways and I'm afraid the tubing might restrict its movement.

Thanks again for sharing your photos. And thank you for your service to your community and your country.

Lyle,

I have your hollowing system and I asked you a couple of questions by e-mail. I can't express how good it was to be able to talk to you and get questions answered so quickly. I got a better understanding of the system and it has been happy hollowing since.

Ellis, from Idaho

Lyle,

The set-up took about 20 minutes, just like you said.

Works slicker than snot on a doorknob and thanks for the extra video. I'll have a look, have not watched many, one that someone loaned me, and one that came with the McNaughton coring rig.

Randy from Nebraska

CALENDAR

Check out my website calendar for more specifics.
(<http://www.lylejamieson.com/information/calendar.asp>)

August, 2012 – Chicago, Texas

September, 2012 – Virginia

November, 2012 – Wisconsin

January, 2013 – Tennessee & North Carolina

January & February, 2013 – Florida