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THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:
1.) You believe in Santa Claus.
2.) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3.) You are Santa Claus.
4.) You look like Santa Claus

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Merry Christmas! I hope you all enjoy the Christmas season with family and friends and get a little extra turning time too.
For the folks on the East Coast, I have been chosen to be a featured demonstrator at Totally Turning Symposium in New York with 6 demonstrations over March 23-24, 2013. I have also just agreed to do a 5 day woodturning class for all skill levels July 12-16, 2013, at Peters Valley Craft Center. Only room for 8 students so sign up early at www.petersvalley.org
There are many questions in the Q&A section this month and some great and very important topics covered, perhaps lengthy but worth the read. Check out the first Q&A I talk about the benefits of taking multiple classes.

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FEEDBACK
CALENDAR

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month: Turning a burl

If you are a woodturner for any length of time you have, or had, or will have, a burl cross your path. That's the good news, but many have the bad news crop up in the stress of "What Now"? We get so fearful we might screw it up, that we don't do anything with it. Over the years we look at it, in wonder, as it self-destructs before our eyes. It will both check and crack, or rot over time.

If you have control of the harvest, do not cut the "cap" off the burl. The burl grows with the color and grain deep into the tree most of the time and if you cut the cap off you leave a considerable amount of the burl behind on the tree. Cut the tree with intentional waste wood on each side of the burl. Knowing if we want to store it for a while it will dry out in the tree waste wood and the cracks can be trimmed back to have fresh wood near the burl that is not cracking.

Take a look at the burl and see what we have. Is the burl like a wart sticking out of one side of the tree or is the burl wrapping all the way around the tree, or part way around? Let's talk about the burl that is only on one side of the tree. If you have the other kind of burl you need to take a chain saw cut to make it look like a one sided wart burl.

Here is the place I think where the stress and fear comes in. Not so much in turning the burl but making that first chainsaw cut. There are many times when there is no right or wrong cut. We just have to make an educated guess and plunge in with both feet. The first chainsaw cut will give us information hidden in the burl. Where is the grain, where is the color, where are the rotten parts, where is the waste? How deep is the burl character going into the tree? When we have a wart type burl, the first cut should get rid of the tree on the opposite side of the burl. Cut down the pith with the burl on one side of the chainsaw kerf and the tree on the other. Then cut the extra wood on each end of the burl so all that is left is the burl. It should be the general shape of a sphere or a cube the size of the burl now.

The next decision to make is the scale of the work you want to do. Will the whole burl fit on the lathe? Do you want to turn something that big? If not, cut it in half or quarters. Or cut it in 1/3-2/3 sections. Whatever.....just make a cut. We have to fight the frugal gene, we all have one. It might be more spectacular to make a smaller vessel with good grain and color by wasting away some wood. We need to resist the overwhelming urge to make a 10 inch bowl from a 10 inch tree.

The cut will expose the inside of the burl and give you information for the next cut, and the next cut. Ideally, when you get done you have wood that is bigger than bottle stoppers.

Let me try to give you some tips in tackling a burl. First, we need to narrow down some of the endless options. Does the burl dictate what will get turned? Not in my shop, I think even a beginner's instinct are better than a tree. So make some decisions before we even start. What is your skill level? What are you good at, bowls or hollow forms? What do you enjoy, where is the fun? Let's pick one and plan to go with it.

Now that wasn't so hard...was it? The next step is to decide the axis. Is the top facing the bark or is the top facing the pith? There is usually a color pattern or grain direction to burls. If your chainsaw work exposed the grain it is easier to make this decision. So now that we know which end is "up", we can go to the lathe.

Did I say yet, the more planning we do the luckier we get? In our planning we need to visualize what will be wasted in the turning process. Will the shape of my turning take the wall through the best color and pattern of the burl or will my turning put the best parts of the burl on the floor as shavings?

Put the piece on the lathe between centers and align it so the top is up, and the circumference of the burl is tilted to be level/straight, and the cap is either parallel or perpendicular to the bed and on the balance point of weight so we can get the lathe speed up. Here is where it is important to use my methods of chucking and holding the wood safely and securely. Clean up the center points with a hand chisel so you are grabbing between centers on solid wood, not bark. I use a laser and "point" at the burl to see where the top edge of the vessel will be as I rotate the blank by hand on the lathe. The laser can get you a head start on position and show you where a cut with the tool will be over a rough surface. The laser can help establish the outside surface too, by pointing it at the outside circumference as you rotate the blank by hand. We have to decide if there is too much wood on one side and too much air on the other side, then move the blank to a new set of centers until you have it fairly balanced to the shape and balance to the weight. This is only a starting point not the final axis. There have been burls that I have had on 8-10 different axis's as I rough it out before I get it to its final axis for turning.

Now take a few cuts and cut the corners off a bit and start the roughing process. Stop and look often! Sneak up on the shape knowing you will move it as you go. At this early turning stage, my goal is to give me information. As the wood comes into round and the weight stabilizes I can move it incrementally to the shape I ultimately want. Once you find the perfect axis where the grain, color and shape will be possible, then you make the flat concavity for the faceplate. Once on the faceplate, then we do the final shaping and finish the surface both top and bottom, outside and inside. Do not do any final shaping between centers.

Go For it! It is the first chainsaw cut that is the hardest. After that, you have more and more information to make the necessary decisions to get something really extraordinary from your planning.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TAKE ANOTHER CLASS WITH ME

Hi Lyle,
I appreciate you getting back to me so quickly. Thanks for the taking care of the laser question. Also, you've raised my curiosity about "kicking it up a notch"! How would that make me more effective with the hollowing process?
Sheldon from Michigan

Hi Sheldon,
In a follow-up class whether it is the second, third, or whatever, I trouble shoot your process, fine tuning your skills. Very subtle things make a huge difference in the enjoyment you can get from turning. It's all about removing obstacles, opening up possibilities both in your lathe techniques and your planning and direction you go with the lathe. I will follow what pleases you and help you take it to the next level. Once all the foundation elements are in place, at future classes, we can explore the artsy side of turning. I recently worked with a student for three days and we never even turned the lathe on. We concentrated on carving methods because of his desire to do wood sculptural pieces.

UPGRADING CUTTER HOLDER

Lyle,
Do you think the tool holder for 3/16 inch bits which has a 1/2 inch shank Packard sells is worth the upgrade?
Thanks, Ray location unknown

Hi Ray,
I am not sure what you want to accomplish. Please call me so we can chat about your goals and how to solve them. I need to know what tools you have now and what you want in an effort to "upgrade". If you do not have my bent swivel holder, that would be a good addition to my bar. My system has the best cutter capabilities for the ¾ inch diameter boring bar. You can do any shape vessel imaginable with it. If you are looking to adapt my bar for specialty pieces like Christmas ornaments I'll share with you how I do it. There are many options, give me a call or be more specific with your question.

GRINDING FLATS AND SET-UP NEEDS FOR NEW SYSTEM

Greetings Lyle,
I finally gained clearance to unwrap and use the unit I purchased from you at the Symposium. I had the dominant shoulder replaced shortly before the unit arrived so it sat in my studio until recently.

The unit shows great promise, however, I was a bit surprised that you asked us to finish the manufacturing phase. I would have expected that grinding of flat spots and removing paint would have been accomplished before shipping. I see no advantage for us to do this, only to expose us to potential to error. I understand that it probably reduces the manufacturing costs. Am I missing something here? Unfortunately I've had to forewarn fellow turners that they have some work to do if they decide to purchase your unit.
Have a good Holiday, Dave from California

Hi Dave,
Glad to hear you have recovered and are back at the lathe. I'm a little at a loss, I don't know where you live or what Symposium you were at. I do symposiums all over the country. I'm a little shocked too because I don't get complaints. I apologize if I screwed up, but I always point out the fact that there is set-up "work" to do that takes up to a half hour, as I wrap up tools for people at shows. If I didn't share that fact with you I am sorry. I have a complete satisfaction guaranteed policy. If you are not happy I'd be glad to have you return the system for a complete refund.
I started this back in 1996 and made a marketing decision at that time, to keep the cost down. I use a local welder and one at a time machining method to manufacture the parts. These are not done on CNC machines by the millions. These parts are done 300 to 500 at a time locally. Made in USA is also important to me. As you can see, I am not into glitz and polish, I'm into function. I want it to work correctly not necessarily look pretty. I only started to paint some of the pieces recently to help people with the rust issue in certain parts of the country. I use Home Depot spray cans, and my shop floor is all green now.
If I were to have the welding and machining I do now, done accurately enough to be "turnkey" when you got it home, the cost was $100.00 more in 1996. Likely it is much more than that at today's production costs. I wanted more people to be able to turn the easy and fun way, rather than have a high price that limited my marketplace. As my sales increased and I got price breaks from increased numbers, I passed my savings on, in the form of more for your money. I've added more items to the packages on my web site. The packages I offer now have more included and I have not raised my prices since 1996, plus the sales prices I give at the symposiums are much below any catalog prices. Not only is my system the best on the market it is also the cheapest. I want to keep it that way, so I ask buyers to put some set-up time into the project. I always "forewarn" all buyers of the set-up needed. Again, I am sorry if I didn't give this information to you at the show.
There is also another method to my madness. I want to ensure my system owners know why and how to set it up, so they will keep it that way. Over the years, with normal use, things can get out of wack. Just taking it apart for travel or in normal use and sharpening, the flat spots and position of the components can get off enough to affect its function. I hope the set-up process is an educational tool for you to keep the system working correctly down the road. I see

many home built systems that did not have the benefit of my installation instructions that the makers struggle with, because the set-up is not done correctly.

HOME BUILT SYSTEM, BACK REST SIZE

Hi Mr. Jamieson,
I am interested in making my own captive hollowing system. I have one question. On the "Captive" part of the system (the 2 rods that the tool slides across and in) how wide would you make it? My lathe is a Jet 1642evs. I have never used one of these but enjoying making my own stuff...I will probably have to get some things from you. The 38" is for the "D" handle and the boring bar.
Thanks, Mike location Unknown

Hi Mike,
There's lots of satisfaction from making your own tools. My system is a good model to copy. Pay attention to details. There are sound reasons I designed the system the way I have. A resource for you would be my DVD on hollowing, to see how it is used, which will help you get it set up correctly. Also, see my installation instructions, as if you purchased my system. I also have newsletter publication that I have covered all aspects of turning.
Let's start by defining or naming the components. You will need a boring bar, really a number of boring bars unless you can do the kind of machining to copy mine. To get into a variety of hollow form shapes you will need several "reach" capabilities. The boring bar needs to hold the cutter assembly. I think the best way to go is with a swiveling head, to allow an infinite range of movement...again to do any shape you want. The "D" shaped handle holds the boring bar and stabilizes the system so you can't get a catch and there are no torque forces to deal with. The handle is held in place with a back rest. (While I'm thinking about it....your Jet stock tool rest will not allow you to cut on the centerline inside the hollow forms. You will need to use any other tool rest then the Jet, that is one reason I started making tool rests, because of Jet Lathes.)
The back rest needs to be long enough to undercut shoulders and reach any shape you want. The one I sell is 32 inches long. The post is off center with ten inches in front of the lathe and 22 inches behind the lathe bed. I recommend the longer backrest for full size lathes that will be doing larger hollow forms so with your lathe, the 32" is long enough. The 38 inch will just get in the way, and will not be needed unless you upgrade to a 24 inch swing lathe. If you plan to make the backrest out of wood, I recommend that you put a strip of metal on it so the handle slides metal on metal. The drag and loss of tool control in significant with the rubbing on wood.
Make sure you plan to make the laser system too. If I was this 20 something year old stud and didn't care about beating up my body hand hollowing, I would have my system just because of the laser. It makes hollowing fun, and easy, and fast.
I'd be glad to help you get it going. Don't hesitate to call or email me. Merry Christmas!

WHY ARE THE HOLES IN THE BORING BARS OFF CENTER

Lyle,
On the straight end of the boring bar I notice the hole is not center in the bar, is this supposed to be that way and if so which side would go up?
Jim from Oregon

Hi Jim,
I have done many things in the design of this tool system to make it work and work better than other tools. Most of my improvements would go unnoticed, so this was very observant on your part. Only a few people have asked me that question. Your question leads me to believe you have not read or followed the installation instructions. There are many things that are necessary to do, to get the system set up correctly and very important reasons for you to pay attention to details. If you missed this you might have missed some other even more critical instructions. Please go back through the installation instructions point-by-point and make sure you have everything set up correctly.

The hole is not in the middle to allow accessibility into small mouth openings. It lowers the cutting edge, closer to the centerline of the boring bar. It is more noticeable on the Jumbo bar. The ¾ inch diameter does not give me much material to adjust with. My instructions say to put the set screw on top. This puts the cutting edge as low as possible. This is important when you start doing hollowing into small mouth openings.

THE BORING BAR VIBRATES LOOSE

The only problem I've encountered to date has been loosening of the hex where the bar joins the handle while encountering vibration during the turning of a piece that had imperfections like included bark or voids. Any suggestions?
Dave from California

Hi Dave,
The boring bar coming loose is an indication that you are not in the middle of the flat spot when you try to tighten it. Please go back over the directions on the set-up sheets I provided and it has instructions to get the bar in the handle correctly, and the flats in the right place. “The devil is in the details.” It should not vibrate loose. Voids and bark inclusions will not be an issue if you follow my methods and turn fast and without a chuck etc.
You should not be turning with much vibration. That’s a no-no with me. You need to find out what is causing the vibration and stop it, not try to live with it or put a band aid on the cause. I have written often about vibration in my newsletter. This is what I wrote in January 2010:
“Vibration is a no-no, we can’t go there. When we get vibration, we need to stop and fix it. When we get vibration, nothing good can happen, it will always get worse, and something very bad can be the

end result. Vibration can be caused in three different ways. First, the method of holding the wood can fail. Here is where I would never use a chuck. The chuck is not what fails, but it is the fact we are grabbing a sponge. The wood compresses and fails to transfer the power and stability of the lathe to the wood. Use a strong faceplate with many screws for a better grip of the wood, reducing the vibration tendencies. Second, the wood can flex and vibrate under the stresses of the cuts. Here we learn to work in stages so we have lots of waste wood at the bottom of the vessel to support the cut way out at the mouth opening. Visualize, we are turning a goblet 12 inches tall and three inches in diameter. Can I grip a 3"x3"x12" piece of wood in any fashion and hollow out the goblet without vibration? Impossible! So I need to start with a larger piece of wood and have support for the hollowing cuts and work my way back to the foot gradually. All the time we need waste wood supporting the wood and preventing vibration. Is it OK to waste a little wood here? We have to fight our frugal gene here, it's only firewood. The last resort for me would be to use a steady rest. They are a nightmare to use and get in the way and often dictate the shape...not a good plan. The third way vibration happens is extending too far into the vessel with too large of an overhang over the tool rest. In this case the boring bar just plain starts to bend and flex and vibrate. There are many variables that exacerbate the vibration: tool control, green wood vs. dry wood, porous wood vs. tight grain wood, and how sharp the tools are. The way to stop the boring bar from vibrating would be to take light, more efficient cuts or use a larger diameter boring bar. Just because the boring bar is 20 inches long does not mean you can turn a 20-inch deep vessel. White knuckling and gritting your teeth to force your way deeper can get you in big trouble. It's not safe to hollow with vibration. The sound of the cut should be a hissing sound, nothing more."
I also spend time on vibration in my newest hollowing DVD.
If this does not help, give me a call and we can trouble shoot the issue.

HOW TO TURN ICE

Hi Lyle,
Have you ever turned ice on a lathe before and if so how did you mount it, crazy blind man asking? Also take a look at porch parts that I just did, they are on my site hope all is well with you and have a nice Holiday.
Cordially, George from Minnesota www.gmwurtzel.com

(I left his web site in his question, in case you want to take a look. George is an amazing turner. Totally blind he teaches others to turn and does spectacular work himself.)

Hi George,
Nice to hear from you! Thanks for sharing your web site with me. You have a wide variety of really nice work.
I have not turned or seen ice turned. I suppose it can be done. I've turned a potato before. I Googled it and found a machine developed

to turn ice pillars. It looks like they drilled a hole and put a steel rod about 6 inches long into the ice for support, and turn it between centers. The ice turning machine I found is like a copy lathe with the cutter on a programmed X-Y slide above the ice. This would work better than human hand held tools where you are sliding around on an icy floor.
Water and electricity don't mix well, so be careful. It would make a big mess, slippery floor etc. How to hold the ice on the lathe would be a challenge. My first thought would be to try to do it all between centers and use a friction drive between two wood waste blocks. Keep the lathe, tools and room below zero.

CHRISTMAS ORNIMENT HOLLOWING

Say Lyle,
I have a quick question. I am planning turning some small, hollow Christmas ornaments.   Would the Hunter # 3 3/8" swan neck and straight cutters be a good choices to get the job done? Will the swan neck tool have enough angle to undercut the top?   Do you have any other suggestions or comments?
Greg location unknown

Hi Greg,
I do my Christmas ornaments with my boring bar system, captured with the laser to help. I can hollow out an ornament in 41 seconds. I use a 5/8" bar with a straight and angled cutter glued in the end. I use a Hosaluk adapter to use the smaller boring bar in my ¾ inch handle.
The Hunter tools are great for hand hollowing. Mike has a set of three mini hollowers with #1 cutters that are designed for that size work and will reach a variety of shapes. I don't remember what he calls them. I prefer the #1 tools, the #3 tools are too big and aggressive for little things. I even use the #1 for big things, it cuts more efficiently.

WHAT KIND OF WOOD DO YOU USE FOR GLUE BLOCKS

What kind of wood do you use for glue blocks?
Nathan location unknown

Hi Nathan,
Any wood will do but the harder the wood the better. Hard maple is really good. The finer the grain the better, so maple will be better then oak. If you use porous soft wood the glue block will get damaged when you take it off the bowl blank. A good hard glue block will last 20-30 bowls before you will need to be replaced it on the faceplate. In fact, I don't usually replace it. When I hit the screws cleaning off the glue, I glue a new 3/4 piece of maple board on the old glue block. That way I don't have to mess with screws and drill holes.

STRIPPED BOLT IN SWIVEL ASSEMBLY

Lyle,

I purchased your hollow turning setup in Eau Claire, WI, 1 ½ weeks ago, I haven't had much time to play yet (darn job takes up too much time) however, when I was setting the system up, I noticed that one of the 5/16" locking screws was stripped. A trip to the hardware store for a 1/8" longer bolt fixed the problem. You may want to consider supplying the tool with a slightly longer bolt for more thread engagement. Just a thought☺
Thank You for making a great system!!!
Mike from Wisconsin

Hi Mike,
I have only had a couple of these little bolts fail. I think it is a matter of the manufacturer of the shaft part, where he counter sinks the thread hole too deeply, and takes out a couple rounds of threads. This leaves a weakness with too few threads left to hold correctly. Yes, your solution would work and I have tried it for a while but the sizes of the bolts available are a problem. They are either too short or too long and they stick out the bottom of the swivel shaft and become an obstacle when you are trying to hollow into a very small mouth opening. Ideally, I could use a longer bolt and grind each one off manually, but I don't really want to do that for hundreds of bolts. Thanks for fixing the problem and pointing it out to me.

ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE THE COPPLING FOR HOME BUILT BARS

Lyle,
This is for John from Virginia who wrote in last month. I really enjoy making my own tools and made one of your hollowing systems. Not as nice as yours Lyle but it works. As far as the connector goes I used a large threaded rod connector and welded it to the captive bar end. I had to grind out the threads of the connector first to fit the 3/4 inch bars. I also drilled & tapped 2 holes for set screws to hold the boring bar.
Richard location unknown

Thanks Richard

DISABLED VETS ABILITY TO DO HOLLOWING

Aloha Lyle,
I have a couple of questions, and I hope you don't mind.
How easy is it with your system?
I'm a disabled veteran (with serious back issues), but I've been studying various methods and have come to the conclusion that your system would be the way to go because I don't want to be fighting the tool to get it to go deep. I can only stand for about 20 min's at a time.
How deep can it go?
I know the basic system says three depths, but it doesn't specify.
How much does it cost to ship to Hawaii (96792)?
My boss (wife) gave me permission to order one, after 10 months of seeing which would be the best system for me to use.

It'll be used on a Rikon Mini 70-100, with extension so the bed length is 40".
Aloha and Mahalo, Randy from Hawaii

Hi Randy,
First, thank you for your service to our country and for the continued sacrifices you and your family make. I am not saying that just because it is Veterans Day but appreciate you every day, mahalo.
Hollowing is as easy as it gets. If you can turn the outside of a bowl or vessel you can hollow the inside, it actually only takes fingertip control with my system. There is no strength or stamina needed. It is a finesse thing not a strength thing. You put the palm of your hand on the tool rest and use your fingertips to hollow with. You only need one hand, seriously!
The back rest weighs about 13 pounds and is clumsy to put on and off the lathe because it is 32 inches long. The boring bar and handle attached is about 40 inches long and I leave the laser system connected and hang it on the wall on a nail. It weighs about 10 pounds.
There is no need to stand to do the hollowing. I have lots of people using my system that have had strokes or other physical limitations and they have told me it is a God send. They report that it has changed their lives and they can now do things that would be otherwise impossible. Some of my students turn from a seated position by lowering the lathe or using a stool to sit on to hollow. I wish you were here in Michigan so I could help you with some classes, maybe it would be a good excuse to visit Hawaii.
The limit of how deep you go will be dictated by your lathe. The mini lathes do not have the bearings or spindle size to do big things without vibration. And that's OK, because you don't need to be lifting heavy chunks of wood. Usually the lathe will only handle 6 or 7 inch tall hollow form vessels without vibration but the basic boring bar will go a lot bigger than that. No need for the jumbo bar. You can have a ton of fun doing shapes in that scale. In fact, it is more fun to do smaller turnings and put in more detail and take care of business. Doing large pieces is not as much fun, they take a lot longer to turn, and it is hard to do the sweet shapes on a larger scale. The three reach configurations refer to the shapes you can reach, straight, little bend, and big bend. This allows you to get into small mouth openings and undercut shoulders if you want to.
Do what my commanding officer suggests, "A happy wife equals a happy life". The shipping is normally about $100.00 to Hawaii. But let me say thanks, it will be my honor to pay the shipping for you. Give me a call or order from email so you do not get charged shipping, don't order through the web site store. Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

TAILSTOCK EXTENSION

Lyle,
I just read your latest newsletter, Bob in Michigan had tool rest

issues caused by the tailstock. I bought a tailstock extension for my lathe from Enco this would move the tailstock back 3-4" depending on what he buys. I deploy to Afghanistan DEC 2. I also plan to buy a new robust sweet 16 when I return.
Ed at Ft Hood, Texas

Hi Ed,
Nice to hear from you! All the gratitude from all the tributes given to vets are going to you and to others like you on Veterans Day. I also thank you for your service. Stay safe my friend.
I have not seen that extension before, thanks for pointing it out. It would help for small things. I don't like to stick the tailstock quill out too far from its support. It tends to wobble a bit when you have heavy wood on or a multi axis off balanced piece on. The extension would be a weak link to the grip and strength and stability of the tailstock. Use it only when necessary and with caution. I use my tailstock for starting and ending each piece I do, so it is important to have strength, stability, and accuracy of that support.

BOWL GOUGE USE ON THE INSIDE OF BOWLS

Hello Lyle,
I have your "Bowl Basics" video and have found it very helpful but I would appreciate an answer to several things that don't seem clear to me.
(1)When hollowing the bowl, is the flute horizontal across the cut, or at what angle is it? (2) Does the tip move straight across, or through an arc and why? (3) When starting on the rim, how do you stop a skate-back? I ruined a rim but entered the same way as on the other "bites"
Thanks for whatever time you give to these questions.
Charles location unknown

Hi Charles,
I can see how this can be rather confusing. Many instructors teach the maneuvers you describe, so while you are looking at my DVD it is natural to compare it to what you are doing, or what others have told you to do. All the gyrations are not needed as long as you follow my process. The movements you describe are a result of the teacher putting a Band-Aid on a problem they encountered. The fix then creates more problems. Please go back to the October Newsletter on my web site. I talk about the reasoning behind my process, and the need to use it all, not pick parts, that leaves holes to fix.
Remember the explanation in the DVD about the "pencil trick"?
There is a sweet spot we always use to insure we get the cleanest cut and the easiest cut possible. So the flute on the push cut is always pointing in the direction we travel across the tool rest and the twist of the flute is on a 45 degree angel never pointing straight up, never pointing right at the wood surface...halfway in between at 45 degrees.

The handle movement on my cuts is one dimensional. You only swing the handle to allow the bevel to direct the cut in the direction you want to go. There is no need or want to rise or lower the handle or twist your wrist to twist the flute off the 45 degree sweet spot. The tip of the tool can make a straight line by not swinging the handle and the curved surface of a bowl is done by swinging the handle to direct the bevel first down the side of the bowl then across the bottom. The main rule is to have the bevel support all the time when doing the push cut. Without the bevel support you end up white knuckling the shape and getting catches.
The startup cut at the rim has no skating if done correctly. This is a result of having the grind correct on my bowl gouge. If you are using some other bowl gouge or the grind is different than mine then there could be an issue with skating. Again, I go back to my message to make sure all the ducks are in a row with my methods. Every piece of the puzzle is interlocked with the rest of the turning process. A second reason for a skate or catch at the rim might be turning too thin without support. The wood flexes away from the cut and bounces back to initiate a catch. We must do the bowl in stages to get it thin, and keep support wood behind the cut.
This is very hard to describe in text. Please go back to the DVD again and now that you have an overview of my process, slow down and think through each step along the way. Is it different than your existing method? Make the changes necessary. Do a few bowls and go back to the DVD and fine tune the process again with more steps added to your method. Skip over the menu to view the rules for the cuts several times and the techniques as you get some practice time on whatever specific method you are practicing. The result of your attention to the details will mean, you will never get a catch, the cuts will be easy on your body, easy on the wood, easy on the lathe, torn out grain will be gone and you will need less sanding.

FEEDBACK

Lyle,
I'm a big believer in your system. If I ever get around to expanding my shop, your system is one of the first upgrades I'll make to my kit. Until then, I'll have to make do with my articulated arm system.
I wish you continued success. I've given your bowl turning DVD rave reviews on a number of forums.
David location unknown

CALENDAR

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

January, 2013 – Tennessee & North Carolina

January & February, 2013 – Florida

March, 2013 – New York

June, 2013 - Florida

July, 2013 – New Jersey

October, 2013 - Ohio