



LYLE JAMIESON

sculptor + instructor of turned objects

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"If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play at it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf." Bob Hope

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Topic of the Month: The Creative Process from Frank Cummings

I saw lots of old friends and met many new ones at the AAW Woodturning Symposium in San José, CA. It was a great show for me in a lot of ways: a Great sales event, a Great time meeting so many people, a Great teaching experience, and a Great learning experience, but I think best of all was seeing Frank Cummings again. Some of you may not recognize his name, but Frank was an important part of how I became the artist/sculptor I am today. Frank is a leading craft artist, a great educator, very wise and a true innovator. Frank's turned pieces set a high standard for the carved, embellished pieces we see today. He was known for his delicate hollow form vessels with detailed, delicate fret work around the top and bottom, and if that was not exciting enough he added jeweled accent work embedded into the designs. His furniture designs were out of this world. He did some spectacular clocks that have been recognized widely, made entirely out of wood.

www.frankecumplingsdesign.com

It was back in the Greensboro, NC AAW symposium in 1996 that I first saw Frank. I was attending as a participant and I had the schedule all planned out to take advantage of the many great demonstrations, some from the masters in the woodturning field. I was like a kid in a candy store, so much to see and so much to learn. There were too many demonstrations and too few rotations, so I had to prioritize my most important needs, darn! I can't do it all!

The first rotation I attended was Frank Cummings do his talk about the creative process. He used a wheel of creativity with spokes of the process all interconnected to each other, I was fascinated. He talked about turned art and the way we communicate and project an image from the maker to the viewer, and receive feedback, and adjust the communication and do it all over again. I think it was my first exposure to the idea of working in a series. In any event it was one of those "when a student is ready the teacher will come" situations. I felt like I was the only one in the filled room, and he was speaking to me directly. Something clicked, it was like he had a direct line to my heart and soul. I was moved, big time! Consequently, the planning I had done for the weekend schedule was tossed and I followed Frank around to all six of his rotations.

Among the things that Frank said the one that had the most impact on me was a discussion about planning and execution. I certainly don't remember his exact words this many years down the road, but my recollection of what he said went something like this:

Go for the gold. Go for the spectacular in whatever you make. Do not let anything get in the way. Do not think about how long it takes. Do not think about selling it or the price needed to justify the time invested. Pay attention to details. If you don't know how to do it, find someone that can help you. Experiment if necessary, figure it out. Ingenuity is a large part of art. Using ingenuity will give you a tremendous amount of satisfaction. Trial and error may result in many errors but find a way to make it happen. If you invest that much energy in a concept or series of work others will be drawn to it. You will have put your passion into it. It will speak volumes. If you go for the spectacular and fall a little short of your goal you still have something to be proud of. If you strive for mediocrity and fall a little short it leaves something far less. Take it as far as you can...don't settle.

So with that new found enthusiasm I started my figurative series, developed my hollowing system, and completed many other projects that have given me much joy and satisfaction over the years. Thank you Frank!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- * Put hollowing system from one lathe to another
- * Position of flat spots for swivel assemblies
- * Lathe upgrade advice
- * Bowl gouge grind

PUT HOLLOWING SYSTEM FROM ONE LATHE TO ANOTHER

Hello,

I have recently purchased a used Oneway 1640 lathe that came with a Jamieson Hollowing System. My question is can I use this on a Powermatic 3520B lathe which has a 20-inch swing? Is this system swing specific?

Thanks in advance,

Kevin from Massachusetts

Hi Kevin,

Yes, my system will work on the Powermatic. The back rest will need adjusting to fit the Powermatic, but that's no obstacle. Did you get all the paperwork, and DVD, and installation instructions with it? Set-up is critical to get it working correctly. There are many resources that I include with my tools. They are on my web site too, but if you don't have them, get me your address and I'll send you a packet. The DVD is a must to see the process and techniques for both the boring bar system and the laser measuring uses.

POSITION OF FLAT SPOTS FOR SWIVEL ASSEMBLIES

Received it. Used it. Liked it.

One comment, the instructions about creating flat spots on the cutter posts. As I see it, you need TWO flat spots 90 degrees from each other on the post because the installation of the cutter assembly on the other end of the boring bar sets a different surface of the cutter post facing the set screw, i.e. the set screw on the "straight" end comes in from the top while the set screw on the "slanted" side comes in 90 degrees from the vertical. I saw no other way to make it work with just the one flat spot. If I'm correct, you may want to mention something about that in the printed instructions (assuming I didn't miss it! <g>) so others don't scratch their heads the way I did.

Anyway, very pleased. Just used it and cut 1/8" wall. Never could do that before.

Happy turning,

Eric from California

Hi Eric,

Yes, you are correct. Thanks for your suggestion. I will include it in the next edition of fliers. I state in the old instructions to make the flats on every place there is a set screw, but your note will make it much clearer. Thanks!

LATHE UPGRADE ADVICE

Mr. Jamieson,

I have one more question. I have to upgrade to a better lathe. If you have time could you recommend 2 or 3 good lathes for me? I don't really have unlimited funds.

I kind of like the Jets but what would you recommend?

I've heard bad things about the Grizzlies.

Thanks, Duane

Hi Duane,

You get what you pay for in a lathe. A Jet 16-42 would be a minimum for an upgrade. If you are serious about your bird house project you will need a stronger lathe than the Jets. I agree and would not recommend a Grizzly model. Again for me to be of much help I need a lot more information and a phone call could get to the bottom of these kind of things quickly.

BOWL GOUGE GRIND

Received my bowl gouge today. Looking forward to trying your grind. It is very close to the grind I have on mine, but your wings are a little flatter.

Rickey from Tennessee

Rickey,

Forgot to address your comment on the grind differences. The hump that a lot of folks have is an obstacle to doing 3 out of the 4 cuts. Make sure to make the grind from tip to the wing almost a straight line, especially up near the tip. The overall grind will look a little more pointy but it will work easier.



FEEDBACK

Hi Lyle,

Thanks for advising me. By the way I just love your hollowing system. I began using the carbide a couple weeks ago wow I'm back on saddle. It's a bit tricky but well worth the time spent to get the hang of it.

Best regards, Robert, Canada

Your current newsletter said helmets like Trend only go down to 6 micron particles. The attached sales sheet from Trend says they take particles down to .6 microns. What do you think? Gary from Colorado

(My note to reply was rejected by his email server. Thanks Gary, I stand corrected, I missed the dot)

Lyle,

I just wanted to let you know the time you spent with us last month has been dramatically beneficial! I am making bowls, honing gouges and creating shavings as never before! This weekend we spent most of the weekend saying to each other, "remember what Lyle said about..." and "let's look at that video again..." MULTIPLE times! I must admit, Henry's newest catch phrase is "get on 45". We rediscovered the values of sheer cuts and just plain had FUN turning!

We both feel much safer and more confident in the shop, and I -for one- can readily say your guidance has been instrumental in giving me magnitudes of more successes at the lathe. Also, we both love your sense of humor!

That bowl turning CD set we bought from you absolutely has become a "Go-To" resource, and as you showed us, we both appreciate the Table of Contents/Menu that makes the CD set so easy to navigate. I am certainly glad these instructions are not on VHS, we would have stretched them by now!

Enjoy a wonderful summer, and we do hope to see you again! You are always welcome here!
Respectfully, Tracey, from North Carolina

I used my boring bar system on Monday for the first time. It was easy to set up and use. It will take some practice to get the laser set up correctly, but the rest was a lot easier than I anticipated. The hollow form I finished is 9 inches wide and 10 inches tall with a wall thickness of 3/8 inch. I have a few bumps of thickness on the inside, but with a little more practice this is going to be a great tool.
Thanks, Rickey, From Tennessee

The hollowing jig arrived Monday and I am anxious to get it put together and working. I have a couple of hollow forms roughed out and ready for the final work on the inside. The one I was most proud of got a hole cut through the side. Guess your laser system is something I can make good use of. Want to add that I attended two of your sessions in San José and found you to be a very good instructor that gets the point across in a simple easy-to-understand manner. I learned a lot and have forgotten a lot at the end of 4 sessions a day for 3 days. Looking forward to viewing the DVD's you sent to learn even more and refresh what was forgotten. Thanks, Jim, From California

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

Correction: Tennessee is not in December
January, 2013 – Tennessee, North Carolina

January & February – 2013 - Florida