LYLE JAMIESON
sculptor + instructor of turned objects
285 Lauri-Wil Lane - Traverse City, MI - 49696 - (231) 947-2348 - lyle@lylejamieson.com - www.lylejamieson.com

"If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed." Mark Twain

I will be in San Jose soon for the AAW Symposium. They are always great fun. This year I will be one of the featured demonstrators and have a booth and my tools in the vendors' area. Come and say hello if you are attending.

Find me on facebook!
http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/profile.php?id=100000091394781&ref=ts

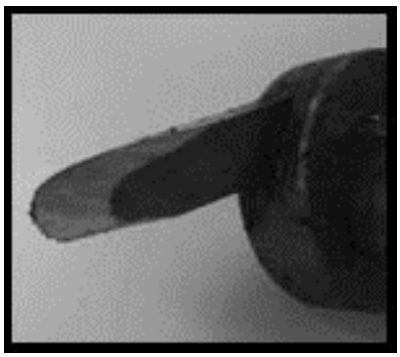
Please include your location if you write in with comments or questions.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter on and don't forget to invite your friends and family to register to receive their own copy or view previous newsletters at https://www.lylejamieson.com/information/newsletter.asp.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TIPS & TECHNIQUES
Topic of the Month: Resources

I am sorry for the error last month. The photos were omitted. A picture is worth a thousand words, so look back at last month's tips and see if they make more sense with the photo. If nothing else look at your HSS cutter and see if they look the same as the photo.



I have published a ton of material about the hollowing process. I'm sure you looked at it at the time I distributed it, BUT you are at a different place now. You have grown. You have increased your skill level. You have a better understanding of the turning process then you had even a year ago. Is it time to review some of the items and see if it can give you even more control and fun at the lathe? The DVDs would be a great place to start. Looking at them again can open up new possibilities and eliminate some obstacles for you. Even the Bowl Basics DVD can help you in the hollowing process. It speaks to chucking methods, vibration issues, tool control, grain orientation, even sanding. All that is needed on the outside of hollow forms is covered in the bowl DVD. The articles I wrote years ago are still relevant today about hollowing tool control, vibration prevention, eliminating catches, and the Carbide uses. If you really want to invest some time, you could even go back through the years of past newsletters to find things that would help you kick it up a notch. I have been putting subject titles on the Q&A's and even a contents menu in the recent issues to make it easier to review them. If you invest some time I'm sure your turning time will benefit.

The next goal would be to take a class. Even if it is not from me, you will have a ball immersing yourself in some dedicated time with an instructor. I hope to have some hollowing classes in the later part of summer here in Traverse City, Michigan.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

* Sizes for glue blocks and reverse chucking blocks
* BOWL GOUGE VS EASY ROUGHER TOOLS
* Laser on-off elasticator ring use
* Grinding flat spots for Boring bar system set-up
* What chuck to buy?
* Compare bowl gouges and sharpening set-up
* Wolverine VS Trugrind Sharpening systems
* Custom laser for Kelton hollowing system
* Dust masks/helmets

SIZES FOR GLUE BLOCKS AND REVERSE CHUCKING BLOCKS

Hi Lyle:
My question is this: how do you determine the size a glue block should be in relation to the piece you want to turn? I recently made up three of them from some hard maple that had dried. Each is between 4 and 6 inches long and about 5 to 6 inches across. I do not normally turn bases of that size so I know they are likely too big but I hate to just cut them down to something less and "waste" the block (even if they do grow on trees). I thought about making one of your donuts but was not sure that I recalled enough of the dimensions from memory.
Any ideas or pictures that might give me some ideas would help. You will recall that I went through that problem with the wood coming off the block and being out of round because I left it on the block to long - working on correcting that problem. Ken from Michigan

Hi Ken,
I think you are referring to two different things. So let's separate them.
First, the glue block should be thin, dry and side grain hardwood for gluing bowl blanks. The size should be about 1 ½ inch thick. For a three inch faceplate use a 3 to 3 ½ inch diameter block. For a 4 inch faceplate do a 4-4 ½ inch diameter block. A rule of thumb for how big the glue block is 30/40 percent of the size of the bowl diameter. You do not want the glue block too thick because it would push the turning forces too far away from the headstock and could result in vibration issues.
Second, the blocks you have can be used for reverse chucking. The size and depth will be dictated by whatever you want to reverse chuck. I have big, small, tall, short blocks that I use for whatever comes along. The donut shaped block will also be determined by the piece/hollow form you want to reverse. The recess in the donut might need to be shallow or deep depending on what shape the form needs to hold it securely without breaking the mouth or neck of the vessel. These are very forgiving and there is no need to have any special sizes or shapes. As you have a need...you make it to fit. Save it, and down the road it will be there for another application. I have some dedicated to extra faceplates and I have a tenon on some for use in a chuck.

BOWL GOUGE VS EASY ROUGHER TOOLS

I just ordered your 2-DVD Bowl Basic and wonder if you have an article or something to augment them for Easy Wood Tools, carbide inserted tools, which I bought? I am a real newbie and a friend suggested them.
Charles from Massachusetts

Hi Charles,
Your question is hard to answer because I do not use scrapers much and the Easy Wood-Easy Rougher scrapers are not as sharp as the tools I like to work with. They are a good tool for roughing out and there is a little learning curve for beginners. I think a bowl gouge does a much better job but you need to learn and understand the bowl gouge rules and techniques to be successful. It is worth the effort. You will see the step by step process of how I use the bowl gouge in the DVD as well as all the other foundation elements needed for any kind of turning. I use the bowl format because it allows me to show all the bowl gouge can do.
I have two articles archived in the instruction section of my website on Carbide cutters. Carbide is not all the same, carbide is not carbide. The first article from AAW highlights the differences in metallurgy. The second article is a "how to" use my Nanograin carbide for the boring bar hollowing system. I believe the HSS bowl gouge is a better finishing tool then the old carbide used in Easy Rougher tools. The articles do not instruct the methods of using the Easy Rougher tools.
I wish I had better news for you. Because I would not have recommended you start with the Easy Rougher. It is a tool that you will very soon outgrow. I highly suggest you get some local help from a club member so you understand the need and uses of a bowl gouge, spindle gouge and even a skew, once you get some experience under your belt. The DVD will be a good foundation for you but there is nothing better than some hands-on help to get started in the right direction so you don't get too many bad habits that you will need to unlearn later. I will be up at the New Hampshire Woodturning Symposium. Come over and see me there.

LASER ON-OFF ELASTICATOR RING USE

Lyle,
I just purchased your laser system on Saturday at the NH symposium. I was able to adapt it to my Kelton system by drilling the fittings slightly larger. My only problem is that the laser light doesn't stay on. I am assuming it is supposed to. Is there something I am doing wrong, or is the switch just defective and I should send it back to you for a replacement? Also, what is the larger rubber donut ring for, that was in the laser box. I thought it might be to hold the switch on, but it just keeps rolling off, so it must be for something else.
Thanks, Mark from Massachusetts

Hi Mark,
You got it partly right. The (castration) elasticator ring is for the on and off switch. It has a natural flat inside the ring so you need to slide the ring up or down the laser so the ring stays on the on-off button. In the correct position the ring will roll onto the button and stay there and roll off to turn the laser off. It pretty much stays where you put it but may need a minor adjustment from time to time to position it so the laser stays on.

GRINDING FLAT SPOTS FOR BORING BAR SYSTEM SET-UP

Hi Lyle:
You may/may not remember me. I purchased your hollowing assembly at Gainesville a couple of weeks ago. (white hair, moustache, minister). After getting it assembled, even after scoring the flat

filed places to seat the set-screw, I find that the cutter still turns/twists a little when it comes in contact with the wood of a vessel, even after a snug tightening. What do you recommend?
I am using a dried piece rather than a green one - that may account for the impact movement.
And I may have more questions, though I will try not to bother you.
Harold from Georgia

Hi Harold,
Sorry you are having troubles. Please read the installation instructions again to see what is not set up correctly. The flats should be done with the grinder. If the flats are in the correct position the bar or cutter assembly can not twist in use. That's why we need the flats. Make sure you push the bar and shaft all the way in the socket and mark the bars so the flat is holding it all the way into the holes. I will call you in a couple days to see how you are doing and walk you through it and make sure it is right. Don't think of it as a bother. I want to help you get off on the right foot, any questions are welcome and encouraged. I print the answers in my newsletter.
(Follow-up phone call found Harold set up just fine and all working well. I did apologize for the fact that he had to put the flats on after purchase, explaining I would have to have my welding and machining of all the parts done much more accurately and the price would go up nearly $100.00. So I chose years ago to keep the price down so more people can have fun hollowing.)

WHAT CHUCK TO BUY?

Lyle,
I do have another quick question for you. I use an Oneway Talon chuck on my smaller Delta lathe. I just bought a new Powermatic 3520B lathe and currently using the Talon with an adaptor until I decide on a larger chuck. What chuck do you use or recommend? I have been looking at the Vicmarc and the Stronghold but just can't decide so I thought I would ask what you use. Harold from Texas

Harold,
You might want to take a look at my bowl basics DVD, it is in your clubs library I'm sure, because I don't use chucks. It's not a good way to hold wood. I don't like the idea of an adapter either, that's one more weak spot in the power transfer out to the wood with no vibration. I don't need chucks or use chucks so I would put off buying a new one until you understand the limitations and other preferred methods of faceplates and glue blocks. My advice has always been to never use a chuck on hollow forms.

COMPARE BOWL GOUGES AND SHARPENING SET-UP

Lyle,
First, I wanted you to know my order arrived yesterday and I am looking forward to using it soon. After watching the first video on bowl turning I have a couple of questions about bowl gouges and sharpening. I have a Wolverine jig and feel I have attained sharpness with success in turning, but you raise some interesting arguments for some tweaking. Can I attain your style of sharpness with a Wolverine by changing the length recommendation from Wolverine to the two inch length you propose and a degree change in pivot? Also, I have been looking for a better bowl gouge, started with a 5/8" Pinnacle from Woodcraft. I have turned a lot of bowls with it. Earlier this year I bought a gouge from serious tools and found out there are better gouges. I like the weight of their gouge and

have good success cutting and less stress on the body (think weight and tool handle have a lot to do with this), but the flute is too narrow and clogs too often. A lot of the blogs really like the Thompson tools. I know you have a bowl gouge as well. I realize it may be hard for you to offer an unbiased opinion, but why should I buy your gouge over another? Thanks for your help, Rickey from Tennessee

PS: I am a full time minister with limited time and money for my hobby. I guess I am no different from others, but I can't afford to buy tool after tool experimenting.

Hi Ricky,
Nice to hear from you, thanks for the question. I have crossed paths with a number of ministers lately, it's been nice. With the enormous responsibility and your long hours, I hope you can get some turning time in. You covered a lot of territory in your question. Let me pick away at one at a time. I will try to explain why I do what I do and my bias will not be an issue. You may agree or disagree.
The Wolverine system is a good way to sharpen, no need to change that. Just make sure you get the retro fit knob and remove the flap spring that scrapes across your newly sharpened edge when you take the tool out of the jig. See the Packard catalog. Two things are needed, separate the two. It has to be set-up to repeat the correct angles and you need to sharpen in the correct places. The set-up is critical to the way I use my bowl gouge. Once you understand the four cuts and their rules it does not matter what tool you have in your hand. Any tool will do the job at any angle ground on it. With my bowl gouge I can do all four cuts with one tool. Some turners do the same thing by using many different tools. I have a keep it simple approach. I digress...back to sharpening.
I separate the set-up into two functions. The set-up for the tip angle is different than the side angle. The tip and side angles influence each other but we have to separate them when getting set-up. The 2 inch distance from the tip position is not critical. The important thing about the 2 inch setback is it just needs to be repeatable. My tip angle is about 62-65 degrees. A relatively blunt angle, but I prefer the friendly, less aggressive nature of that angle. Measure it from down the flute to the bevel at the tip. Adjust the tip angle by moving the jig arm attached to the bowl gouge.
My side angle is tilted in at the wings. This angle is not measurable because it is a moving target, the angle varies from tip to the wing corner. To get your gouge sharpened like mine the best way is to borrow one that is sharpened like mine or one like David Ellsworth, we use the same set-up angles. Set your jig to match those angles. This is a little risky because this assumes the user did not change it from the original angles we started with.
We change the side angles by sliding the basket, pivot point, in or out by moving the sliding arm attached to the grinder table. Now, when you move the basket it changes the tip angle too, so go back and reset the tip angle by adjusting the jig arm again. Do this twice, set the tip and set the side and repeat and you will get real close to the correct angles. Again, the two inch length will have little effect on this set-up.
Next is to grind it correctly. The photo of my gouge is all you need for that.

Look at your gouge from the side view and grind the high spots down and leave the low spots alone. Don't change the set-up angles.

You are correct not all bowl gouges are created equal. I worked with the Serious people for a while and they make quality tools, but the flute configuration would not work for me. The Thompson tools are the same, I use Doug's tools for my spindle gouges but the flute is wrong for the bowl gouges. Pinnacle and some of the other cheaper gouges have a variety of flutes so I would have to look at it to see if it is the same as mine. My flutes are a parabola shape inside, not a "V" or a "U" shape. This is important if you are going to scrape and sheer scrape like I do in the bowl DVD. The pull cut can get a little dicey too with the wrong flute, or the wrong side angles. This is where other tools come in for some turners. If they cannot sheer scrape with the bowl gouge they have to find another tool that will sheer scrape.
I prefer the M-2 HSS from Crown, Sheffield steel from England. It has the correct flute configuration and I cannot justify the expense of the higher alloy tool steel because I need to sharpen often and cannot justify the higher price points. The stronger tool steels will hold an edge a little longer but they will not get as sharp to begin with. There is a tradeoff there.

WOLVERINE VS TRUGRIND SHARPENING SYSTEMS

On your DVD, you mentioned the Oneway Wolverine tool holder shortfall - the metal tab that can dull the fresh edge on the tool.
I need to buy a sharpening jig and in doing the research I found the Tru-Grind Tool Holder at Packard Tool for $67.95.
I can buy it and use it with my Wolverine sharpening jig or I can get the redesigned Wolverine tool holder (Oneway must have heard you - they replaced the metal tab with a roller bearing) to use with my jig.
Do you think that the Tru-Grind holder is worth the extra $13.00?
Hope to see you at the Symposia in San Jose.
Regards, Jack from North Carolina

Hi Jack,
The redesigned Wolverine works the same as the True Grind. The only difference is the cost.

CUSTOM LASER FOR KELTON HOLLOWING SYSTEM

Mr. Jamieson
I am interested in ordering your customized laser system. I have a Kelton hollowing system that I purchased some 7 years ago (it doesn't seem to be sold any longer). The boring bar unit (center upper bar) to which the laser system would attach is approximately 1 1/4" outside diameter (31.5 mm). The hollowing bars are 5/8" by 15" long. Can your laser system be adapted to the Kelton system as described? Thanks! Scott location unknown

Hi Scott,
Yes, I can make a laser for any application, but I don't know how long it will take until I get more information and I am traveling to the west coast for the AAW symposium in San Jose and will not be able to work on it until mid-July. If you are willing to wait for it and can get me some photos and more information, we can proceed to get you an estimate of the cost for you.
If you ask around, there is likely someone in your club that has moved on to a better hollowing system and has a Kelton laser system sitting around that you could have for next to nothing. It would not be my first choice to spend money on a system that has the obstacles and limitations that the Kelton has.
Please call me so we can proceed if you wish to pursue this.

DUST MASKS/HELMETS

Lyle, Am enjoying your hollowing system and training DVD's. There is a learning curve and the DVD's help, as does practice. Homeowners in the neighborhood are cutting ash right and left this summer as a preventative to ash bore invasion. PLENTY of practice material!
Have been considering adding breathing protection to toolbox and no one in local club (that I am aware) has any equipment to try nor do two local woodworking stores stock anything.
Trend appears in supply catalogs frequently, but I doubt they are the "only" systems available for the turner.
Also, is this equipment one-size-fits-all, or must it be fitted to individual user – like my respirator equipment?
Charles location unknown

Hi Charles,
I am probably not the best model for breathing protection. I use the 3-M helmet that is very similar to the Trend. They are adjustable and are one size fits all. There are others that have the fan and weight on the beltline behind you. They all go down to the 6 micron range. I think the more dangerous dust is much finer than that, so an overhead shop filter that captures finer dust is important. I use a fan in the window blowing out. I seldom use the Helmet. I usually work with wet wood and don't have a cloud of dust to deal with until I sand. When I sand I use a standard dust mask (medical type) with my regular face shield. I don't like the weight and noise from the power masks.
I have even seen systems made to collect fresh air from outside the shop and pump it into the hooded helmet. The hose can get in the way for sure.

FEEDBACK

Hi Lyle,
I had a chance to watch part of your bowl turning DVD -- AWESOME!! Thanks. Jack, North Carolina

******

Lyle,
Thanks for taking the time for the workshop today. It was very helpful for me and, I'm sure, for the other beginners. I recognize that it was a long day for you and really appreciate your giving full attention to teaching carefully and thoroughly.
Thanks! David, Michigan

*****

I have been turning bowls for about 3 years, but haven't graduated to the carving or putting feet on them. I just like plain bowls. I'm hoping for a texturing tool for birthday in July. I have several Easy Wood tools and some experience with carbide cutters, but look forward to reading and watching your materials. I also purchased an Elbo system a couple of years ago and have made a couple of small vases. I just wasn't comfortable with the way it attaches to the tail stock and the stresses it put on it. Should have just saved my money and bought yours in the first place. I knew you get what you pay for. I look forward to learning to use your tool. If ever you are in the Nashville area, please let me know.
Rickey
PS: The final decision to purchase your system came from an employee and turner in the St. Louis,

MO Rockler store. Sorry, I can’t remember his name. I was on vacation this past week and was in their store Monday, May 7 and he was very knowledgeable as well as having used the system as well as others.

CALENDAR

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

June, 2012 – California, Oregon

August, 2012 – Chicago, Texas

September, 2012 – Virginia

November, 2012 – Wisconsin

December, 2012 – Tennessee

January, 2013 - Florida