



LYLE JAMIESON

sculptor + instructor of turned objects

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“If Con is the opposite of Pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?”

Author unknown

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My heart and prayers go out to all the people affected by the big storm. I'm sure there are turners that suffered some damage. We even had wind and rain up in Michigan, but nothing too serious.

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TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month: Tool selection and set up for hollowing

I would like to follow up on my message from last month. I suggested that it would be easier and more fun to prevent limitations and obstacles rather than trying to fix the problem after it crops up. I suggested you follow my methods and keep all your ducks in a row. This month I want to talk about the tools you use. I was doing a hands-on workshop recently and I had a class of five students for two days of advanced techniques of hollow form turning and laser measuring methods. Two out of the five students had home built hollowing systems. They had good intentions and I'm sure they got a great deal of satisfaction and were proud of their creations. They obviously used my system as a model with a supported, captured system, and a back rest to stabilize the cuts. However, they used a variety of parts from other hollowing tools and used considerable ingenuity to assemble the assorted parts. There is no problem with this so far. I have helped hundreds of students make home built systems.

Let me outline some of the things I found when I went to set up their systems on the lathes in the classroom. One backrest was rickety and wobbled, it was not a stable way to hold the handle in a consistent position. Both cutters were too big for efficient cutting cuts and both systems had cutter shafts that were so scarfed up from catches that I could not get them out of the boring bar. One shaft was bent so badly it was unusable. The other shaft has such a small set socket screw there was no way to get it tight. The Allen wrench needed was the size of half a toothpick. One of the lasers was held up with duct tape and did not stay where it was set and the other laser was adjusted with set screws and it was so bunged up and unstable that it could not be set with any accuracy. I'm sure these folks had good intentions. But their efforts fell way short. The obstacles involved with their creations would not be fun to use and in some cases would not be safe to use.

So the message is if you have made a home built system, take care of the details. Follow my model and instructions for construction but more importantly follow the set up instructions. If it will not set up like mine it will not work like mine. Don't settle for compromised usefulness by using parts and pieces of tools that end up not working very well.

For those of you that have my hollowing system tools, make sure they are set up correctly. Just as it is important to use my process, it is critical to have it set up according to my installation instructions on my web site. If you miss one piece of the puzzle it will have a weak spot that will sneak up and bite you sooner or later. Set up correctly, you will never get a catch, hollow with fingertip control, and no vibration, reach any shape you want, and do them as thin as you want with confidence.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GRINDING JIG GUIDE SET UP

Lyle,

I have purchased your grinding jig guide, could you please let me know how to set up properly.

Thanks, Joe from Texas

Hi Joe,

Nice to hear from you. Did you get the system from me at SWAT? There are no special instructions for setting it up. Just screw it on the edge of the grinder table or other surface so it is on the edge. You want the grinding jig to slide up on the gouge and give you an accurate repeatable set-back of 2 inches every time. So, just have it on the edge of the table so the table will not interfere when using it. The other thing to watch for is to make sure you have access to it with the gouge sticking out into the room without anything in the way. You need room for your hands to hold it in place and to tighten the jig on the gouge while it is up against the jig guide.

CUSTOM BUILT LASER BRACKET FOR 1 ½ INCH BORING BAR

Hi Lyle:

Need help. I purchased a deep hollowing boring bar system from Brian McEvoy, see attached photo. Also, attached to the system is a laser guide purchased from Fred Lindsay. The problem with this laser guide is that it's too difficult to adjust and stay secured. I would set the laser light then tighten the screws to secure the laser light, but every time I tighten the screws the laser light moves. Sometimes it's impossible to set the laser light to where you want it. Also, the laser guide is too bulky (it's 48" long x 20" high). It's ok when I hollow out something two feet long, but I rarely do that type of hollow form bowl. Most of my hollow forms are 12" high or less. I like your Laser attachment. The dimensions (26" long x 12" high) are what I'm looking for. I would like to purchase your laser system to fit my boring bar. The boring bar is 1 1/2" in diameter.

Pat from Hawaii

Pat,

Thanks for the order, I am sorry to hear of your frustration. My laser will work much better, you can set it fast, easy, and accurately. You are caught, as many others, with tools that do not work very well. I always recommend that people try it before they buy it. I see by your photo your system is not set up correctly. The way you have your tip set is problematic, too. Please use my set up instructions to try to get your system to work the best it can for you. The set up rules are the same for any system. I also have some newly posted YouTube clips as well as my DVDs that can

help you in the process to prevent problems and obstacles. Go to YouTube's home page, search for my name, and subscribe to my channel to get an entire listing of my clips.

Now on the laser, this will be a custom job that I can do for you. I need to make a wooden block to clamp onto your 1 1/2 inch bar that will allow my laser system to mount on your system.

REPLACING HEX NUT ON SWIVEL ASSEMBLY

Lyle,

I have your boring bar system and really love it. I do have a suggestion. I understand the reasoning for the 10-32 hex head on the swivel assembly in that it doesn't fill up like an Allen head and it therefore less likely to strip. However, hex head bolts only come in grade 2 and Allen heads come in grade 8. The swivel head requires a lot of torque on the bolt to keep the cutting tip from moving while hollowing. I am very afraid of twisting off the hex head bolt and then having trouble removing/drilling out the remainder of the bolt. The advantage of the Allen head is that it is grade 8 "and" if you do strip the inside Allen socket you can easily use vise grips to remove the bolt and replace it. What would be nice is a grade 8 hex but I've searched the internet and not found any. Therefore I recommend the Allen grade 8 as a better choice than a grade 2 hex.

Cam

Hi Cam,

Thanks for the order. Please let me know if there is anything to do to help you with the boring bar.

Thanks for your note on the hex bolt. I considered that when I first designed the system. I have used the same bolt in my personal boring bar, Jamieson #1, that I am still using today. It has never stripped or been replaced since 1996. I tighten it and everything is very tight. But I don't use a ratchet or box end wrench. Using the six sided nut driver as I recommend in the installation instructions is the best way to go. You will never be able to twist the head off the nut with the nut driver. As you indicated, the swivel needs to be moved frequently so the hassle of cleaning out the socket screw hole for the Allen wrench would drive me crazy. If you get my newsletter, I discussed my process of turning, but the design of the boring bar has received just as much attention as my process. I worked with other boring bars for many years before I designed mine and took the best ideas from the others and eliminated the obstacles that I encountered. There are dozens of little things that I have done, like the nut used, that make it the best on the market.

USING TORMEK FOR SHARPENING BOWL GOUGE

Hi Lyle,

I know you have many students and may not remember me, but I had the privilege of spending two days with you about a couple of weeks ago. Here is the bowl gouge I got from you. I sharpened it and hope I did not mess it up. The bevel at the tip is about 59

degrees. Do you think the grind is OK? I have a Tormek and hope I did not adulterate the original grind. If the grind is wrong, any advice you can give will be much appreciated. Should I switch grinding systems? The gouge seemed to do a good job of push cutting and scraping the glue block. I have not yet tried another bowl as the proverbial "Honey Do" list needs to be whittled down. Then, it will be bowl after bowl and I will try the pull and sheer scraping cuts.

Anyway, I did drill two extra holes in my lowly Delta 460 3 inch face plate and use the # 12 sheet metal screws. I did watch your finishing clip on YouTube. Can you tell me what wax you use and if a particularly kind of wax or system makes a difference? Catalogs have what seems to be an elaborate Beall system. Is that over kill? I would like to thank you for the truly superb teaching experience, I have been in very many educational venues, and I must hearken back to a sole pharmacology professor in medical school to recall when a complex subject was so well and clearly explained. So wood turning is not your only expertise!

Thanks, Greg



Hi Greg,

Thanks for the feedback. The grind you have looks close and will likely work just fine. I can tell better with a photo from the side of the side grind to see what the edge profile looks like. I recommended in the class using a regular grinder. It does a much better job for lathe tools. I prefer the regular grinder over the Tormek but that means buying the wolverine jig we used in the class. Do you remember how often we sharpened? The Tormek is way to slow and very hard to get my grind and I want the burr that the grinding wheels produce. I cannot tell if the grind you have will work as well as mine from photos. The side wing angle is important and it is not measurable, so I would have to see it to really tell how it will work.

Drill two more holes in the face plate, 8 is better than 6. You will need 8 when you get into more advanced turning. I do use the Beall system on everything. The wax they use is a hard carnauba wax. Packard Supply is my choice for a turning tools catalog. I have a YouTube clip on buffing, too. Just copy and paste this web address into your browser to see it, http://youtu.be/6l1z6_qFp50 . Keep in touch.

HOME BUILT HOLLOWING AND CONNECTOR

Mr. Jamieson,

I have long looked at your captured bar system and wished I could afford one, however until I can sell a few more items it seems I am stuck in trying to make my own. I have read and studied your instructions, and believe I can handle it (pun intended there) if I could only figure out what kind of connector you used to connect the 'D' handle and the bar. I have searched over the Internet and just can't seem to come up with an item that I believe would be the correct connector to use. If you don't mind, would you please advise the suggested connector, and where I might try to find one of them?

Thank you very much in advance.

V/r,

John from Virginia

Hi John,

I have helped hundreds of people make home built systems. There is a lot of satisfaction in creating your own. Many of them have confided in me later, that they spent as much or more building their own. If price is the issue it will be at best a wash. Give me a call and I will help you use some of your tools and only purchase the parts you need to make it work for you. But honestly I am getting discouraged when I see the results of home built models. I'll explain below. The connector is a very important part in the system. It must be stable and strong. Any vibration there and you are in for big troubles. This coupling cannot be purchased alone but must be machined to do the job correctly. The thick wall tubing is not the right inside diameter. This piece takes a significant amount of stress from the cut. Because I order parts in large quantities they are economical for my manufacturer to make but for me or you to have just one made, it would be pretty expensive. If you do your own machining, then go for it. If you don't do machining, the costs for the several parts that need to be machined would be considerable.

Please heed some advice I put in October's newsletter and the follow up message I am publishing in this November issue. Old copies of my newsletter are archived on my web site. If you do not follow my model, it results in many possible limitations, frustrations, and obstacles down the road. Find a club member that has my system and take a close look at the way it is made or better yet, wait until you can get the real thing and insure you will have more fun and not frustration.

An option for a home built system would be to make the boring bar and handle out of the same $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bar stock with no coupling needed. I did this for some larger systems I experimented with, and ended up doing my Giant Hollowing System that way. Of course, you will not have all the options for accessories that mine has.

CARBIDE CUTTER FOR SEGMENTED HOLLOWING

Lyle

Will the boring bar using the carbide cutter work well hollowing out a segmented bowl?

Thanks for your instruction.

Lou from California

Hi Lou,

Yes, the need for control and clean cuts becomes even more important when you have dry wood, alternating grain character, and glue lines to deal with. The sharp sheering angle of the nanograin, Hunter carbide cutter I use in my system will make cleaner, easier cuts than a HSS scraping mode cutter. You use the term "bowl", but any segmented shapes will cut better with my carbide cutter. A better surface left behind with the cut will mean less sanding, less stress on the wood and glue lines, less vibration, and more fun. I have both right and left direction cutters to take advantage of supported grain slicing action. The standard carbide cutter assembly is left directed and the reverse angle cutter assembly is right directed. My new In-Depth Hollowing DVD uses the carbide cutter and shows the three cuts available with it and the rules for its use.

DRY WOOD TORN OUT GRAIN ISSUES

Lyle,

I was given an old maple beam 3.5"x8" and I've been turning bowls from it. In rounding the block, the rotation gives me a sequence of side grain and end grain. The side grain cuts smoothly and the end grain turns very rough. A sharp tool and higher rpm help, but the problem is still obvious. How does one achieve a clean, smooth cut across the end grain?

With a round log, one usually has some angle - small near the outer edge of the bowl and large near the base - and this angle reduces the end grain problem significantly, but it does not always eliminate it. Again, any help on this?

Thanks! David from Michigan

Hi David,

One caution before I answer your question. It would be rare to find a 4"x8" piece of dry maple without cracks in it. Watch closely for cracks and discard it if there are any, don't turn with cracks. Please look back at my last newsletter message from October 2012. I talk about paying attention to details. To be successful with dry wood you must have a process that will allow you to get the job done, and done easier than sanding out torn out grain damage.

When using dry wood you need all your ducks in a row. It will be prone to torn out grain big time and the hard, dry wood is hard to

sand out the damage. Go to YouTube and find my channel for a clip on preventing torn out grain. <http://youtu.be/qnym1lyOPqE>
Go back to the foundation rules. My Bowl DVD has the complete process, start to finish. Take the LAST cut with a newly sharpened burr. Make sure you are using the pencil trick position in a slicing mode with all your cuts. You did not indicate if you were having troubles with the inside or outside of the bowl or both.

On the outside I use my grind on the bowl gouge to sheer scrape. The handle must be way down to have a steep angle (sheer) keep the flute closed and the tool rest perpendicular to the tool...not close up to the wood. Again there is a clip on my channel on YouTube on sheer scraping with a bowl gouge.

<http://youtu.be/BDlvtr7StuA>

On the inside of the bowl we need to rely on the push cut. The flute is pointing in the direction of travel. We travel across the tool rest from the rim to the bottom of the bowl. The twist of the flute is on a 45 degree angle. So we are slicing through the fibers cleanly. And the YouTube clip on a push cut. <http://youtu.be/1HF9IGdHCTA>

CUTTING SEGMENTED METAL ACCENTS

Dear Mr. Jamieson,

Thank you for the time and effort you put into the videos that I have been enjoying and learning from. I still have a ways to go before I start doing any turning, because of work commitments and the desire to go over your videos several times.

Even though I am not to the point of turning or my eventual plan of segmented turning, I had a crazy thought that came in my dreams the other night. In segmented turning, there is often a "feature ring" incorporated in the turning. With the advent of changeable carbide turning tools, is the concept of incorporating thin, soft metal accents such as copper or brass with the wood segments possible? I realize the damage that would be done to even carbide replacement cutting edges, but might it be possible to "rough" out the shape and switch over to additional replacements in the process to finish the final design?

I appreciate this is "pie in the sky" thinking and most would dismiss such thinking out of hand. But I felt you would give me a fair hearing.

Thank you and best regards, I hope to attend one of your seminars/workshops someday.

Kent from Kansas

Hi Kent,

Many turners have added metal accents, so your idea is not new, but I cannot think of anyone using it in segmented pieces. It should work fine as long as you stay with soft metals. They cut with HSS tools fine, and carbide would even work better. One of the key things is to sand with sharp sandpaper to get good results. My advice would be to start with some wet wood to get a handle on tool

control, sharpening, chucking methods, etc. It is easier and what you learn with wet wood will help you to get better cuts on the dry glued up work. Graduate to segments and add the metals once you perfect your process. Curt Theobald, www.curttheobald.com is a great resource for the segmented techniques you will need.

GRAIN ORIENTATION FOR GOBLET

Lyle,

I was over at Bill's house last night and we were watching your new "In Depth" DVD that he had just bought. Only had time to watch up thru where you are talking about the three cuts with the Hunter tool. But I am a little confused about when you are centering on roughing the log.

You show counting the rings on the tail stock end getting up to 26 rings on your center, than on the headstock end you get 24 so you adjust the headstock end. Then you re-round the unevenness of the log to take out the wobble from the headstock end. You state this gives you what you like as far as an appealing look with balancing the growth rings down the light of the goblet that I can agree and understand. My confusion comes when you mount the faceplate. You don't show any centering of the faceplate based on the ring counts and headstock location, and when you remount it to the lathe you have to re-true/re-round the blank as it's not centered. On the DVD it looks like it's about a couple "growth rings" off center again just like when you moved it for the 24-26th growth rings. Doesn't this cancel out the time and trouble you spend counting the rings since it's off-center again? It looks like you can knock out a wasted step and just estimate the faceplate mounting and only re-true it once instead of twice.

Also, I have built my own hollowing rig and bought from you a couple months back your straight and swivel head assemblies. I have had issues with finding the proper "boat rail" looking brackets for mounting the upright post for the laser, and also for the "tee" for the laser arm. Is it possible to buy those items from you or get a source to get them?

Thanks, Ricc from Indiana

Hi Ricc,

Your method would likely work fine. I don't understand what you mean by "estimate the faceplate mounting". The wobble I had was minimal, very slight for both occasions. If you have any significant movement to get on the axis you need, you want to get the wobble out before you screw the faceplate on. If you are the engineer type and want to be more accurate in centering while screwing the faceplate on the concave surface there are many methods to get very accurate. I don't bother with that kind of centering because it will never be running perfectly true at that stage and need a little or a lot of cleanup of the wobble. Neither take any time to true it up again, 10, 15 seconds? When I am putting the faceplate on, it

seats on the concave surface I just created. If I am off center a 16th it's no big deal. The grain is still running parallel to the bed so if I'm off one annual ring it will be off on both headstock and tailstock ends of the blank equally. Hope this makes sense.

Yes, I can get you any of the laser parts you want. Give me a call.

CUSTOM TOOL REST FOR GRIZZLY LATHE

Lyle,

I have a Grizzly lathe and have had to purchase a new tail stock. This tail stock has a foot on it that makes it difficult to approach the work piece and move the banjo (?) into better working positions. Packard Woodworks sells rests (posts and offset T-Bar rests) 3" on one side and 6" on the other. This type of rest might work for me. Have you had any experience with this sort of rest? Grizzly's recommendation is that I upgrade to a different model. Thanks Grizzly.

Thanks for any advice you have on this.

Bob from Michigan

Hi Bob,

I know some lathes have unfriendly tool rest banjo and tailstock arrangements that are not easy to work with. Usually it is just a little more space that is needed. One trick is to move the tailstock away from the headstock by extending the tailstock quill out a little before you start to tighten it up against the wood. Sometimes it means roughing out part of the blank to allow the banjo to slide along the bed under the wood to proceed to rough out the remainder of the blank. There is usually a way to fiddle a bit and make it work.

I agree that the stock tool rests are usually part of the problem. Usually the long tool rest is too long and gets in its own way, and the short ones don't reach where we need them to go. That is why I made my tool rest 9 inches long. That length is very versatile. If you think the 3 VS 6 offset will help you reach where you want...go for it but do not buy the round tool rests. They would be an obstacle, big time. Two out of the four cuts we do have the handle down. With the handle down the round tool rest pushes your support away from your work piece before you even start. I don't like the fact there is weakness in the threaded connection of the Packard model either. I think it is stronger to have it welded up tight.

If you wish I can have a custom designed tool rest made for you with any offset you like and have the advantage of the threaded post, I could do that for you.

FEEDBACK

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do and have done for the greater woodturning community. I read your

posts all the time on WoodCentral and appreciate all your input and advice. And also thanks for all the YouTube videos. What a tremendous resource.

Don, from New York

Hi Lyle:

Want to let you know that your laser guide worked perfectly with my boring bar. It's easy to adjust and it stays put. Hollowing is now a pleasure.

Thank you for a great product.

Patrick, from Hawaii

Lyle,

I received the tool rest + other stuff this morning. I tried the tool rest for fit and was very pleased. It offers such a big benefit that one wonders why it wasn't thought of before. Anyway, I think it is a great design with a very nice finish.

I had a chance to look at four of your YouTube posts – all Grade A+. I particularly enjoyed the pencil trick concept. Also, the one on tear out was the best explanation I've seen. Thanks for telling me about them.

I assume you will be showing in Tampa. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Best, Ward

Hello there Lyle,

My name is Kristen and I'm a librarian for some lovely students at Jefferson District Library in Northern CA. I hope I'm not a bother, but I just wanted to take the time to send you a quick thank you note on behalf of my library class and myself for providing the resources on your page (<https://www.lylejamieson.com/information/links.asp>). They just completed their woodworking projects (for our annual competition), and found your page was such a great reference, so from all of us, thank you for your help :)

Kristen, from California

Lyle,

I received the kit on Friday. Saturday, I set it up on the lathe and began turning, very straight forward, easy install and an immediate pleasure to use without instruction.

Last night I stayed up late watching the videos and couldn't sleep afterwards with how much my mind was racing. It is obvious to me that, thankfully, I need to relearn some techniques, foremost, I can feel my "kung fu" grip loosening up on the deep hollowing chisels already. Couldn't have come at a better time! Thanks so much, I'll keep in touch about progress. Feel free to add me to your email list!

Steve

Lyle - I started into the YouTube videos last night. They are tremendous. Thank you for all of the work it took to put them together.

Bruce

CALENDAR

Check out my website calendar for more specifics.

(<http://www.lylejamieson.com/information/calendar.asp>)

November, 2012 – Wisconsin

January, 2013 – Tennessee & North Carolina

January & February, 2013 – Florida

April, 2013-Georgia

June, 2013-Florida

October, 2013-Ohio