

January 2013



“Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground!”

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Wishing everyone a Happy and Successful New Year! I hope you can accomplish your New Year's resolution. According to a recent poll, the top resolution is to drop extra weight. They polled thousands of people and found that most people that shampooed their hair in the shower gained weight. The study recommended that people use dishwashing soap for their hair. They confirmed what was on the shampoo labels. The shampoo said it will help increase body, while the dishwashing soap said it would cut fat.:)

For all you folks thinking about attending the Florida Symposium, February 4-8, 2013 at Lake Yale, I have been asked to be one of the featured demonstrators. I will have five rotations and will cover all aspects of turning from the foundation elements of doing a bowl to advanced techniques for doing hollow forms.

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TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month: Preparing blank for a faceplate

I get frequent questions about vibration and as I trouble shoot the process I often find people using chucks for hollow forms. I often get resistance to using a faceplate. Let me spend some time describing my reasoning and methods for faceplate use. We all learned to use chucks from the production turners, but most of us are not turning production work, we just want to have some fun at the lathe. The benefit to using a chuck is you can get it off and back on the lathe with reasonable accuracy. It will never run perfectly true but it is close.

It takes the same time to prepare the turning blank for a faceplate as it does to turn the shoulder for a chuck, so that's a wash. Using a tenon will need, let's say 5/16 inch wasted wood. A 1 ¼ inch screws in the faceplate waste wood about ¾ inch. For you frugal folks out there that is minimal difference in the waste needed. Both methods can use the wood inside the screws or tenon area and use 100 percent of the wood with a small diameter foot area. OK, so far we don't have any compelling advantages for either.

The factor that makes me prefer the faceplate is the vibration issue. The faceplate is a much stronger holding method. When you are turning and hollowing far away from your support the chuck is grabbing a sponge and compressing the wood fibers and allows vibration much more than a faceplate. Here is my YouTube clip on chuck use limitations. <http://youtu.be/VIZ81aDfcxc> Using a faceplate can be the deciding factor on whether you need to use a steady rest or not. I prefer not to use a steady rest. I can also be more aggressive hogging off wood and get to my final shapes faster with a faceplate without vibration slowing me down.

Starting between centers I clean up the foot of the hollowing blank just as I do the bowl blank. I make a slight concave surface on the bottom so when I screw the faceplate on, it will seat around the rim of the faceplate. This is the same idea I use to put the glue on the glue block method for bowls. Here is a YouTube clip on the concave surface and glue block method for bowls.

<http://youtu.be/rbZXEBIHVOU> (Don't let this clip confuse you for hollow forms. This is a bowl, a side grain bowl. Most hollow forms will be in an end grain position and the cuts to clean up the bottom are different.) I do not want any hump in the middle of the bottom allowing vibration. I don't trust flat here. I cannot make a perfectly flat surface; we are using hand held tools here. I will chisel the tenon off so there is no hump in the middle and screw the faceplate on the concave surface. I just eyeball the middle. The hollow form blank is just roughed out at this point so I'm not worried about getting it perfectly centered. Just come close, it's good enough.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HOSALUK ADAPTERS

Lyle,

What is a Hosaluk adapter?

I am going to try my laser hollowing a Christmas ornament, but 41 seconds seems mighty fast.

Wish me luck,

Lou location unknown

Hi Lou,

Michael Hosaluk has adapters for a variety of sizes of boring bars and handles. (See Page 21 in the Packard catalog.) If you don't find the size you want from Packard, call Mike, he makes almost any size you will need. He is in Canada at #306-978-9671.

When I use my 3/8 inch diameter boring bars I put the adapter in the end of my 3/4 inch diameter boring bar instead of the swivel assembly. Keep the smaller boring bars short, 5-7 inches. They cannot reach out over the tool rest very far without vibration so they don't need to be long. The key is to make sure the laser will still reach and work with it.

BOWL LATHES

Aloha Lyle,

I've been meaning to ask you what kind of lathe do you use?

(That monster, some kind of bowl lathe.)

Have you heard anything good/ bad about VEGA bowl lathe?

Craigslist has one, but it's listed w/o price so I'm sure he expects us to know.

Aloha, Randy from Hawaii

Hi Randy,

I use a Nichols lathe. It is a custom built, very heavy duty lathe.

John Nichols went out of business many years ago. The Vega lathes are better now. I would stay away from an older model. They have some design problems that will drive you crazy over the years. I look for a long bed in a lathe. Mine is 7 feet long. If you agree with my methods, I start and I end every piece I do between centers so I need a bed. If you want to get into larger hollowing you need a bed for the hollowing system. So, I would not be looking at "bowl" lathes.

JAMIESON SYSTEM FOR MINI LATHES

Hi Lyle,

I note that your boring bar system is typically used on larger lathes. I love the principle of fingertip control and would like to adapt my Jet 1220 to hollow small globes and smaller vessels for faster production and laser indicated accuracy. Do you sell a system or have suggestions on how I could do this with only a 20" bed? My only thought would be to add a wood extension to hold the backrest further away from my bed and boring bar tool rest.

Thanks, Dick from Iowa

Hi Dick,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the inquiry.

My system will work on any lathe. I use a Jet 1220 when I am a vendor at symposiums all over the country. I set it up so participants can use it before they buy it. Yes, you are correct; the backrest must be moved back and cantilevers off the end of the bed. My mini lathe model system has a longer base plate to do that. The package discount prices and descriptions are on my website store or give me a call and I can get you going.

You are also correct about the fingertip control and advantages of having the laser. I can hollow out a Christmas ornament in 41 seconds. It all works great on a mini lathe.

JET TOOL REST

Lyle,

Thank you, I received the tool rest and it works great, when I first talked to you about my Jet lathe we discussed the tool rest, I told you I had a third party tool rest, well, it turned out to be worst then the Jet tool rest. So thank you again for a great tool rest.

Jim from Oregon

Hi Jim,

Thanks for the feedback. I am sorry I was incorrect in my advice to you. I did not know of other tool rests that did not work. Is it a home built model, or do you have the brand name or manufacturer so I don't make that mistake again? (Jim sent back a photo of a round bar tool rest with too long of a post to go in the banjo.) One size does not fit all. I make tool rests that fit any lathe.

WHERE DO I GET YOUR THREADED TOOL REST

Say Lyle,

I really liked the threaded tool rest I got to use at your shop and also see on the videos. I have checked the various websites and do not see how to get one. Did you fabricate your own or can you tell me where to get one?

Greg from Wisconsin

Hi Greg,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the inquiry.

I make and market the tool rests myself. They are expensive to make and I do not have enough profit spread to sell them through the catalogs. You can find them on my web site store or give me a call and I'll get one right out to you. They are \$39.00 plus shipping.

NEW HOLLOWING DVD IS DIFFERENT

Hi Lyle,

I hope you are well and enjoying the Christmas Season!

My husband Jim and I met you in Derry, New Hampshire where we purchased your hollowing system. I know that he sent you a picture of the first vessel he turned and you put it in your newsletter. He was very happy with that.

I am interested in purchasing your latest DVD for Jim for Christmas but since Jim already has your first two DVD's I cannot help but wonder if he would glean enough new info from a 3rd one. Can you tell me if you have included a lot of new ideas and instructions in it? I look forward to hearing from you!
Thanks! Sue from Massachusetts

Hi Sue,

Yes, it is a whole new ballgame. There is some overlap in the process but tons of new stuff. The old one is 10 years old and I have changed the way I teach and have added the carbide cutter. I have explained many more advanced techniques, where the old DVD was focused on the foundation elements.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE BENT SWIVEL CUTTER ASSEMBLY

Hello:

Can you tell me the total length of your "3/8 inch bent holder"? Also, if I want to use it with your carbide cutter, do I need anything else to attach the cutter to the bar? Does the cutter come with a screw?

Finally, what is the "carbide cutter assembly" used with?

Thanks, John from Florida

Hi John,

Nice to hear from you!

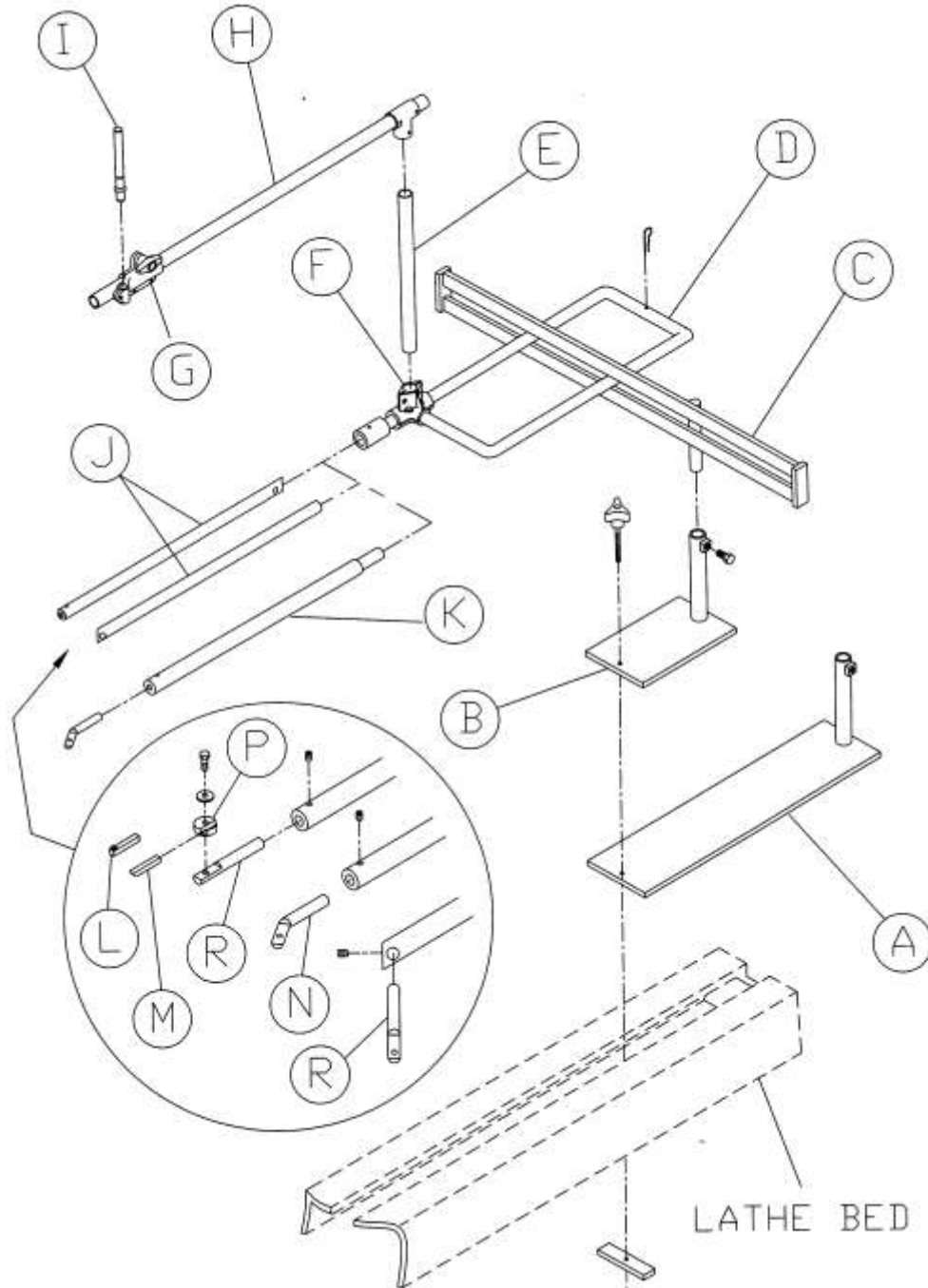
Sorry, it can be a little confusing if you have not seen it in action. I have attached a schematic drawing that might help. I have to get this on my web site too. I'll be in Florida twice next year. Look me up.

Let's start with the handle. The 3/4 inch diameter boring bar goes in the handle. The boring bar has a 3/8 inch hole in it and the swivel assembly goes into the boring bar. The swivel assembly holds the 3/16 inch square HSS cutter or the carbide cutter shaft that is also 3/16 inch square. The swivel shaft has its own bolt to secure the cutters. The cutters are interchangeable but you need a swivel assembly to hold the cutters. The shaft on the swivel assembly is 3/8 inch diameter and about 3 inches long. I think the hole in the boring bar is almost 2 inches deep.

The carbide cutter assembly and all the parts are listed in the store on my web site with a description of what is included. Another resource is my new DVD with advanced hollowing techniques and the carbide cutter in action. Your club likely has one in their library. The carbide cutter assembly includes the machined 3/16 inch shaft, the #1 Hunter nanograin carbide cutter, a torx screw, and torx wrench, and clean out pin. The cutter comes with its own screw and shaft. The bottom line, if you purchase my tools from me they are all compatible and interchangeable.

I hope this is what you wanted. Are you building your own system? Or are you trying to adapt another manufacturer's parts to my system? The bent swivel is a very versatile part. You will be surprised at the shapes you can reach to undercut shoulders and get into small mouth openings. I use it most of the time due to its

versatility. Let me know if I can help, don't hesitate to call me if you want more information.



LOCAL CLUB MEMBERSHIPS

Hello Lyle,

Just received the new laser. Thanks again.

I actually haven't joined a turning club as yet. I tend not to be a joiner but I suppose it could be helpful in the long run. Are you familiar with any clubs in the Oakland County area?

Thanks again, Sheldon from Michigan

Hi Sheldon,

The leadership changes in the clubs over the years and I don't know the folks down there very well. Everyone I have met is great.

Joining does not have mandatory responsibilities. Join and just go to

the meetings and get in the communication and networking link. You can join without getting sucked into other activities. Depending on size, the clubs will have groups that hang together. It's hard not to have some politics involved but in the turning world it is usually very minor stuff and goes on only in the background and few even know about it.

LASER FLICKERING PROBLEM

Hello Lyle,

First, I want to tell how helpful the 'one-on-one' class I took with you in September has been in improving my hollowing technique. I have gained much needed confidence with the process and am now enjoying it as opposed to dealing with the fear of going through wall of the bowl.

The only problem I have been having is with the laser on the hollowing system. It has been flickering on and off while hollowing. I've tightened the parts, pulled lightly on the battery spring to create more pressure on the battery inside the battery case, cleaned it and replaced the batteries several times but it continues to flicker and during the last use it barely stayed on long enough for me to finish the project I was working on.

Please let me know if there is something else I can do to get it to stay on without flickering. Otherwise, I will need a replacement. I purchased my hollowing system about three years ago so I don't know if it is still covered under the warranty. If not, just let me know the cost and I'll take care of it.

Thank you, Sheldon from Michigan

Hi Sheldon,

Thanks for the feedback on the class. Let me know when you want to kick it up another notch.

Sorry you are having troubles with the laser. Sounds like you have done everything I would do to trouble shoot the laser problem. There must be a something faulty there. I'll send you a new one.

WATERPROOF FINISH

Lyle,

I've been epoxy coating a few vases so they could hold fresh cut flowers (vs. dust collectors), and it's been a challenge, three coats sanding between each isn't much fun, then having to buff.

I just emailed Sherwin Williams, to see if they had a single stage product I could spray a couple of coats (I'm think auto clear coat).

We'll see what happens.

Any Ideas? Experiences?

Aloha, Randy from Hawaii

Hi Randy,

I use a wiping varnish so I don't have to fuss with a coating type finish. Epoxy is the best to seal wood for use with liquids. Some use a thinned epoxy so it penetrates into the wood better. You have to keep in mind over the years of use any finish that leaves a surface coating on it might fail. It's not the finish that fails but the fact the

wood is moving. It takes on and releases moisture from season to season. This microscopic movement can wreck a finish over many years. If I wanted to put fresh flowers in a wood bowl I'd use a glass insert to protect the bowl. Some people use wood dishes for everything, but it is not finished with anything but mineral oil and usually left to have a pleasing patina from repeated use.

FEEDBACK

Aloha Lyle,

I just wanted to tell you that the more I use your boring bar system, the more I'm amazed in its ease of use.

Prior to using your system, I was limited to a maximum of 1 hr. sessions in the shop (due to a back injury). I just realized I'm up to 1 1/2 + hrs.

I did one simple thing to help realign the cutter after sharpening though, just thought I'd pass it along so others don't have to guess (like I did).

Since the head rotates to an infinite amount, I decided to mark the round (cutter holder), and the flat spot (3/8") on the rod. So when I go to reinstall the cutter all I have to do is to line it up to that mark, or a different mark if I'm ready to readjust the cutter. No more guess work for me, I have marks at about 5 degrees, then I use one side of the cutter slot, then the other, then marks up to about 80 degrees (on the straight cutter). I haven't used the bent one nor did I use the round carbide cutter yet.

Thanks again for sharing your boring bar system!

Aloha, Randy, from Hawaii

Lyle,

I received the "I WANT IT ALL" package day before yesterday, looks like all is in good order. I hope to set up my 3520B this weekend if snow does not prevent delivery by skid loader to basement. After that I will set up the boring bar, watch the DVD's and call with questions.

Nice being "in the family". Thanks for your good service.

Happy New Year

Best, Jeff from Maryland

Lyle,

I have a homemade deep hollowing tool like you sell, but did not come with a laser so I bought one of yours. Works great.

Bill, location unknown

Hello Lyle,

Just want you to see a recent hollow formed segmented bowl I made using your hollowing system, and, the improved technique I learned in the one-on-one class I took with you in September.

The wall on this bowl is a consistent 3/16th inch but could have been 1/8th inch had I been just a bit more adventurous.

Thanks again for all your help in getting me to understand the real potential of working with your hollowing system and making turning a pleasurable, creative process without the stress of bad things happening.

Sincerely, Sheldon from Michigan



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

August, 2013 - Texas

October, 2013 - Ohio