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

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"Xerox and Wurlitzer will merge to produce reproductive organs."
Anonymous

(I screwed up...see my apology in the first note in the feedback section below.)

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TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month: Turning Taller Vessels

There is always a desire to do taller and taller turned vessels. I wrote an article in Woodturning Design Magazine about vibration issues and showed some tricks and techniques for getting deeper turning. It is important to turn without vibration; we battle vibration all the time. Rather than reproduce the entire 4 page article here, this is a link to the article. Just hold the control button and click on the link below.

Hollow Form Turning Tips

P.S. WD-40 was mentioned on the Wood Central forum and there was a contributor that showed that it is not a good lubricant. W-D-40 equals Water Displacement #40. They tried 39 different formulas before they got it right. It is an amazing product for turners. It was not designed to be a lubricant. It is the best thing to use on lathes because it retards rust by displacing the water. It also acts as a slight lubricant but it is not oily, it does not collect dust film and it is not slippery. We don't want the tailstock and tool rest banjo to be sliding around on the bed. Some folks pay a lot of money for fancy lubricants, when most of them are counterproductive on lathes.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GRINDING FLAT SPOTS & THREADED POST TOOL REST

Lyle,
I hope you're doing well. I'm just thawing out after a very long, cold winter.
I purchased your hollowing system at the OVWG symposium last fall. I've spent the winter moving and rebuilding my workshop, and just finally prepared your hollowing system for use.
Let me start by saying how impressed I am with the quality of the materials. Everything seems to be top-notch materials. Additionally, your instructions are very well written and easy to follow.
With the level of precision in your system and quality of the materials, I was wondering why you skip the step of grinding on the flat spots for the set screws. This was a rather difficult step for folks that don't have metal working tools (or have to free-hand it on a grinder normally used for sharpening gouges). It just seemed like you could have had it machined originally and provided an even higher level of accuracy.
My current problem is the hollowing cutter is exactly 1/4" above the center of my spindle. The backrest is at the exact measurement (3/8" below the center point), but with the tool rest all the way down, the cutter is simply too high. I'm hesitant to use it since your instructions emphasize the importance of cutting at the center line of the lathe. Any suggestions?
Thanks, James

Hi James from Ohio,
I thank you for the feedback. If I were to have the welding and machining accurate enough to do the flat spots it would add $100.00 to the user cost. I feel the cheaper price will allow many more turners to enjoy the system. It is a pain for the user to grind the flats and I have struggled with the decision.

I apologize, I always tell people that have Jet lathes, the Jet tool rest will not work with hollowing systems, in advance before they purchase it. The Jet 16-42 tool rest will not go down in the banjo. I must have missed you in the fray. It is an easy fix just use a different tool rest. Have one made locally or, even better; buy mine in the store section of my web site. My tool rest with the threaded post was designed because of the Jet problem. The only time that it is critical to be dead on the center line is when the drill hole is gone and you are cleaning up the inside bottom of the vessel. It is important to be able to get on the center line to get the dreaded "nub" in the bottom. Never cut below center.

REVEALING PHOTO & USE OF CHUCK & GLUE BLOCK FOR HOLLOW FORMS

Lyle,

You may see more of these than you appreciate, but just in case you are interested in my progress in using your In-depth hollowing system, I have attached a picture of my first completed hollow form using my new 'toy'.
I had previously tried to hollow this vessel using Hunter and Sorby tools, but the vibration limited me to 1 inch or less penetration. I hollowed 6 inches with your tool. The inside is a little rough except where I could sand with my fingers. The wood was dry and the hardest walnut I have ever turned.
Its sister vessel was also attached to a glue block and broke the block at the glue line using a Hunter type tool. I have never seen a CA glue line break before.
I really enjoy using your tool. It is much easier on this old body.
See you in May!
Pottsy

Hi Pottsy from Pennsylvania,
Thanks for sharing the photos of your piece. Nicely done! I always enjoy seeing the results from my students. Thanks for taking the time to share the report on your experiences. Keep the tools sharp and with the wax and fingertip control you will have smooth lines inside very soon. It takes very little time to get good at it.
You didn't ask me but I'm going to treat this as a teaching moment and respond as if it was a question. I don't use CA for end grain hollow forms. It's best to use a faceplate with lots of screws and a concave surface. It looks like that piece was a crotch. Look at the distance from the headstock to the top of the vessel, it is way too far. Never use a chuck for hollowing. You are starting off with one hand tied behind your back. Go back and look at the process I use for hollowing on the DVD. This process gives you a lot more stability and control. You will have significant limitations and obstacles with your procedure.

BEVEL ANGLE ADJUSTMENT BLOCK

Hi Lyle,
I just ordered the 10 and 15 degree spindle gouge "inserts" I think this is what I want. I don't want to have to change the set up but want to have a consistent angle for the spindle. Hope I have it correct.
Hope all is well,
Joe
Hi Joe from Maryland,
Yes, you have it correct. The spacer blocks change the tip angle you grind without moving the jig. The grinding jig stays at the bowl gouge grind setting.

TOOL REST SAFETY

Lyle,
I noticed in your DVDs you say one should always power off the lathe before moving the tool rest but...
Ron

Hi Ron from Virginia,
I move the tool rest without stopping the lathe sometimes. I recommend you **do what I say**, not what I do! I've been turning all my life and know when it is safe. Beginners don't have experience to help

them make the safest choices. It's all about control. I keep my banjo and bed clean and lubricated so I can move the tool rest effortlessly. Most have to fight with it to move it...not safe with the lathe running. Always shut the lathe off to move the tool rest.

USE OLD HANDLE FOR NEW BOWL GOUGE

Lyle,
Enjoyed your newsletter! Not sure I understand about that “notch” in the 2 X 6. Could you draw me a picture or show me by picture how this is done? Also, sure would like to have one of your new gouges. Guess they’re on your site?
Thanks Lyle!
Bob

Hi Bob from Texas,
Got your order, it's on the way, Thanks. To get used-up gouges out of the old wood handles you need a way to hit the handle without damaging the handle. Take a 2”x6” and cut a notch in the end so you can put the used gouge in the notch and hit the 2”x6” with a big hammer to get it out. Any block would work on an angle. Holding the old gouge in a vice or clamped to a table with the handle sticking out into the room and find a way to hit the ferrule without damaging it. See photo below.

WHERE TO FIND THE THREADED TOOL REST

Hi Lyle,
I’ve been watching your online lessons (YouTube) and I have a question for you. I have an Oneway 24-36 and on the tool rest post in your video you have a threaded post with an adjusting nut that lets you make fine adjustments to the tool rest height. Is this something that you rigged up for yourself or is it an attachment that you bought? It’s a cool idea and I’d love to get one.
Thanks,
Eric

Hi Eric location unknown,
Nice to hear from you, thanks for the inquiry. The tool rest is one of the tools I manufacture and have available on my web site. The store menu is like a catalog of all my tools. Scroll down to find the tool rest. I designed the tool rest because of the hollowing process but it is a great universal tool rest for all turning, bowls, spindles, etc. You can order on the website or call me and we can do an order over the phone.
There are many other resources on my web site. Articles I had published and archived newsletters hold a wide variety of helpful turning information. Plus my DVDs are a great way to learn the FUN-damentals of turning. Most turning clubs around the country have them in their library.

GRINDING ANGLES FOR THE BOWL GOUGE

Hello Lyle,

The photo's I sent are my two bowl gouges. One is 3/8” and other is 5/8”. My question is can you tell from the photo's if they can be changed to your grind? Both are from Packard and have parabolic flutes. I want to start and do just as you recommend and I'm sure the grind needs to be correct to have success.
I was signed up for a clinic by another master turner in April and I think I want to cancel that, as I need to stick to one method and I have decided it should be yours.
The photos of my gouges maybe won't be clear enough to tell you what you need to know but I thought it worth the try. My wings seem to be longer than on yours that I see in the newsletter. I also wonder if I have too much angle inward on the wings. At my age I want to get as close as soon as possible to give me a chance to Improve.
I'm looking to see if I could make a trip to Traverse City this summer. If so I would love to attend one of your classes.
Thanks for all your work to help make turning more fun for us.
Joe

Hi Joe from Pennsylvania,
Thanks for the note and photos. It is fun for me to see your enthusiasm and excitement for turning. It's all about the fun, enjoy the ride. I am thrilled to help.
Your grind angles look close to what I have. But...The wings are ground way too far back and it looks like one side is farther back than the other. When you are grinding the wings just stop short of the corner of the wing. After you stop short for a while the tip will get ground away eventually to correct the shape. I don’t think it is necessary to correct it all in one re-shaping correction. It will work fine the way it is now. Just do not use the wing way back at the corner to scrape or sheer scrape. The scraping mode is affected by the extra-long wing. Check the basket position or pivot point and see if it is more than 7 inches from the grinding wheel. If it is more than 7 inches away you might want to move it up. Keep a light touch as you sharpen. With the jig set up at the repeatable angles each time you sharpen we just dress the bevel lightly and the edge gets sharp.
Keep the two things separated in your thinking. The grinding and sharpening the shape you want is different than getting the jig set for the correct angles. Looks like your set up is close to correct, just change where you sharpen and leave the wing shorter.

GRINDING WHEELS FOR NEW BOWL GOUGE

Hi Lyle
The 5/8” bowl gouge arrived yesterday and I must say it's awesome. I love how easy it is to use. I have a question on sharpening it though. I sharpen using white aluminum oxide wheels (80 & 100 grit) on a slow speed grinder. My other tools are M2 steel and are very sharp and hold a good edge but I can't seem to get as good an edge on my new gouge which is CPM 10V steel.
The Bowl Basics DVD shows you sharpening using aluminum oxide but I don't think the gouge is the new CPM 10V one. I suppose my question is this, do you still use aluminum oxide wheels when you sharpen the new gouges or should I think about upgrading to CBN wheels? I'd prefer not to due to costs so any info on sharpening these new gouges is greatly appreciated.
Kind regards,
Jim

Hi Jim location unknown,

The aluminum oxide wheels are fine and what I use. I would suggest the 80 grit on the slow grinder for you. It will give you a stronger burr when sharpening. The CBN wheels work fine too. Lots of turners are switching to them but it is not necessary. The 10V steel is harder than the M-2 HSS. Sharpening will feel different and the sparks look different then the HSS. The 10V will stay sharp longer than the HSS. In the Bowl Basics DVD you see I sharpen often no matter what tool I'm using. Sharp tools are a must to good turning skills.

FEEDBACK

Good Afternoon Sir,
I am just taking a few minutes to share my displeasure at the condition of the grind my bowl gouge arrived with.
It looks as though it was held against the wheel on the left side as there is a deep corner wheel mark that has deep brown coloration burn marks. The front of the tool has a complete flat spot facet that was not blended in and the left side wing as well as a huge hump in it. (please review pics) The significance to all this is that I am trying to duplicate your grind after watching your videos and your answer to duplication is "buy my gouge or borrow one from a fellow club member".
I opted to support you as I found your videos extremely informative. The gouge on the other hand has been a disappointment.

Hi Dean from New York,
Please accept my sincere apology. You are correct, that is unacceptable and not up to my standards. It is no excuse but I can tell by the course grind marks that is one of the tools I shaped at the Symposium. I was running out of tools and I hastily used someone else's grinder course wheel to shape a few for the show, and I was in a huge hurry. I should have taken a closer look at it and used another grinder to fix the mess. I am embarrassed I let this go out. The angles are correct to set your grinder with...but the grind needs a lot of help.
I will call you tomorrow to chat with you and find a way to make it up to you.
(The above note from Dean and my reply was a wakeup call. I don't get complaints about my tools. The new bowl gouge has had some bugs and bumps in the road as I ramp up production to keep up with demand. The response has been overwhelming at times. I have been out of stock and rushing to stay in production. Hopefully I am up to speed now with orders. I have a satisfaction guaranteed policy so I called Dean right away. He was understanding and said, "Stuff happens!" but as some of you well know, I am a control freak and insist my products are within a range of acceptability. Most turning tools are not usable out of the box. I pride myself to go beyond that and go the extra mile to produce my grind and get them ready to use. If any of you purchased my bowl gouge with a really ugly grind, I would like to personally apologize to you, too. In fact I would like to hear from you to make sure you are happy. I have built a reputation over the decades for good teaching and good tools; I don't want one bone-headed move to ruin that.)

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I have turned my first hollow form with the system I ordered from you and all I can say is, "Why did I wait so long?" I turned a cherry burl vase almost 17 inches deep by 8 inches wide and I'm amazed at

how easy it was, especially in comparison to the old method. More pleasantly surprised with the lack of pain in my old arthritic joints. Well worth the cost and can see it paying for itself in increased productivity. So, thanks for a great product.
Sincerely,
Ron from Virginia

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I'm like a kid at Christmas. Only difference is I will be 78 next month. I ordered your system for me and my nephew on Friday. Since then I have read all of your newsletters back to May 2012. Last night I couldn't sleep and was up at 3am and read for over 3 hours. I have been having a terrible time with the pull cut. I read again your explanation on how to do it and found I didn't have the handle low enough and wasn't keeping the handle on my right hip. I had an old walnut bowl from when I started bowls last year that was cracked. I think I might be able to save it now that I can do a better pull cut. It was amazing the difference when I did it more as you suggest.
Thanks for all your work to help make turning more fun for us.
Joe from Pennsylvania

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CALENDAR

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

April, 2014 – Georgia, Michigan

May, 2014 – Michigan

June, 2014 – Arizona

July, 2014 - Wisconsin

August, 2014 – Illinois, Texas

September, 2014 – Virginia, Georgia