



February 2014



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I was visiting my niece last night, when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century, she said, don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you may borrow my iPad."

I can tell you this that fly never knew what hit him!

Anonymous

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TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month: New and better bowl gouge

I will digress this month from not promoting myself and my tools, kind of, and talk about my bowl gouge. I usually use the feature topic to talk about the hollowing process. The “kind of” is because we need to do the outside of the hollow form with tools other than the boring bar system and laser. The outside is where the creativity, design, and excitement are. That is what is seen and enjoyed by the viewer. The inside is just get the wood out without beating up our bodies. My bowl gouge is my “go-to” tool for the outside shapes.

I have been working with Doug Thompson to manufacture my design for a new and better bowl gouge. WOW!! It is finally here. I had Doug design a new and better bowl gouge exclusively for me and my students. You have Doug and me, two dedicated tool makers standing behind this gouge. Made in USA! Doug makes and sells great tools but I could never use them because he has a “U” and a “V” shaped flute. In order to use the bowl gouge, I need a parabolic shape to the flute. Doug worked hard to figure out how to make this flute configuration with his equipment. I have been trying for years to find a way to get this type of tool made in the USA. This is a whole new ballgame.

This is the best tool steel in the world. This is 5/8 inch diameter triple tempered CPM 10V steel. Cryogenic treated. The tool steel is 12 inches long with a 7 inch long flute, hardened to 62-64 Rockwell the entire length of the tool. This has a better flute configuration. Not a “V”, not a “U” shape. It has a wider, parabolic flute shape than any other gouge made today. The flute change is subtle but translates into easier, safer, and better control. It has the best and most versatile grind on the market. The Jamieson grind will do all the four cuts outlined in my DVD, Bowl Basics-The Easy Way.

What does all this mean in use? I have been using it now for a few weeks and I could not be more pleased. I sharpen it exactly as I have been sharpening my old signature bowl gouge (made in England) but the wider flute and parabolic shape flute changes everything. The tip of the tool ends up a little more rounded and less pointy than the old one. This means a broader sweet spot for the push cut. It is more forgiving. The heel of the bevel at the tip is wider, for better bevel support on both the push and pull cuts. The shavings seem to sweep out effortlessly. With the wider flute opening it is more forgiving on the scrape and sheer scrape cuts. It translates into a safer scraping range to never violate the 90 degree rule of scraping. I am impressed!

I have a keep it simple approach and this tool does it all. The grind has subtleties that differ from others in the turning catalogs. The fatter, larger, better sweet spot makes the cuts easier to control. It is not sold in other catalogs. The next time you are ready to replace your bowl gouge take a look at this. I guarantee you will like it. Better grind, better flute, better

steel, and made in USA. See my web site store for prices. They come in unhandled, wood handle, or with the Thompson Handle. This ends the unpaid personal advertisement. ☺

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GRINDER SET-UP

Hi Lyle,

Very good presentation on how to sharpen, I have a Storme sharpening jig, that seems to be a copy of the Wolverine, it's sold by Axminster, seems sturdy enough.

Problem is the locking handles for the platform and bar catch the underside of my wheel covers so cannot lock the bars.

I need to buy some star knob bolts.

I digress my question is does the height of the wheel in relation to the jig matter as your way of adjusting for side and tip doesn't seem to matter only that both are correctly aligned to the wheel.

I have only been turning for 3 months so any help would be appreciated, your videos are clear and concise.

Thank you,

Bob from YouTube, location unknown.

Bob,

If I understand the obstacle correctly, put your grinder on a riser block and lift it off the table of bench slightly so the handle will work. You are correct; the jig will be able to take up the difference in height of the grinder. You will be able to re-set for the angles you want. Example...I have a 10 inch industrial grinder and it works fine, same grind.

REVERSING THE LATHE

I do some reverse turning now on problem woods, and have been cleaning up the insides of pots with an easy wood round cutter in reverse. Am limited on depth and sometimes the wall is too steep and the bottom of the tool hits the rim before the cutter does.

We will stop and see you at the Symposium in Phoenix.

Ben

Hi Ben from Missouri,

I never turn with the lathe running in reverse. The Easy Rougher tools have two limitations. First, they are not nanograin carbide so it will never be as sharp as the Jamieson/ Hunter carbide tools. Second, the Easy Rougher tools are designed to be scrapers. The scraping mode will never leave as clean of a surface as the slicing cut from the Jamieson/Hunter carbide tools.

SANDING NATURAL EDGES

Good morning Lyle,

My question is concerning the sanding of natural edge bowls. I turned my first the other day and when I went to sand, the air space between the high wings and the low made it impossible to sand while turning on the lathe. I have reviewed your YouTube clip and also the Bowl turning video

I bought from you, in both you used a standard bowl. I also read a lot of back issues of your newsletter with no luck there. The old saying is: "It's not over until it's over" for me that is when a piece is completely done ready to display or give away.

Thanks, Mike

Hi Mike from Ohio

You are correct. You cannot sand a natural edge bowl with the lathe on, period. I use the lathe as a holding device and sand with the lathe off. This would apply for any kind of a void in a bowl or hollow form. You can only sand with the lathe running if the wood is solid 360 degrees around. I use different size sanding disks 2", 3", 5" with soft sanding mandrels or backing pads. The soft pads bridge the contour of the bowl without scratching sanding lines in the wrong places. It takes some practice. A drill with a good variable speed control will help. In the beginning with course grits like 120 or 150 you can use high speed and get the tool marks and torn out grain. When I get down to 220, or 320 I slow the drill way down so it will not get hot, not at all hot!! Then with 400, 600 I only use hand held sandpaper never a drill with the finer grits. SLOOOOW down, if the sandpaper gets hot, it's too fast. Stop frequently and inspect with a strong light source and look for scratches from previous grits. One more trick is to sand with the sanding disk rotating in the direction to exit OFF the natural edge. If the rotation of the disk is sanding toward the edge it will tend to climb off the edge and scarf up the edge. Point the drill away from you with the drill spinning clockwise. At the 9 o'clock position of the disk the sandpaper is going up, and at the 3 o'clock position the sandpaper is going down. Use this direction to sand in a direction OFF the edge not onto the edge. Again it takes some practice but the result is worth the trouble.

I like your attitude to take care of details and to make the best piece you can here.

REVERSE ANGLE CARBIDE CUTTER

Lyle,

Was thinking about ordering the reverse angle cutter to clean up the inside near the top for those prying fingers of turners? Might also save me from bending over the lathe on some of my pots, what do you think?

Ben

Hi Ben from Missouri

Thanks for the photos. Looks like that will be a stunning piece. I usually don't do any turning with the pith in it. But, that log is already rotten in the middle and with the void and character it will be worth the extra effort, and any additional cracks will not detract from it. Nice job!



I use the reverse cutter often but only to clean up the surface, and when the grain dictates. I use the standard cutter to hog off with. I figure with such limited use it will last me the rest of my life. Where it really comes in handy is with side grain bowls or side grain hollow forms with relatively large mouth openings. I can get a bevel supported slicing cut across the bottom that needs little or no sanding. I cannot reach the bottom shape with any other tool that way. It's all about the grain orientation and making the pass downhill with supported fibers. Yes, I find it is better for my body position in some instances.

As you indicate it will be useful for end grain hollow forms to clean up the undercut mouth opening where people can feel the surface and it's hard to sand.

SPECIALTY BOWL GOUGE GRINDS

Lyle,

I am new to bowl turning. I purchased a regular 1/2 inch Sorby bowl gouge which I put a finger nail profile type grind as you recommended in your "Bowl Basics" DVD. I hope that this is not a too elementary a question but would it be a good idea also to have another bowl gouge available with a snub-nose type grind on the end as it comes many times from the manufacturer? If so, what size diameter bowl gouge would you recommend? I inherited a heavy duty 1936 Atlas Press Universal lathe that was made in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It has a 12 inch swing so I will probably not be making bowls above a 10 inch diameter.

Thank you, John

Hi John location unknown,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the questions. Let's try to define some things, first, the tip angle. The tip or bevel support right at the end of the bowl gouge can be different angles. Some like a 45-50 degree angle. The tradeoff is the steeper angle, like that, can leave a cleaner cut and better surface behind but is harder to control and can be aggressive for beginners. A blunter 70-75 degree angle is needed sometimes for deep bowls and flat bottom bowls. The grind angle I like is 60-65 degrees. It is a happy medium between the two, and is the most versatile. I use my

grind for 99 percent of my turning. I have a steeper and a blunter angle bowl gouge for specialty purposes that collect dust for years at a time. The shape of the grind is another matter. Very few people use the bowl gouge as it is sharpened from the factory. We all tweak them for our own needs. The bull nose (stub nosed) or fingernail grind is used with a spindle gouge not a bowl gouge. For bowl gouges with a deep flute we usually grind the wings back for a swept back grind. The wings get in the way when you try to do a fingernail grind for a bowl gouge and they are a catch hazard.

The two tools I use the most are on my website (online store). There are photos of the grind there and here also.



Bowl Gouge



Spindle Gouge

I can do almost every cut and shape imaginable with these two tools. The tip on my 5/8 inch diameter bowl gouge is 60-65 degrees and is friendly and has a bigger sweet spot than many other grinds. 1/2 inch Sorby bowl gouge measures 5/8 inch diameter, yes, confusing, I know. My spindle gouge is bigger than most, 5/8 inch diameter, and has stability and can get into finer details than the bowl gouge. The spindle gouge has the tip ground at 45-50 degrees.

I can do small things with a big tool...but I cannot do big things with a small tool. I don't have and I don't use smaller bowl gouges or spindle gouges.

BOWL GOUGE TIP ANGLES ON THE BOWL DVD

Mr. Jamieson,

I have viewed all your YouTube videos and learned a great deal from them. Your method of demonstrating and explaining is very clear. I appreciate them all.

I have been considering which of your DVDs I should purchase first and believe deep hollowing will be my next endeavor. However, this week I ran into some confusion in bowl turning.

Does your DVD Bowl Basics, which lists Sharpening in the contents, include the angles for the several types of bowl gouges?

I just purchased a traditional bowl gouge (half inch with parabolic flute) which I expected to have about 60 degree bevel and allow bottom feeding type cuts. I was surprised to find it measures 48 degree bevel. My gouges with the swept back wings also measure 48 degrees. So now I'm confused as to correct angles for the several types of gouges. I use the Oneway Jig and can obtain most any angle on a gouge but need to certain I'm headed in the correct direction.

Bottom line is will your Bowl Basics DVD clear this up for me?

Pottsy

Hi Pottsy from Pennsylvania,

Nice to hear from you and good question! Thanks for the feedback. The YouTube clips are helter-skelter, and only give a snapshot of a piece of the puzzle. The DVDs give the whole process, start to finish. The Bowl Basics DVD uses the bowl format to cover all the fundamental turning techniques. These are skills you need for any kind of turning, for instance, on the outside of the hollow form. My process is designed to prevent obstacles and limitations. The In-Depth Hollowing DVD covers the entire process for doing hollowing, with boring bar, carbide cutter, and laser measuring techniques.

I break the tool control issue down into four cuts and I do them all with one tool. The tip angle on my bowl gouge is 60-65 degrees. That makes it versatile and friendly. The steeper grinds like you have are more aggressive and harder to control. Some very famous turners use a 45-50 degree angle. The 60-65 degree angle is the work horse and does most shapes. I also have specialty grinds that are blunter and steeper for special occasions, but they are used rarely and usually just collect dust. When I want a steeper 45-50 degree grind, to reach into some detail, I usually use my spindle gouge ground at 45-50.

One of the most important features of my Bowl Gouge is the side angles of the swept back wings. This is not measurable and is hard to see in the DVDs. The wings are slanted in and gives more bevel support and bigger sweet spot. The YouTube clip on sharpening was taken from the DVD. You can go back to the sharpening YouTube clip and see how I set the tip and side angles. You need to see one that is sharpened correctly or have a template of some kind to set up the Wolverine jig correctly to get my angles. Someone in your club will have one of my bowl gouges to look at as long as they have not changed my angles. David Ellsworth uses the same angles, but I sharpen mine differently than David. I take the Ellsworth hump off.

BOWL GOUGE AND SANDING SUPPLIES

Lyle,

Thank You for the order, got it already. The laser system is a great addition to my shop. Your DVD was the tops, very informative and lots of neat tips to boot. Have a couple of questions if you don't mind.

1. I am really interested in your Bowl Gouge and the additional easy sharpening system you use. How Much? Another order already LOL!
2. I want to build (buy?) an open segmented Jig. They are hard to find. I have in the past, built segmented bowls but now want to try the open segment, also the Index wheels are also hard to find. And where do I find those 2 inch sanders on a foam disc?

Thanks again for all your help.

Steve

Hi Steve from Texas,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the feedback. I am in the middle of a transition to a new and better bowl gouge. I had Doug Thompson design a new and better bowl gouge exclusively for me and my students. You have two dedicated tool makers standing behind this gouge. Made in USA! This is the best tool steel in the world. This is 5/8 inch diameter triple tempered CPM 10V steel. Cryogenic treated. It is 12 inches long with a 7 inch long flute, hardened to 62-64 Rockwell the entire length of the tool.

This has a better flute configuration. Not a "V", not a "U" shape. It has a wider, parabolic flute shape than any other gouge made today. The flute change translates into easier, safer, and better control. It has the best and most versatile grind on the market. The Jamieson grind will do all the four cuts outlined in my DVD, Bowl Basics-The Easy Way. I have a keep it simple approach and this tool does it all. The grind has subtleties that differ from others in the turning catalogs. The fatter sweet spot makes the cuts easier to control. It is not sold in other catalogs. I guarantee you will like it. It is available now and comes with the choice of unhandled, wood handle, or Thompson handle.

I don't know what you mean "open segmented jig". What do you want to have in the finished bowl, segments with voids? Some lathe manufacturers have indexing wheels standard or after-market options. Many have made their own shop built indexing systems. Some wood, some metal. I do not do segmented work and seldom use dry wood, so sorry, I cannot be of much help with these.

Sanding systems are all over. Many of the usual varieties are in Packard Woodworks Catalog, www.packardwoodworks.com. For a better variety and the best quality sanding systems see www.vinceswoodnwonders.com.

DOUBLE TURNING

Hi Lyle,

I also have a question regarding hollowed vessels:

I have tried hollowing vessels and leaving a wall thickness sufficient for final turning once the piece is dried; I have also hollowed the vessel to the final wall thickness in which case the vessel dries and is not round enough to finish turning. My question is: which method would you suggest and are there any other ways of approaching this situation?

Hi Michel from Canada

If you need it round, you must double turn. If you are doing something like a lidded box or putting a finial top on it, then it must be round and double turned or the lid will not fit. I don't bother. I almost always turn to final wall thickness and finish the thin walled vessel. It will dry out-of-round but not noticeable to the viewer. I like, cherish even, the character a piece takes on in the drying process. There is not a right or wrong here, some like it round, some like the distortion. I'm in the latter category.

"Not round enough to finish", I don't understand? Turned to finish wall thickness...all you need to do is wait a few hours for it to be dry enough to sand. Slow the lathe down for sanding and it's a done deal.

REVERSE ANGLE CARBIDE CUTTER

Lyle,

Do I need the complete assembly at \$69.00 or just the cutter with what I already have on hand?

Thanks, Michel

Hi Michel from Canada,

Yes, you need to have a new assembly. The machining and angle of tilt are in the opposite direction. The way to tell the difference when you start using them is the "reverse angle" has a peen dot on the top of the shaft, to

see what side is up and the standard assembly has no peen mark. I applaud you for the decision to use the reverse angle cutter. That means you understand the benefits of grain orientation and the importance of going the correct direction. A lot of advanced turners do not put grain as high on the priority list as I think it should be.

LASER VIBRATION

Hi Lyle,

I have been reading your turning emails with interest. I appreciate the time you take to impart your wisdom and experience to us fellow turners. I recently used the deep turning system I purchased from you at the Southern Style Turning Symposium at Dalton, Georgia. After first watching the DVD, I had no problem setting it up. It took some time getting the feel of it. The piece I turned was a block of Indian mahogany, dense, hard and brittle. I used a Forestner bit to start the process after I shaped the outside wall. I should have bought the carbide cutting tool as you suggested, but I didn't. I would have made finishing the inside wall easier; I have since bought the carbide cutting tip and look forward to using it on my next deep turning project. I did experience some vibration on the laser beam, but I believe it was my lack of finesse handling the cutting bar. I did use a face plate attached directly and tightly to the work piece. So I don't believe the vibration was due to flexing from the faceplate work piece joint. I have attached a picture of the finished turning, a Christmas gift for my oldest grandson.

Bill

Hi Bill from Georgia,

The carbide cutter has a learning curve of its own. Go back to the DVD again when you start using the carbide cutter. The printed article will help too to understand the rules and three cuts we do. It's not hard just takes some practice to get the hang of it. I'd start with a scrap block of wood and give yourself 10 minutes to see what is happening with the three cuts before you start using it hidden inside a hollow form. You will fall in love with it.

Thanks for sharing your thoughts and photo.

Certainly looks like you are off to a good start. That is a great shape to start with. The large mouth opening is much easier to work through to begin with and learn the tool control and laser measuring perpendicularity etc. As I mentioned in the newsletter, there should be very little vibration that would cause the laser to be moving during hollowing. If it wiggles a little while hogging off aggressively it will settle down and stop moving when you slow down to make the laser disappear. I suggest going over the installation instructions again and make sure all is done there and up to speed. Second, I'd go back and view the DVD again and use



my chucking method and tool control. The article on my website about vibration might help you troubleshoot the problem or give me a call and we can try to find the obstacle. There are lots of pieces to the puzzle and it is hard to absorb everything at once. Give yourself some time to put it all together. Sometimes it is just a matter of slowing down and paying attention to the details.

CALENDAR

Check out my website calendar for more specifics.

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

March, 2014 – New York

April, 2014 – Georgia

June, 2014 - Arizona

August, 2014 – Illinois, Texas

September, 2014 – Virginia