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Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

(Did you see the robins at the end of the last YouTube clip from my robin cam? I am blessed to live in what is truly God's country.

Hope to see a bunch of you folks at the AAW Symposium in Pittsburg. It will be a BIG event!

Congratulations Dennis Daudlein!

Dennis is the new publisher and editor of "More Woodturning". He brings experience as the founder and owner with Richard DiPerna of the website:

www.woodturningonline.com

Fred Holder has published and edited the "More Woodturning" publication for 20 years. After 188 editions Fred is retiring. For those of you that enjoyed the no longer existing magazine Woodturning Design, I am betting Dennis will take "More Woodturning" to similar levels. Check out this new resource:

www.morewoodturningmagazine.com

I will use one of the questions again as my topic of the month.)

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TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month Turning segmented bowls and preventing catches

Lyle,

I'm an avid viewer of your many videos on turning techniques. I have been having troubles with turning open segmented bowls and have met with disaster on about half of my attempts with catches and destruction. Do you have any videos on the best way to turn inside and outside of open segmented bowls I'm looking for techniques and the best tools to use. I would appreciate any help in this area.

Thanks, Jack

Hi Jack,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the inquiry. Yes, when doing dry wood and when doing segmented wood it is all that more important to have good tool control. The dry wood and glue lines are a challenge. I am on a crusade to stamp out catches that should never happen if you understand the rules of the cuts. It is an easy fix but usually needs some help. It is hard to watch somebody else do it and learn the techniques. The right tools are important but your problems are about techniques, sharp tools, chucking issues and tool control.

There are likely some people in your turning club that would be willing to mentor you through the process. It is not hard but there are a lot of pieces to the puzzle. You could come up to Michigan and take a class with me or while I am traveling it could be possible to work with you in your shop. My YouTube clips can be helpful but they are small snapshots in time of the process and techniques with no continuity. The same rules apply with solid wet wood as with dry segmented wood. Only the errors have dire consequences with segmented work. Another way to try to get the information is to get my "Bowl Basics" DVD. That would show you the whole process start to finish.

Turning the information to action on your lathe is a leap however. Many times the bad habits get in the way and have to be unlearned. The best way is to take a class with someone good at explaining the foundation elements. You need to get back to the basics.

I have worked with many people like you, some have many years of experience at the lathe, and they still struggle big time. It can be quite frustrating and discouraging to see a piece fail after many hours of preparation and work. A little help and some practice can eliminate all the frustration.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DRY WOOD VS. WET

Lyle,

I have truly found your videos educational and very helpful. I just watched your latest one, on a kitchen caddy using your boring system and thought that this system might be the ticket I have been looking for.

I do functional work for the most part and like to dry my bowl blanks in alcohol, wait a few weeks until it dries then re-turn the blank into its final shape. My problem has been warping. I leave enough wall thickness so that the final turning will have the dimensions I want, but the problem has been truing up the inside. I use all types of wood, apple, ash, beech, cherry...whatever I can get. Some change shape more than others, but the problem of truing the inside is problematic and I will sometimes get a pretty good catch in the wood, or even wind up snapping off the tenon.

My question for you is:

Would you say that your boring system would help me solve my problem?

Thanks,

Ray

Hi Ray from Maine,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the inquiry. The YouTube clips are only part of the picture. The better resource is my Bowl Basics DVD. You see all the many parts of the process explained. You have many issues around your question. I will publish it in my newsletter.

First do not use a chuck, especially on hollow forms...EVER! Second, I am on a crusade to stamp out catches. If you understand the rules of the four cuts you will never get a catch. My boring bar is set up so it cannot get a catch. No fear, no strength needed, complete control, turning should be fun not hard work.

This leads me to ask, why double turn? Are you doing lidded boxes? Dry wood is hard and harder to turn, it's dusty, it's hot, it dulls tools faster, so you must sharpen more often, and it is not as much fun. Why do you turn? Do you expect to make a living turning? Most of us turn because it is enjoyable. The double turning process is not enjoyable. The control I have with my boring bar is even more important and necessary when you are inside an out-of-round vessel. It just takes fingertip control for any hollowing.

About functional VS non-functional: most of what I turn is for viewing not using. It does not have to end up perfectly round. Most of my bowls are natural edge so visually you cannot tell they are oval. The natural edge masks the fact they are not round anymore. The next YouTube clip I will do will have a natural edge but will also be a functional bowl. Back to green wood again and more fun!

VACUUM CHUCK LIMITATIONS

Lyle,

What would the advantage of your boring system be over a vacuum chuck system?

Thanks,

Ray

Hi Ray from Maine,

A vacuum chuck will not help with catches. You cannot compare the vacuum chuck to the boring bar system. The chuck holds the wood and the boring bar removes the wood, two separate things. I do not use a vacuum chuck. I don't use any chucks. The vacuum chuck has too many limitations.

When double turning like you do, the chuck will not work on an out of round surface. It will not work for natural edges. It will not work for pieces with voids. It ONLY works with true surfaces and very light cuts. It is designed to be used for cleaning up the bottom nub, or the finish cuts in the bottom, with the tailstock removed. With my process there is nothing I cannot put back on the lathe, nothing. Obstacles and limitations drive me crazy, I want to open up possibilities not limit them. All chucks are limiting at best and sometimes dangerous.

LATHE SPEED

Lyle,

An issue I have with many of the videos on woodturning, is that there is no mention of the speed the lathe is running. Is this because it is optional?

I look forward to your advice, and please continue offering instructional videos on YouTube.

Ray

Hi Ray from Maine,

My DVD would help you understand. The whole reason I start between centers AND on the balance point is to get the lathe speed up. Faster is better, a lot better, a lot easier, a lot safer, produces a better finished surface and less sanding. "Tunka-tunka" is not fun! You must have a good secure hold on the wood. This is where chucks fail you. If you do something bad in your chucking method or a piece breaks off the wood or you get a catch, you can get hurt just as bad at 500 rpm as with 1500 rpm.

CA GLUE BLOCK WITH WET WOOD

Lyle,

Do you use glue blocks and CA glue to hold green, wet bowl blanks?

Keith

Keith from YouTube,

The glue block process works even better on wet wood. The moisture in the wood helps the curing go faster.

2P-10 GLUE FOLLOW-UP

I found this: <http://www.fastcap.com/estore/pc/catalog/docs/MSDS%20ALL%202P-10.pdf>

Yes, 2P-10 Glue is Cyanoacrylate Adhesive.

Bob, Laguna Beach

TOOL SELECTION FOR THE GOBLET YOUTUBE VIDEO

Great video Lyle, which I will be happy to comment on online.

One thing was not clear to me: at around 6:35, you pick up a tool to begin the outside surface. Wasn't clear what tool you selected. Later, you change tools for final shaping. Again I wasn't clear on which tool you were using.

Bob

Hi Bob from New York,

I used the bowl gouge for 99 percent of the goblet. With use of the spindle gouge for a few seconds to cleanup with a push cut when the waste wood was in my way. The steeper grind tip angle of the spindle gouge leaves a slightly better surface behind with less sanding.

VB-36 COMPATIBILITY FOR HOLLOWING SYSTEM

Mr. JAMIESON, Good morning,

I am very interested in your captured hollowing system, but, I am using a Vb36 lathe with the inherent design of no flat lathe bed. Is there available any sort of adaption that would allow your excellent tool to be used with this lathe?

Stuart

Hi Stuart from England,

Yes, I have many happy VB-36 owners using my system. It is an easy fix to mount it in the base of the bed support leg. People have used angle iron, 2x4s, particle board, whatever you are comfortable working with. My recommendation is to put a base plate (usually plywood) up with a series of holes in it so the back rest can be moved closer or away from the headstock when doing small or large vessels.

Safety note observation for you: It is not safe in my experience to use the cone live center you have when you are turning large work. One little point is not enough holding power. It is safer to use a "cup with pin" live center for more support and stability.



BORING BAR CAPABILITIES

Good morning Lyle!

I was wondering how far in depth you recommend going with the stock boring bar? Or is it dependent on the individual circumstances at the time? Thank you in advance.

Steve

Hi Steve location unknown,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the inquiry. My boring bar will be easier to use and control because of the captured system and fingertip control but, ANY 3/4 inch diameter boring bar will have the same limitations to hollow without vibration. You are correct; there are variables that come into play. It is routine with a 3/4 inch diameter bar to hang off the tool rest 8-10 inches without vibration, 11-12 inches in ideal conditions. If you want to do taller vessels than that you need to jump up to the jumbo bar. It is the diameter of the bar that gives it its strength and stability. That's why most people shy away from 5/8 inch boring bars. Unless they just want to do small things.

I have many resources to help you to get up to speed quickly with tool control and techniques to get the most out of your system. The learning curve is very short. Have you seen my YouTube channel?

REASON FOR GLOVE

Lyle,

Enjoyed the kitchen caddy post. Where's the glove? Learn a lot watching your videos.

See you in Pittsburgh.

Steven

Hi Steven from YouTube,

Thanks Steven. Good question, I usually wear a glove. When I turn I usually "pour the coal to it" and the glove helps protect my hand. The cuts I make are so easy that I can take bigger and bigger shavings faster and faster. I always wear it for bowls. In the video clips my focus was the camera not the turning. I can do the turning in my sleep but the shoot I have to think about.

Yes, I will be in Pittsburg for the AAW symposium. I will be a vendor and demonstrator with four rotations. Look me up.

HOLLOWING BY HAND AND WASTE BLOCK FOR REVERSE TURNING THE BOTTOM

Lyle,

Great video on the kitchen utensil caddy and well timed. What does the waste block look like that you use when shaping the base? Is it just a snug fit with about an inch into the top?

Also, if I am not yet ready to buy your hollowing system but want to start using the best tools possible to hollow off of my tool rest what would you recommend?

Hope all is well,

Ron

Hi Ron from Michigan,

Thanks for the feedback. The waste block is any scrap wood around the shop. It could be a 2"x6".

The recess is only a small 1/8 inch or so deep with a nice clean bottom so the rim of the vessel seats nicely. The size can be a little sloppy because it is not a jam chuck tight fit; it is driven with the friction from the pressure of the tailstock. Make sure it is not "into" the mouth opening. The fit is on the outside of the mouth. Any pressure on the inside will crack the piece.

On hollowing by hand...it's not a good idea. The learning curve is brutal. You will soon realize it is not fun and hard work even when/if you get good at it. You will get nasty catches at first that are scary and dangerous. Wait until you get the right tools before you do hollowing. If you buy hand held boring bars and handles and cutter tips you will have as much money spent as my system would cost. And no laser!! The result down the road will be tools collecting dust.

The next YouTube clip I do will be a calabash shaped bowl that needs the hollowing system. I will explain the difficulty of using bevel supported cuts on that shape and the ease of finishing with my boring bar and laser.

If you don't believe me, try it yourself. Do some small hollowing, like lidded boxes. See how hard it is. Use any scraping tools you already have. Once you get dangling off the tool rest into a vessel even a few inches, it is a whole different ballgame.

FEEDBACK

Thank you Lyle for your advice! I am going to my first craft show in a few weeks. I have some Cherry logs that were cut last fall and I think I will turn several of them as is and see how that goes.

Keep up the great videos, I hope you realize how valuable it is to have a resource like yourself for those of us just beginning to learn the craft.

Ray from Maine

Thanks for a fantastic learning experience, Lyle. Your one-on-one instruction helped me in ways I could not have imagined."

Bob from New York

Your video on sharpening has inspired me to sharpen my turning tools. Now I have more confidence in what I'm doing and how I'm doing it.

Thanks so much.

Don from YouTube

Hi,

Thanks for using a laser pointer that uses AAA batteries instead of some miserable stack of hard to find coin cells.

When I recently need to replace the battery in mine I was very pleasantly surprised to find the AAA battery.

I enjoy all your You Tubes and look forward to more of them.

Lyle from California

CALENDAR

Check out my website calendar for more specifics.

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

May, 2015 - Georgia

June, 2015 – Pennsylvania

August, 2015 - Texas

September, 2015 – Georgia

October, 2015 - Ohio

November, 2015 – North Carolina