

Fig. 2
The cutter cuts best in this direction when doing the bottom.

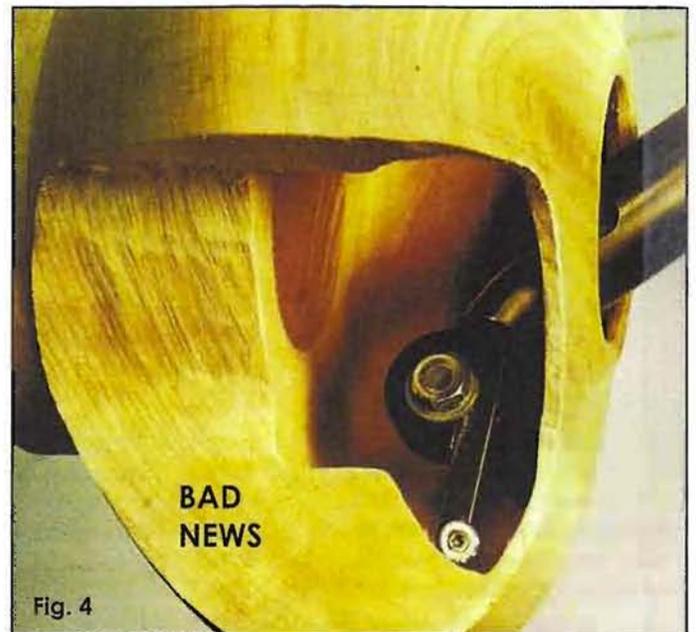


Fig. 4
Cutting in this manner will get you in trouble.

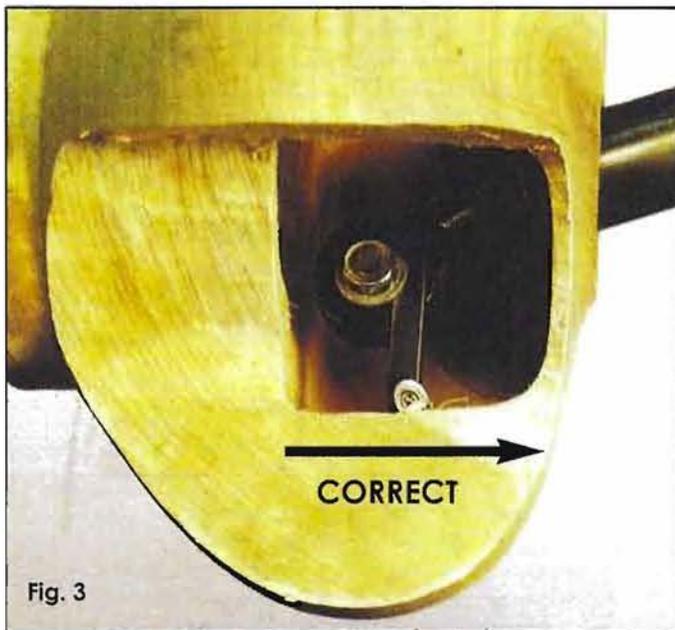


Fig. 3
This direction is best for cutting the side of the hollow vessel.

you get an angled slicing action that is very efficient and easy to cut with. In fact, this is the workhorse section of the cutter which gets most of the use and abuse. At the 12 o'clock position, you will get a bevel-supported cut from the tip of the tool that cuts with a slicing action and leaves an unbelievable surface behind. The cutter will not cut in the 12 o'clock to the 3 o'clock position. If you present this quadrant to the wood, it will just rub the shaft and the bottom edge of the cutter, and may even cause some chatter and/or vibration.

You must always consider the grain orientation and

strive to make "downhill," fiber-supported cuts. Cutting techniques should also change, depending on whether you are cutting end grain or side grain. I prefer to use the boring bar system fitted with the swivel tip so that, depending on the grain orientation, I can take advantage of the three cutting options: riding the bevel, slicing, and scraping. When hollowing end grain, I usually use the bevel-riding or slicing action and use the scraping option when undercutting a shoulder.

LEARNING CURVE

HSS cutters can be directed any which way and will still produce a cut. However, there is a bit of a learning curve with the carbide cutter.

For example, the cutting action of the carbide cutter will always be to the left, because the dedicated angled cutter will try to "climb" if you try to cut to the right. Most of the time with supported systems, this will not produce a catch, but it will cause the cutter to skate. In addition, when hollowing up under a high shoulder, make sure to get the waste wood out of the middle behind the shoulder of the vessel. This will prevent an inadvertent skate should you bump the waste wood under the shoulder behind the cut.

Fig. 2 shows the correct and incorrect direction for cutting the end grain on the bottom of a hollow form. **Fig. 3** shows the correct and incorrect direction of a cut coming up the side of a hollow form vessel. **Fig. 4** shows the incorrect way to hollow by leaving the waste wood in the way behind the cut.

The cutter needs to cut pulling toward the shoulder of the vessel when the cutter is swiveled to the left. Actually, "left" is now pulling the cut toward the tailstock (see **Fig. 3**). This shearing/slicing cut produces a shaving rather than sawdust, as a scraping cut would produce. Try it out on the nastiest wood you can find and you will be a believer.

GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

I like the efficiency of the 3/16"-diameter carbide cutter—smaller really is better here! I've learned that I can make a number of smaller cuts and remove wood much faster than I can by grinding away with a larger cutter. In addition, larger cutters stress both the wood and your chucking method, and I am able to turn deeper vessels much easier and with less vibration with this system. Excessive vibration can destroy a laser.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The new carbide cutters are being used in various applications; however, I prefer to limit my use to hollowing with a supported boring bar system. There are big advantages when using it with the supported systems, even when doing smaller items like lidded vessels and Christmas ornaments. But for bowls, I prefer to stick with a bowl gouge to get a bevel-supported cut moving the correct direction downhill to the grain. I think that I have more control to get the desired shape.

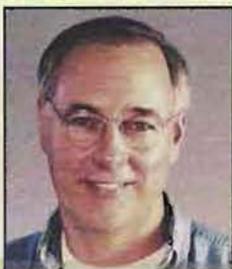
This carbide cutter is the best thing since sliced bread for hollowing...really! No sharpening, easier hollowing, and less sanding...it doesn't get any better than that. It takes a few vessels to master, but I think it's worth the effort.

Mike Hunter and I have recently developed a carbide cutter assembly that will go the other way. This reverse angle cutter is for those turners who want the efficiency of going the correct direction to grain orientation. The sheering cuts can now be used in both directions, left and right, to go "downhill" to the grain. This new accessory can be used for bowls and hollow form turning whether they are end-grain or side-grain oriented.

Lyle Jamieson

Lyle Jamieson is a full-time woodturning sculptor and instructor from Traverse City, Michigan. His figurative sculptures are sold to plastic surgeons and others all over the world. The Jamieson boring bar and laser measuring systems have changed the way people are doing hollow forms.

Lyle welcomes your questions and comments.



Contact Information

285 Lauri-Wil Lane
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-947-2348

lyle@lylejamieson.com

IMPORTANT TIP

Every time the torx wrench is used to move the carbide cutter the torx screw hole **MUST** be cleaned out. The dust and moisture from hollowing will impact the screw hole. Take a safety pin and use the sharp tip to clean inside the screw hold and blow out the dust. Putting the wrench in the screw hole with dust in it will cause the torx screw to be stripped. If it strips, you are dead in the water.

NEW For Advanced Turners
I have a new **reverse angle** carbide cutter available to take advantage of the grain and cutting to the right. *Lyle*