



## MAY 2012



"Good friends are like stars...You don't always see them, but you know they are always there." Author unknown

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Topic of the Month: HSS cutters

Many turners are still using the HSS cutters, so I want to make sure you are getting the best use from them as possible. The shape that I grind on these little tools is critical to it working correctly. The rounded tip is used for the normal hollowing and the hogging off when you

are going into the entry hole and cutting to the left. Do not push the cut toward the head stock. The cutting to the left method cuts only a small shaving at the left side of the tip of the tool only. Small shavings of 1/8 or so is all you take at one pass. You can take quick and easy small cuts easier than taxing everything with larger shavings.

On the cleaning up the tool marks cut it is important to keep the cutting action on the left side of the cutter. Note in the photo how I have the grind sharpened back on the left side. This broad radius of a shape on the left of the tip is similar to the larger teardrop shaped cutters some people use. I seldom have the swivel so the tip of the tool is pointing right at the side of the vessel wall. The tight radius of the tip would make it harder to clean up tool marks or eliminate subtle undulations inside the vessel. The only time I clean up tool marks with the tip of the cutter is when I am cleaning up the bottom of the vessel.

So, make sure the HSS cutter is sharpened like the photos and use the swivel to make the cuts on the left hand side of the sharpened edge. The angles that the bevels are sharpened to are not critical. I want some undercut both at the tip and both sides. The undercut sides will prevent the heel of the bevel from rubbing on wood when you don't want it to.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

- \* Wet glue block failure
- \* Home built boring bar dimensions
- \* HSS Cutter size obstacles
- \* Sanding with mandrel and disks
- \* Straight VS bent swivel cutters
- \* Remote lathe switch location

## **WET GLUE BLOCK FAILURE**

Hi Lyle:

Just a note to share with you an experience that I had last week while turning. I had turned the outside of a piece of maple into a rough bowl shape when it was between centers. Before leaving it for a period of time, I mounted it on a glue block that I had made with the long screws etc. just the way you had instructed. I put it in a plastic bag but had to leave it for about a week. When I started turning it on Saturday it was round in no time and I was working on shaping it with pull cuts and then shear scraping it with the 45 degree cuts. I then started to hollow it. As I did there was more vibration than I had experienced in the past. I checked it for round and it was out of round which seemed odd. I checked the glue block which was fine so I rounded it again and did the appropriate cuts to get back to hollowing.

When I started hollowing it again was shortly vibrating more than it should.

I went through the process two times before I checked the screws in the glue block. I found that a couple of them were coming loose and not holding firmly - new experience for me. Took the bowl off the glue block, removed the glue block and turned it between centers reversing the direction so the screw holes were on the outside to be glue to, remounted the block and the bowl (after cleaning it up at the glue joint) and finished

turning it. Good learning experience because it is something else to check when a piece goes out of round when you have trued it up.

Judy and I are looking forward to San Jose but feel a little like a duck out of water. Likely because it is my first one and I am starting to think that I could have spent the money better on lessons or one of the week classes. Still have not turned my 1000th bowl so there is a lot to learn.

Ken from Michigan

Hi Ken,

Any symposium experience will be a blast and very beneficial. And AAW is the biggest so it will blow you away. You have the foundation now to filter out some of the conflicting procedures you will see. If everyone waited until they were expert turners to go to a symposium there would be no need for symposiums. It will leave you inspired and energized. I agree that hands-on classes are the best way to learn but seeing all the demos and instant gallery and vendors area and art exhibitions included at the symposium will give you better insight on the direction or directions you want to go with turning. The first symposium is a little daunting. There is way too much to see and do and not enough time to do it all.

Print out the demo rotation and try to plan ahead on what you want to see before you get there. A plan will make it easier to navigate. OK, even though you did not ask a question, I'm going to treat your experience as a question. This is important to understand what happened to you. When you left the wet wood attached to the dry glue block the moisture from the wood made the glue block swell up with water and loosen the screws. You were correct to check the glue line and most of the time it would have failed. The plastic bag stopped the wood from drying but the moisture transferred to the glue block. You did a no-no by using the now wet glue block to make a newly trued glue block to finish the bowl. When the trued up glue block dries out again it will warp/shrink/crack/vibrate, etc. We always have to start with a dry glue block and keep it that way. A week is way too long to keep anything on a glue block. Overnight, maybe, would be OK. If you get interrupted in a turning project, take it off the glue block and start over. Do not put the glue block on a wet piece unless you intend to finish it right away.

### HOME BUILT BORING BAR DIMENSIONS

Hi Lyle,

I have been reading with interest your "how to make your own boring bar system" and have a few questions.

1. Does it make sense to start with a 1/18" boring bar rather than purchasing both it and the 3/4" bar? I am a beginning hollower and don't want to invest a small fortune right off the bat.
2. If I read your instructions correctly does the support for the D handle hang 10" over the working side of the lathe from the center of the ways?
3. Am I correct in thinking that you want the support for the D handle to be 38" in width with 10" hanging out over the working side of the lathe?

Another turner along with me are contemplating building your system and using your boring bars and tools. I would appreciate any help you can offer.

Thanks for your help, Alan

Hi Alan,

Yes, I have helped many people make hollowing systems following my design. It is important to take care

of details. Many copycats have built in obstacles and limitations that will drive you crazy after you use it for a while. Please call me if you want to chat about how best to proceed. I have many questions for you and email is not a very good way to communicate. Below I will give you the quick, but only the tip of the iceberg, answers.

1) My system is built around the cutter reach capabilities. The three tip configurations are available with the standard boring bar. The jumbo bar alone would have limitations in shape and the entry hole size. 2&3) The handle is 7-8 inches wide and the back rest is off center to the bed, 10 inches in front and 22-24 inches behind the bed. My backrest is 32 inches long but a little longer is better for home built models. I think some important things are, the swivel tip cutter assembly, the cutter is cutting as close to the centerline of the boring bar as possible, The laser is necessary, use my installation instructions to design the system placement, stay with the 3/16 inch cutters.

Hope this is what you wanted. Give me a call if you really want some more help.

### **HSS CUTTER SIZE OBSTACLES**

Lyle;

Back a few years ago, I purchased your deep boring bar tool system and I have had some great results from it. I've worn out a good many cutters. I recently purchased a set of three cutters from an on-line company, and apparently did not read the description of the cutters correctly. I received three, 3/8 inch cutters which obviously can't fit the head on your bar. Do you have a head that will receive a 3/8" cutter and still use your boring system? If not, can I purchase 3/16" cutters from you? The ones that I bought are approximately 2 1/2" long and are bent at 15, 45, & 85 degrees. I thought the bends would allow me to better reach the insides of some of the hollow forms I make. Any suggestions?

Thank you,

Rich from New Jersey

Hi Rich,

Nice to hear from you, thanks for the inquiry. Are you getting my newsletter? It's a good way to keep connected. I was just up in New York and will be in New Hampshire in May for the NH Symposium. Look me up.

Yes, I have my HSS cutter to fit in my swivel tip assembly. The straight swivel is necessary to use the tools, as I do, to clean up tool marks and get a smooth surface inside hollow forms. The 3/16" size is very important to do the cuts correctly. The larger cutters take too much wood at a time and will likely start vibration issues. The dedicated bends of other hollowing systems work for some shapes but are limited in reach. My swivel has an infinite range of movement to reach any shape you want to create. My system is designed to do any shape you can imagine through small mouth openings. If you are having trouble reaching the inside shape, go back through the DVD and read through the articles archived on my web site to fine tune your techniques and tool control. I've talked about tool control many times in my newsletter too. If you don't already have it, I recommend the addition of the "bent" swivel assembly. The bent holder will give you the three reach configurations to do any shape, straight, little bend, and big bend. The bent swivel will get most bulbous shapes and undercut shoulders easily. It is in my online store on my web site or give me a call and I can get anything you might need to make it more fun hollowing. The cutters are on my web site too.

### **SANDING WITH MANDREL AND DISKS**

Hi Lyle:

I have a couple of questions about two subjects: first, sanding. I have taken your advice and been using 2" disks with 3" pads to sand some of the curves in the bowls that I have been turning. It does a better job

but is not aggressive enough for some of the sanding that I need. I noticed when I was at your shop in the spring that you use a detachable disk that goes on a sanding pad, question is does this do a better job for areas that need more aggressive treatment, and if so what one have you found that works best i.e. type? Also, I know you use your drill press for some of your sanding and I am also on your suggestion and like the results. Do you also use an angle drill and if so what type? I am still turning but now have to get a better handle on finishing which I am working on. Also photographing the things I have been turning if for no other reason that my own enjoyment.

Second subject: the national AAW. meeting and particularly the banquet on Saturday night. What is the appropriate attire for that event? Is it formal or just suit type dressy or casual (slacks and shirt)? I suspect anything goes because of the different sort of people that it would draw but I would like some idea about what is generally accepted. I do not want to haul a tux there if it is not needed or appropriate!

I am still learning and turning. It would be faster if I was doing nothing else, but alas, that is not the case at the moment. Thanks for any help and any suggestions you can give me.

Ken from Michigan

Hi Ken,

Important questions. I use 3M Roloc sanding mandrels and disks. They are hard to find and used primarily in industrial applications. They are not necessary, any sanding system will work. The trick is to use harder backing pads for aggressive sanding and soft backs for light work and inside or convex curved surfaces.

Try Vince's sanding supply or Sanding Glove for the mandrels. Only use the course grits on the disks, 120-150-220. Do the finer sanding with hand held sandpaper. I use 2" disks with a 2" mandrel and 3" on 3". The overlap does not do much. Just don't let the edge of the sandpaper cut into the wood surface. Use the pad sanding surface not the edge, ever. Any drill will do fine, no need for an angle drill.

You will find all levels of dress at the Banquet. I will have my jeans on and others will be in suites. If spouses are along, they use the occasion to get dressed up a bit but I never recall any tuxes.

## STRAIGHT VS BENT SWIVEL CUTTERS

Hi Lyle,

Hope all is well. I was looking in the Packard Catalog today and notice a "Bent Holder w/ Swivel and Cutter. Is there also a straight holder w/swivel and cutter? I have to admit, BJ (before Jamieson) I purchase two other captured systems, on "home made" and another the Monster. The Monster came with a straight holder with swivel. What are the difference of the two Packard indicates you make, use, etc. And, I did not see these on your sight. Is this just some cutters Packard is marketing or are they yours? One last question (for now ) is the swivel and cutter that came with the Monster has the cutter on the opposite side of the swivel than pictured in the Packard Catalog. Any significance other than making a bit more difficult to get a tight "grounding" of the cutter on the upper neck?

Lastly, when may you be coming to the Western NC area? I would love to suggest you visiting with me and my friend for a few days of semi-private lesson. I have a beautiful mountain home. We purchased a second lathe just for this purpose. Rick has a One Way and our second lathe at his shop (larger than mine) is the Nova 16 swing (I have a Powermatic 3520B at my shop). FYI some of the "professors of woodturning' that have visited with me are Glenn Lucas, Bill Grumbine, Trent Bosch and David Ellsworth coming in June. Please feel free to ask any of these how they enjoyed the stay and lessons. Please consider...great food, great accommodations, great company and even fun teaching us to "ride the bike" that much better.

Alan from North Carolina

## REMOTE SWITCH LOCATION

Just wanted to get your ideas about moving my power switch to the other end of my lathe; the manual shows a remote switch that can be attached with magnets. I want to be certain that the wiring is not too complicated for me to do--and you have experienced my wiring abilities 😊 Lyle Jamieson recommends that the switch be moved and after I was pinned to the lathe via my t-shirt wrapping and I could not get to the power switch, I am seeing more clearly why a switch at the other end would be good for those situations (hopefully never again) but also if a piece is coming apart it would be nice to not have to put my face in the line of fire to get to the switch. My lathe has been working very well and I am learning more every day. Lyle is coming to give me four days of turning instruction the first week of May, so I am trying to get me and my equipment in order so that we can concentrate on turning. I have also added 600lb of sand on the shelf to help with vibration and that works well so far. Thanks for any help you can give me. Me and my Mustard is marvelous 😊 😊!  
Henry from North Carolina

Hi Henry, North Carolina

I am impressed with the attention to details you have accomplished already. Yes, I highly recommend the remote be secured permanently to the tailstock end of the lathe. (Not on magnets) It does not need to be mobile and when something bad happens it only takes split second instincts to shut the lathe off because it is in the same place it always is. You will not need much electrical ability. The remote should come with installation instructions.

## FEEDBACK

Lyle,  
Again, thank you very much for the time spent on your Saturday.  
Looking forward to using your system. Told my son-in-law and he is "excited". Charles, Iowa

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Lyle  
Thank you for the great experience you provided for us in Milwaukee last weekend. I am happy to be part of the family and looking forward to using the system. Jim. Wisconsin

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## CALENDAR

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

April, 2012 – Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina

May, New Hampshire

June, 2012 – California, Oregon

August, 2012 – Chicago, Texas

September, 2012 – Virginia

November, 2012 – Wisconsin

December, 2012 – Tennessee

January, 2013 - Florida