

Turning a green wood bowl

Steve Schwartz

- A. How to plan chainsaw cuts
 - 1. Handout showing how to cut a log
- B. Deciding top and bottom
- C. Bandsaw round to reduce weight
- D. Mounting options
 - 1. Faceplate - wood with a flat surface - Best option
 - 2. Between Centers - Uneven surfaces
 - A. Turn a flat spot on what will be the inside of the bowl at the tailstock end. Leaving a short spigot sized to fit into the center of your faceplate.
 - B. Center faceplate over the spigot and attach.
 - 3. Screw mount - small pieces with a flat surface
 - 4. For very large and heavy blanks. Use a Forstner bit to drill a hole the diameter of your drive center on the bottom surface to create a solid flat. Mount the wood using the center point and tailstock. Flatten tailstock end and carve a recess so you can use your chuck in expansion. Reverse mount using the chuck which is now the top surface. This is a very strong mount.
- E. Discussion of pushcut. Analogy of knife = bevel
- F. **START LATHE SPEED AT SLOW!!!** Carve from tailstock towards headstock
 - 1. Cutting shorter fibers towards longer fibers so they support the cut. See Handout
- G. Keep shape simple. No details because the wood will warp.
- H. Discussion of Tenons to fit various jaws
 - 1. Leave tenon a little bit larger diameter than minimum.
- I. Reverse chuck
- J. Leave wall thickness 10% of diameter.
- K. Discussion fo shape.
- L. Label with wood specie, date, weight?, where collected?
- M. Store in unheated space 3 months or more
- N. My opinion is that the wood is free, if it cracks throw it away or fill the defect. 90%+ will not crack. I do not think painting with Anchorseal, paper bag method or boiling are necessary but if you do, you can still expect 90%+ success with no cracks.

Remounting and turning a dried blank.

- A. **START LATHE SPEED AT SLOW!!!**
- B. Mount in lathe using tenon
- C. Bring speed up to 600 - 800 RPM or "medium"
- D. Flatten center bottom of bowl. I generally use a round nose scraper.
- E. Put a Jam Chuck into the 4 jaw chuck and reverse mount your bowl. Center using the original dimple at the tailstock.
- F. Turn tenon to perfect round and appropriate profile for your chuck jaws.
- G. Carve outside of bowl ready to sand. (pushcut - tailstock toward headstock)
- H. Reverse mount and bring up tailstock. The tailstock is not required but it reduces vibration and is insurance in case your bowl comes free.
- I. Establish top edge first while the wood is solid.
 - 1. Artistically I avoid a flat top edge. I recommend an incline toward the inside or outside to increase interest.