

Notes from a Novice Woodturner
on
Hollowing Techniques

By
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Mounting a Blank

- **Cut off ends until you don't see any checking.**
- **Remove bark unless you like getting hit in the face with large pieces.**
- **Balance between centers – keeps you and your lathe from bouncing.**
- **Rough out by cutting into side grain (cutting end grain is really hard)**
- **True up one end (with slight concave surface)**
- **Chisel off nub left from tailstock**
- **Mount a faceplate using 40% rule and large steel screws**
- **Don't try a 10" hollow form mounted on a 4 jaw chuck**
- **Have realistic expectations on size of blank vs. hollowing system**
- **Consider an on/off switch on the tailstock side**

Shaping the Outside

- **Always leave plenty of mass on the headstock side**
- **Shape the outside in stages (similar to making a finial)**
- **Consider the size of opening and the overall shape**
 - **Make sure the tool can swing to all inside points.**
- **Examples of easy and hard shapes to hollow**
- **Shaping the outside is where the art is. Hollowing the inside is really just following the outside and getting the wood out as quick and clean as possible.**
- **Concentrate on the OUTSIDE. Its tough to go back once you start to hollow.**

Hollowing Tools

- **Gouges and scrapers**
- **Home made hook scrapers**
- **Ring tools**
- **Carbide cutters**
 - **Easy Tools**
 - **Hunter**
- **Jamieson hollowing system**
 - **No more white knuckles**
 - **No more catches**
 - **Easy to learn**
 - **Multiple tool angle settings**
 - **Laser guided**

Hollowing the inside

- **Drill a starting hole almost to the final depth.**
- **How big a hole depends on the size of the bar, the shape and the depth of the vessel.**
 - Don't try to make a 1" opening on your first try.
- **Two types of cutters (HHS and Carbide)**
 - Buy your own HHS cutters at Production Tool (cheap!!!)
 - Build yourself a sharpening jig or burn your fingers
 - 3 types of cuts with the carbide tool (understand how this works.... HHS is much easier to learn)
- **Adjust the cutter to meet the center line (or slightly above, never below)**
- **Adjust the laser using the tangent guide.**
- **Eat the elephant one small bite at a time.**
- **Cut from right to left (especially with carbide tool) and adjust angle as needed.**
- **Blow out shavings OFTEN.**
- **Hollow in stages and clean up the side walls as you go.**
- **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER go back**
- **Adjust the laser for working on the bottom.**
- **Consider a larger scraper for the bottom nub.**

Finishing the Bottom

- **Make numerous “relief” cuts with your parting tool**
- **Sharpen your parting tool ... again before the last cut**
- **Make a final concave parting cut**
- **Saw off instead of parting all the way through**
- **Sand smooth with sanding disks mounted in your drill press**
- **As an option, reverse mount with rubber chucky centers**

- **Make the next one better and faster than the last one.**
- **Generally speaking the hollowing should not take more than an hour.**
- **Once you start to hollow, don't stop until you're done.**
- **Warping seems to happens at warp speed.**

Places to go for help

- www.lylejamieson.com
 - 2 great DVD's
 - Bowl Basics
 - In-Depth Hollowing Techniques
 - Some really good white papers
- Search for Lyle Jamieson on youtube
- Numerous guys in our club have either this system or a knockoff
- Call me:
 - Steve Rohr
 - (248) 613-9410