





Spiral Carving

The Gang from Arrowmont:

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Spiral Carving

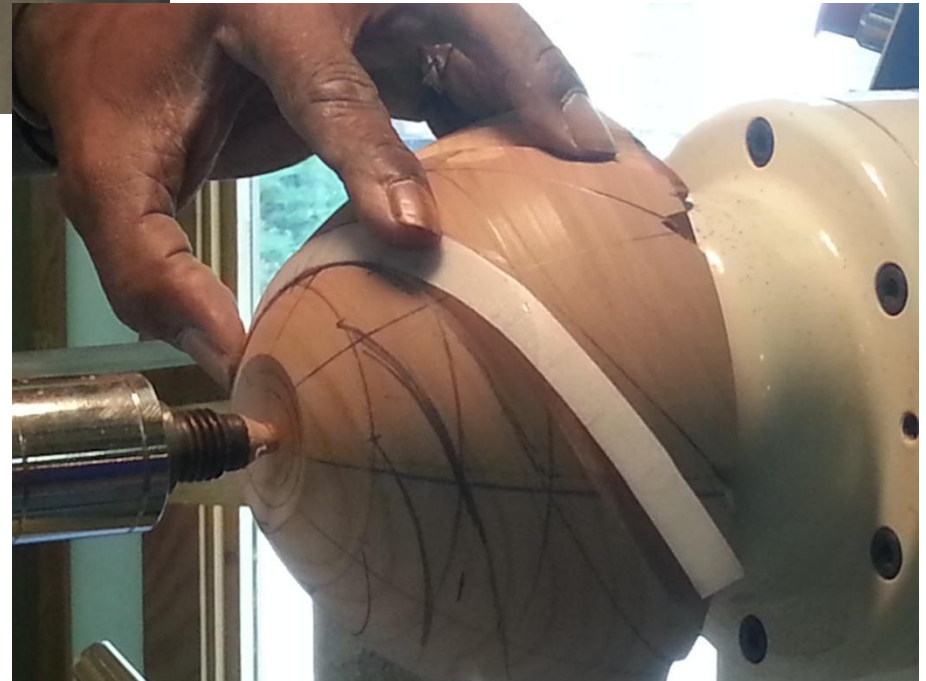
The Layout Process



Determine the number of beads (segments)

- Draw pencil lines from top to bottom (vertical)
- Draw pencil lines in rotation with the lathe (horizontal)

- Using a pencil, sketch in spiral lines
 - Use *French Curve* to assist with shape and form
 - Overlay template material and copy arc
 - Cut out shape and re-trace for each segment



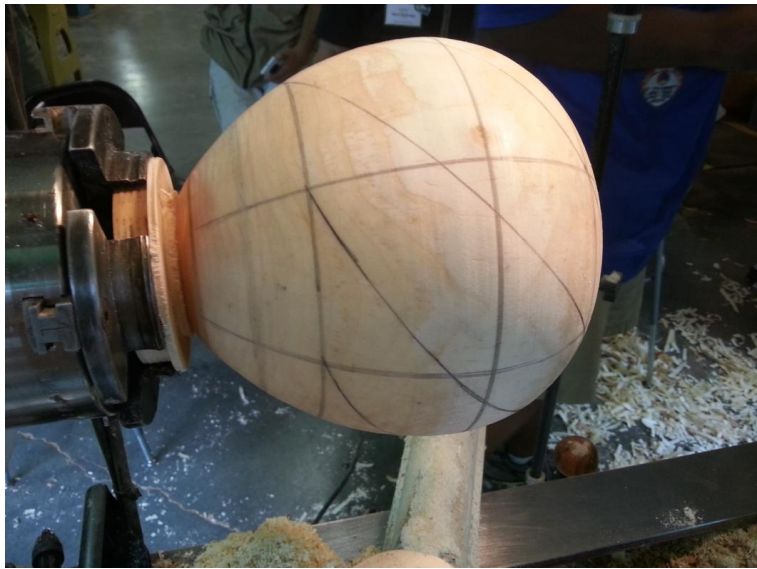


French Curve
Any Art Store



Quilter Plastic
Template Material
Joanne Fabrics



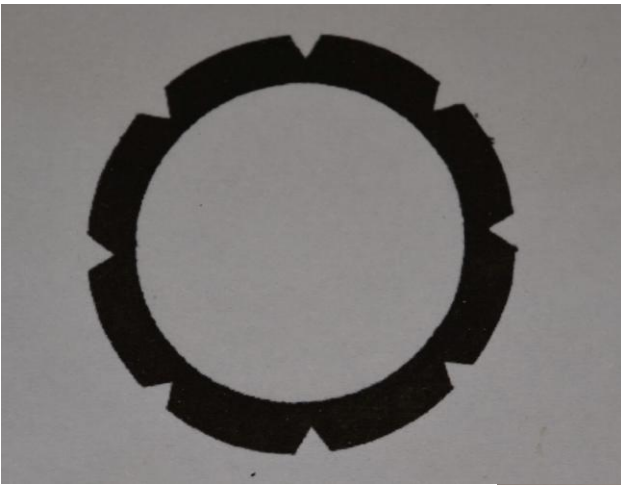




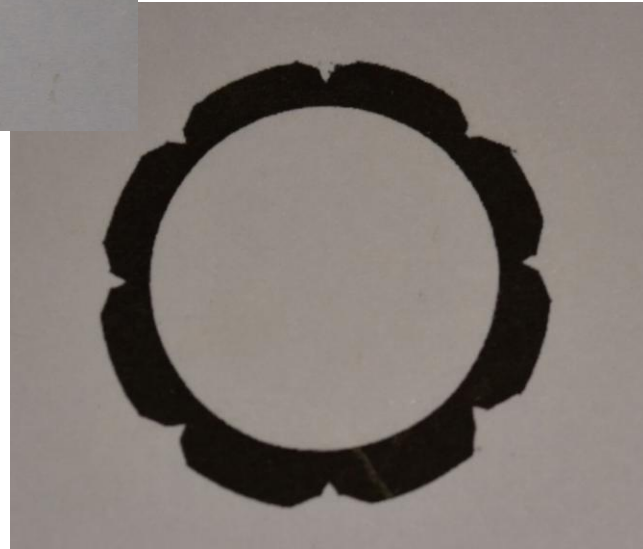
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The Carving Process

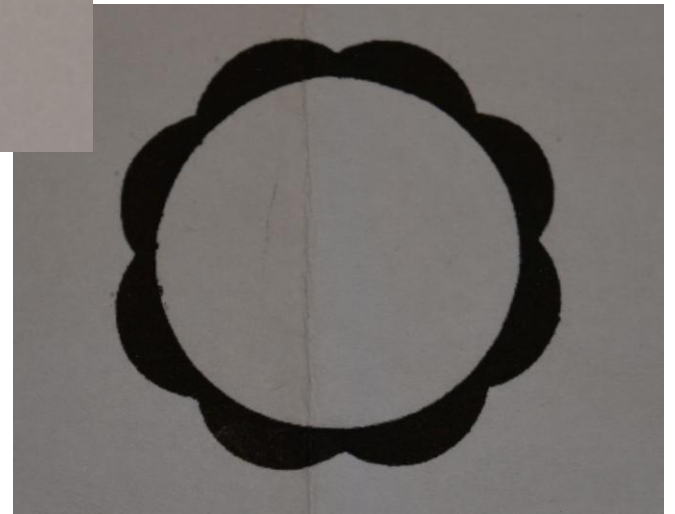
Top View



Defining Beads



Knock off corners,
Shaping begins



Refining and sanding
to final shape



Once the carving design is laid out, there are various methods and tools used to carve the beads.

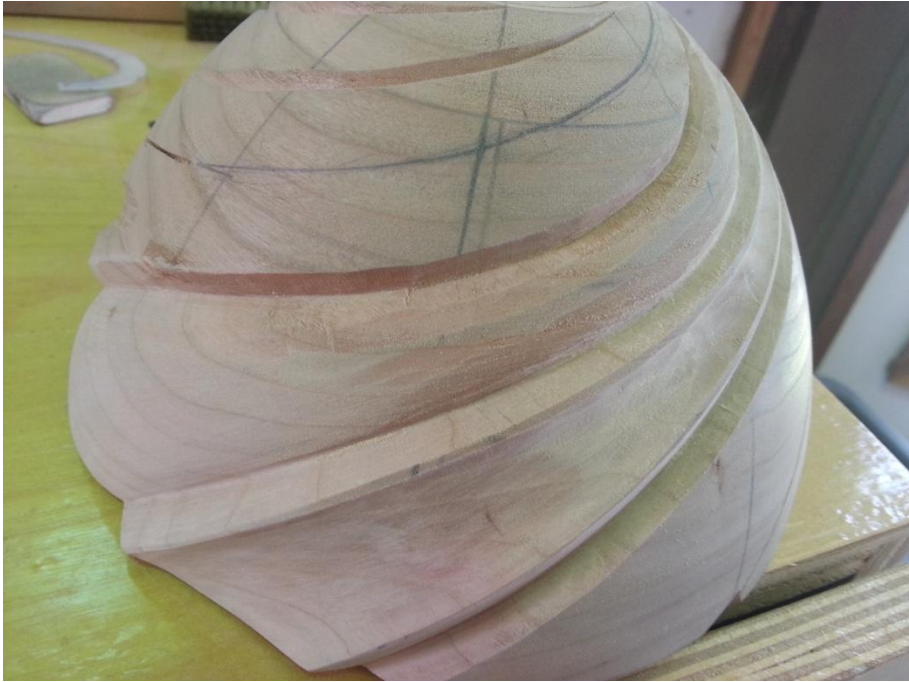
- Reciprocating carver with "V" and flat chisels.
- Inverted cone (dovetail) burrs.
- Hand planes (#92 seems to be a good plane for this application).
- Rasps and files with a safety edge.
- Microplanes of various shapes. A good set is the GW4 available from "US.Microplane.com".
- Sandpaper of various grits.
- Sanding drums.
- 1/8" x 3/4" x 7" approx. strips of wood. Cut pieces of double sided tape about 1 1/4" long and attach to strip of wood. Cut sandpaper of different grits and adhere to double sided tape. It is best to have separate wood pieces for different grits as this will expedite the finish sanding process.
- Riffler needle files.
- Contour backing pads, a 1/4" thick cork backing pad will help to maintain a uniform smooth flow when sanding the beads.



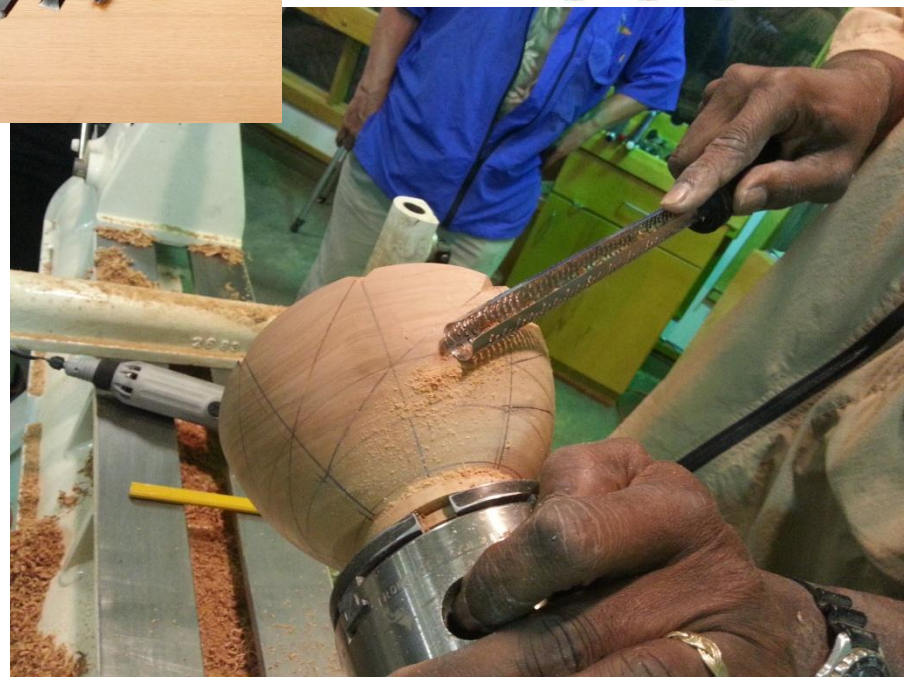
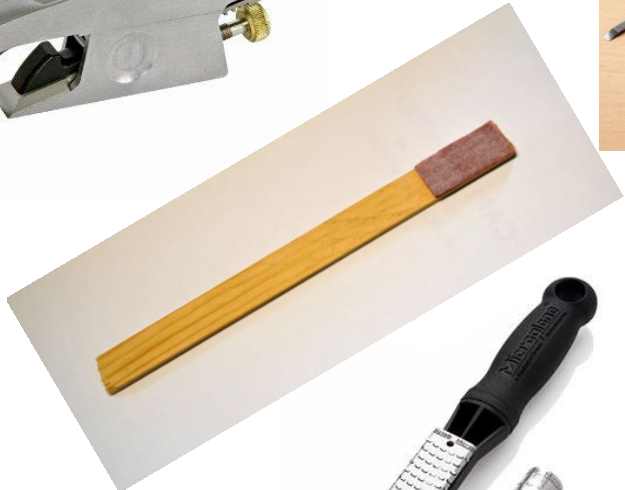
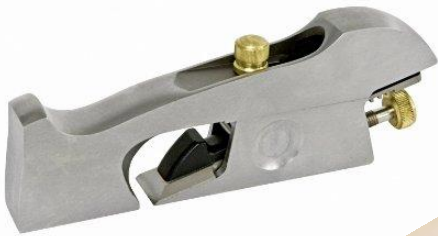
Before proceeding with the carving , it is important to check the thickness available for carving. Using a "V" chisel in a reciprocating carver, follow the lines going deeper towards the middle of the vessel and tapering towards the top and bottom. Depending on the grain, change direction of cut. Once the depth is reached, you can start forming the beads by carving material off. More wood is carved closer to the "V" groove and staying away from the middle of the beads.







Various tools can be used such as a #92 hand plane, inverted cone (also known as dovetail) burr, straight burrs and micro planes. Once the form is roughed out, the fine tuning and finishing process is started. Here again various tools and methods are used. Rasps and files preferable with a safety edge will help form the valley between the beads. Once a clean crisp intersection is achieved, you can flare out towards the middle of the bead paying particular attention not to flatten the apex of the bead. A line drawn lengthwise down the middle of the bead will help as warning to stay away from this area. The final sanding is done using the wood sanding strips. Start with the roughest grit required to achieve an even surface followed by finer grits as required. Apply the finish of choice.



3 Part Finial

- Finial Proper
- Finial Base
- Finial Collar

