

## Faceplate Safety

- A wood lathe faceplate is not foolproof nor failsafe.
- A good rule of thumb is to assure the faceplate is at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  the diameter of the blank. If the faceplate is too small you run the risk of screw shear or your bowl blank departing the faceplate. Also, a faceplate that is too small may induce vibrations in your turning surface making it difficult to get a smooth cut with your bowl gouge. When in doubt, use a larger faceplate.
- Don't use drywall screws to hold faceplates, they are made of a brittle material and can shatter.
- Make sure screws are firmly in faceplate.
- When mounting a bowl blank to the faceplate, make sure 7 or 8 threads are in the wood.
- Make sure the wood is flat against the faceplate.
- When threading a faceplate and bowl blank to the headstock, spin the headstock not the faceplate/bowl blank combo. By spinning the faceplate combo, you can start a cross thread and damage your headstock or faceplate. Spin the headstock handle to mount the faceplate/bowl blank.
- Assure the back of the faceplate is firmly positioned against the headstock with no threads exposed. Use a washer to fill the space between the back of faceplate and headstock.
- If you're going to be turning or sanding in reverse, be sure to tighten the set screws in the faceplate against the headstock.

Excellent suggestions came from the DAW attendees:

- Spax screws (not your typical fasteners), strong engineered fasteners
- Oneway faceplates - good idea to buy quality faceplates in sizes that match your turning requirements
- Wax on screw threads to prevent corrosion from wood moisture while in storage. Should make it easier to remove screws after extended drying of turnings that you leave your faceplate attached to