

Bowls from Start to Finish

Presenter: Scott Trumbo

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Tools

Scott is part owner in Serious ToolWorks, Inc. Tools were available for purchase. The tools do not come shaped because of the broad array of desired shapes on the part of woodturners. Mike Mahoney's Youtube on shaping woodturning tools is a good reference.

Wood

"Life is too short to turn crappy wood."

Woodturners should look for defects in blocks of wood before mounting and turning. Defects are an indicator of wood that could fly apart and cause injury. Ring shank is a defect visible as a dark line in the wood. It is caused by the wind stressing the tree and allowing a separation of the cells of wood. Water then gets into the tree and causes further separation of the wood cells.

When working to gain the best wood pattern in crotch wood, it is important that the limb portion is 65% or greater of the block. It is also important to cut low on the log portion as the feathering is below the V.

Burls grow in a shotgun pattern. To gain a tiger striping in the final piece, it is important to cut the turning blocks at 90 degrees to the length of the log.

It is critical to store turning blocks out of the exposure to UV light (out of sunlight). Cherry is an unstable wood for turning.

Cut the pith out of the block of wood, but stay close to the pith. When using the band saw to cut the turning block, be thoughtful about the proposed outcome.

Selling Turnings

Women are the primary buyers. Turners need to design and turn for women. Women like to have color in the wood. Buckeye burl has a pretty blue color.

Design

Arcs are more pleasing to the eye than a straight line. *The Art of Turned Bowls* by Richard Raffan is a good reference for design concepts.

Finishing

Scott uses Walnut Oil and Millie's Tung Oil. Millie's Tung Oil is available from Sutherland-Welles LTD (www.sutherlandwelles.com). Within Oregon it is available from Serious Tool or Woodcrafters in Portland.

Scott applied walnut oil and used a shear scrape, cabinet scraper, and sand paper in the finishing process. Wet sanding with walnut oil keeps the dust down, expands the wood fibers, and lubricates the cutting process. In the sanding process he moved through the grits up through #400.

Scott was using a silicon carbide paper for sanding. He recommends not using garnet paper. He considers aluminum oxide paper to be fine. He stated white woven is a good final finisher.

Wall Thickness

Scott stated his wall thickness range from 3/8" to 3/4 " with the thicker for the larger bowls. He stated, "people like to turn thin, but people buy thicker".