

# Log to Bowl

## Rough Turn a Bowl from a Log.

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### Demonstration Handout

Primary Audience: New to bowl turning.

Time: 1.5 to 2 hours.

Prerequisites: Interest in turning bowls.

## Slicing & Dicing the Log for a Blank.

Life really is too short to turn crappy wood!

- ✓ Cracks.
  - Ring shakes – **Dangerous!**
- ✓ Pith – get rid of it!
- ✓ Grain & figure.
  - Face, side, & end grain.
  - Flat, quarter, and rift sawn.
  - Figure.
- ✓ Understanding how wood moves (warps).
  - Cells shrink when they dry.
    - **Not much** - Lengthwise.
    - **Some** - Across the growth rings.
    - **Lots** - Along the growth rings.
- ✓ Finding the blank in the log.
- ✓ If you use a chain saw...
- ✓ If you use a band saw...



## Mounting and Shaping the Blank.

- ✓ Lots of ways.
  - *Between Centers* is very common.
  - Mouth to headstock.
  - Drive Spur.
    - 2 Blade drive Spur.
      - Best for adjusting symmetry of figure.
      - Inline with grain
    - 4 Blade.
      - More common.
      - Less *adjustable*
    - Make a hole with a forstner bit if possible.
  - Remove the bark.
- ✓ Tripple S for Safety.
  1. Secure.
  2. Spins freely.



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3. Speed (down).
  4. Stance (added fourth).
- ✓ Stand clear of the **kill zone**.
  - ✓ Uphill / Downhill.
  - ✓ Holding and presenting the *gouge*.
    - Push cut / Pull cut.
    - Butt of tool and elbows in close to body.
    - Move torso to move tool handle.
    - Handle Low.
    - Guideline: 45 / 45 / 45 degrees.
    - Can't *rub the bevel* first?
      - Rough or irregular blank?
      - Tailstock or bed in the way?
    - Go slow.
    - Cut the **ghost**.
    - Control more important than strength.
      - 2 finger illustration.
  - ✓ Developing the form.
    - **ABC**.
      - Anchor.
      - Bevel.
      - Cut.
    - Don't look at the cutting edge after starting the cut.
    - Look at the profile.
    - Tool handle movement.
      - The bevel remains **tangent** to the curve of the form.
      - The tool handle angle movement will match the curve movement.
  - ✓ Cut a *tenon* at the foot.
    - Match jaw size & profile.



### Remounting and Hollowing the Bowl.

- ✓ Reverse mount the bowl.
  - Tighten **properly!**
- ✓ Goal: Even wall thickness of 10% of diameter.
- ✓ Cleanup the rim.
  - Starting a cut without *skating*.
- ✓ Begin hollowing.
  - Uphill / Downhill.

You may want to use the tailstock until you can't.

Remove the tailstock when it is safe to do so.

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- Starting a cut without *skating*.
- Make a tiny bowl and enlarge it.
- Work in thirds.
  - Rim.
  - Transition zone.
  - Bottom.
- Match the inside curve to the outside curve.
- The tool handle angle must change at the same rate as the curve of the outside of the bowl changes.



### Drying the Bowl.

- ✓ Best if you have time: triple paper bag and patience.
  - One year per inch of wall thickness. (Plus a year?)
- ✓ Alternatives.
  - Soap, Alcohol, Microwave, Dehumidifier kiln, etc.
  - Turn it thin and let it go wrinkly.

### Resources and References.

AAW Article WF1002p5-10 by Dale Larson, "Bowl Blanks From a Tree"  
AAW Article WF1101p28-34B by Don McIvor "Green Blank to Lathe"  
AAW Article AW0604p24-25 by Cas Grabowski "Burls"  
AAW Article WF0604p8-10 by Seri Robinson "Drying Wood"