

Turning the Bottom/Outside of the Bowl: continued

4. I prefer to turn a recess in the bottom of the bowl (2 1/8" minimum diameter with a depth of 3/16") with the outside diameter at least 1/2" larger than the recess diameter to avoid breaking the recess when expansion chucking. Using a diameter of at least 2 1/8" allows you to use expansion chucking for turning the inside of the bowl with room for calipers to measure depth. I prefer the recess/expansion chucking method because it allows me to finish the bottom completely without worrying about marks on the foot which would require touch up after turning the inside of the bowl. (picture 13)
5. Completely finish the bottom of the bowl by sanding, texturing, etc. sanding the bottom of the bowl I use a 3" disk sander at slow speed on the lathe and sand to 600 grit for a smooth finish. Once the bottom of the bowl is finished you are ready to reverse the bowl and expansion chuck it so you can turn the inside. (picture 14 & 15)



Turning the Inside of the Bowl:

1. Expansion chuck the recess you created on the bottom/ outside of the bowl (use tailstock for added safety). You are now ready to turn the inside of the bowl. (figure 2)
2. I use a 3/8" Doug Thompson bowl gouge for turning the inside of the bowl. Pay special attention to the three points as you turn to inside to avoid damaging the tips. Remove the tailstock to make the final cuts on the inside of the bowl. (picture 16)
3. Your final cuts should ride the rainbow from the tips up and back down to the center. This traditional bowl cut will ensure a nice finished shape for your bowl. (figure 3)

