

Turning the Bowl (continued)

5. When hollowing the bowl, I like to use a Forstner bit to take away the wood quickly. I stop about 3/4" from the bottom. Otherwise you stand a chance of going through the bowl bottom when shaping the inside. Before drilling be sure to align the bowl by bring up the tail stock. Also, once you align the Forstner bit in the Jacobs drill chuck start the blank turning before you engage the bit in the wood. This will allow the best alignment for drilling a straight hole. In hollowing the bowl there are almost as many tools to use as there are turners. Try several different tools and find the ones you like best and are comfortable using.

6. The interior bowl walls should have the same curvature as the exterior design and should be of uniform thickness. The height of the bowl should be proportional to the width.

Note: Use sandpaper like someone else is paying for it. Always use fresh sandpaper and remove the dust and sandpaper particles on the bowl surface between grits.

Finishing the Bowl

1. Satin or Gloss ? You can't go wrong with either one. I like to use a satin finish and use a mixture of 1/3 each of: (1) Pure Tung oil, (2) polyurethane and (3) mineral spirits. Wipe it on and let set for a few minutes and wipe it off, then let it dry over night.

2. Lightly sand with 600 grit and then apply a second coat. Let dry again over night then buff and wax. 3. You can always go over the satin finish with high gloss polyurethane if you decide you want a high gloss finish.

Note: When using lighter color woods like holly and aspen any mixture containing oil will slightly darken and yellow the wood. DEFT clear wood finish is the only one that I have found that won't yellow light woods.

Recommended Tools

1. 3/8" & 1/2" bowl gouges
2. 1/4" skew chisel
3. 1/4" Pyramid tool
4. texturing tools
5. 2 1/8" Forstner bit
6. 80 - 400 grit sandpaper
7. Finish of your choice