

## February 2019 - George Foweraker

A fully recovered George, although he was still playing for the sympathy vote!, demonstrated the techniques involved in making a bowl with 5 symmetrical indents/hollows.

Using a wood that most of us had not heard of, Capricious Macrocarpa, similar in look and smell to Cedar, on one side of the 6" blank was pasted the template for the off-centre indents.

Because of the extreme off-centre nature of the turning the diameter of the bowl is very much limited by the capacity of the lathe, and probably an 8" bowl would have been on the absolute limit of the club lathe, both in respect of the distance from the spindle centre to the lathe bed and also the ability to control the vibration when running at very slow speed.

George stressed that the success of the project is very dependent on the accuracy of the template and the accuracy in mounting the faceplate in the various off-centre positions. The template was pasted to one face of the blank ...



Note that the circles are of the same 3" diameter of the faceplate.

After fixing the faceplate to the dead centre of the blank, the blank was turned down to 6" and the end face flattened off and sanded down to 400grit as this would not be possible once the indents had been made.

The faceplate was then fixed to one of the circles avoiding using all the screws other than the one closest to the outside of the bowl to avoid subsequent problems with the screw hole when turning the bowl shape.

After mounting on the lathe, a centre in the tailstock was used to mark the centre of the off-centre indent to be turned and then a 3" circle marked with a compass. Running the lathe at about 200rpm an indent was turned with a bowl gouge (or spindle gouge), ensuring to rub the bevel, and then sanded using a sanding disk mounted in a electric drill. The depth of the indent was taken so that the remaining 3 holes could be turned to the same depth.

The same process was used to turn the other 3 indents. To help with the balance of the blank, the second indent should be the one opposite the first indent.



The faceplate was remounted on the centre of the blank. Note that the 5 holes in the faceplate are not necessarily equidistant apart so either mark the position of the faceplate when first used, or rotate the faceplate until the holes match with the originals, or fix using new screw holes.

Starting in the centre start to form the central indent, gradually increasing the diameter until the shape looks OK relative to the 4 outer indents.

Finally, reverse mount the bowl using a router mat disk in the chuck, held in place with a live centre in the tailstock, and then the bowl shape and foot were turned in the conventional way.



An interesting demo which illustrated the many possibilities for variations in design such as triangular configuration ...



Finally, another 4 indent design using walnut which gives the optical illusion in the picture that the indents are raised! ...



Thanks to George for an interesting demo and, as ever, an entertaining demo.

David Langan