

June 2019 - Paul Sweet

Mark Sanger was originally billed for the June demo but unfortunately was unavailable and Paul Sweet kindly agreed at short notice to stand in.

Paul's theme was to demonstrate the issues involved in part turning a green bowl and then the subsequent remounting and finishing of the bowl when sufficiently dry.

Stage 1 - a beautiful spalted beech bowl blank which had been cut down in November 2018 was mounted on a screw chuck and supported with a live centre in the tailstock. The roughed outline of the bowl was then created in the conventional way as follows ...

- Flatten the bottom face
- Cut the spigot using a pull cut with a bowl gouge

Top Tip 1 - make the spigot oversize for the chuck to be used in the subsequent finishing to allow for distortion in size during the drying process.

- Shape the bowl using a pull cut

Top Tip 2 - don't bother with finishing cuts at this stage as the bowl will be returned at a later date.

- Using the spigot, mount, in this case, in a larger 60mm Versa chuck (Part no 410158 from Toolpost)
- Flatten off the top surface
- Hollow out leaving a wall thickness of 10% of the bowl diameter

The result was a roughed out bowl which would be stored for between 6 and 12mths dependent upon the workshop/storage environment

Stage 2 - a "dry" roughed out ash blank bowl was mounted, supported by the chuck in the headstock and a live centre in the tailstock. The bowl was then finished as follows ...

- Turn the spigot down to size or create a new one if necessary
- Finish the outer surface of the bowl using a pull cut and then a push cut from the foot to the outer rim to give a better finish
- Complete the process using the burr of a scraper or a very fine cut using a bowl gouge as a scraper - the sanding and finishing of the surface was left until the inside of the bowl had been finished
- Remount the bowl on the recut spigot
- Flatten the rim with a pull cut and then back the other way with a push cut
- Remove the sharp edge on the rim with a small bevel
- Mark the limits of the design for the rim using a scrow
- Use a texture tool to create a design within the limits

Top Tip 3 - lightly sand the rim first to avoid texture tool bounce which could create an inconsistency within the design

- Colour the design using a felt tip pen and seal
- Shape the centre of the bowl and scrape to a finish using the burr of a scraper and seal
- The centre was then polished using Shellawax
- The bowl was then remounted using a friction plate and supported by a live centre in the tailstock
- Turn off the spigot to create a concave surface
- Finally, remove the nib using a sanding arbour in the headstock



Thanks again to Paul for standing in at short notice and giving us some valuable hints and tips.

David Langan