

Turning a Bowl in a Bowl

The Process

1. Select a suitable blank and turn it to the desired diameter
2. Make a template, from a thin ply or some other suitable material, matching the circumference of the turned blank.
3. With the use of the template, or by some other means, turn the blank to a half sphere. Leave sufficient wood to form spigot to use for hollowing.
4. Reverse blank and hollow out the inside to depth, leaving a wall thickness of around 20mm.
5. Turn the inner half of the wall down by 15mm. Actual dimension will depend on how you wish your finished vessel to look. Sanding of the inner surfaces should be done now. It will be difficult later.
6. Mount vessel in Cole Jaws and turn off spigot.
7. Attach hollow jam chuck to lath headstock and pressure arm to tailstock.
8. Mount bowl at the wanted rotation. You are looking to turn off 30+mm from the high point of the outside bowl wall. Apply pressure to hold in place. Hot melt glue can be used if you wish to add a little insurance.
9. To start with you can turn quickly down to the junction of the inner and outer bowl walls. From there additional care is needed to maintain even wall thickness.

Discussion points

Finding wood with suitable dimensions can be difficult. I think most timber we have in our collections seem to be more suited to flat bowls. The extra depth needed to form a half sphere means the size is limited.

Is a round base more desirable than a flat one?