

Rick Urban Woodturner

Changing the way you think about wood... One piece at a time!
Real Time Remote Demonstration

Where's My Wood? The *Lost Wood* Process

Frequently Asked Questions and Tips

Q: What gouge and grind do you use?

A: When it is appropriate I grab my 5/8" bowl gouge ground similar to Stuart Batty's 40/40 grind.

I prefer what some call a V groove gouge, although that is a misnomer. It is simply a narrow bottom flute as opposed to the very wide bottomed flutes which seem a bit "catchy" since I've used the "V" gouges since my early days. I also often favor the largest tool that will fit where I want to put it for greater stability and less vibration.

Q: What tool do you use to hollow a relatively deep bowl?

A: If I cannot use a blunt grind bowl gouge, I like a tool like the Hunter cutters and similar tools because they allow me to present the cutting edge in a bevel gliding slicing manner in the deep areas.

Q: What other tools do you like?

A: I have a homemade shear scraper made from a piece of 6"x1"x1/4" high speed steel. John Lucas showed me how to make one in 2008, and I saw a few years later that John Jordan sells a very pretty one functionally just like it. About 2 years ago I reground it to a negative rake scraper configuration and really like it to clean up irregularities in a convex surface.

Q: What kind of glue do you use?

A: I use white glue for my paper joints. While I prefer aliphatic resin glues (yellow wood glue like Titebond I and II) for most wood jobs, the paper joints in the lost wood process are temporary and the shortcomings of white glue don't matter to me. The bond strength is very close to the yellow glues and completely adequate for this purpose for me. Besides... it's cheaper!

Q: Do you use dry or wet (green) wood?

A: It's important to me to use dry wood because you don't have to deal as much with the movement issues which can be dramatic. If you do use green wood you would need to dry it before recombining the "halves" which would not align well, even after sanding the glue surfaces flat.

Note: The Titebond techie I spoke with suggested the glue would not cure with green wood, but none of the joints failed in the trials I did.

Q: Can you use MDF for the waste wood ?

A: Great question! MDF would have both pros and cons. The pros would include very parallel sides, avoiding the pitfalls associated with uneven waste blocks. There are two cons I can think of. MDF will dull tools quickly. Also, the fixed thickness of MDF would reduce your flexibility in the dimensioning of the blank.

Q: Do you try to sand down / soften the pointed joint after you glue the halves back together?

A: Absolutely! Even more importantly I try for perfection in the glue joint to preclude filling which degrades the quality of the finished work. When I think it is ready I hold it up to a light source like a kaleidoscope to see if there are any gaps.

Tip: Don't worry about making the centers of bottoms perfect and eliminating all hints of a nub. They will all disappear when the wastewood is "lost."

Tip: If you will do multiples, it's easier to glue three long boards than a basket full of short ones.

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Tip: When you mark the centers for your drive spur and live center, they must be in the center of the "waste-wood."

Tip: The sides of the wastewood must be parallel for a proper reglue of the "halves."

For more information visit my website
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