

# Rick Urban Woodturner

Help Desk

## Balancing Act

Precise tool control is crucial for the quality of the cut. It is especially important on that last cut before sanding. That said, how do you go about achieving precise tool control?

Here are some common suggestions and one not so common for improving tool control.

Smooth tool rest. Many turner's advocate filing the tool rest to get rid of nicks that can catch the tool as it slides along the surface.

Anchor loose ends. Hold elbows and tool handles close to your body so that large muscles near the torso are moving the tool.

Presentation. Each tool performs differently and requires a different presentation as the cutting edge approaches the wood surface. Use care to insure your method is appropriate for what you are trying to do.

Balance. If your stance is not well balanced your muscles will be fighting to keep you upright. That detracts from your tool control.

Try this to check your balance and see if it works better for you. At the end of a cut, freeze! Move the tool a safe distance from the wood surface and note how you feel in that ending position. Chances are you feel less balanced than somewhere earlier in the cut closer to the starting position.

Now try this. Go through the motion (lathe off) of making the cut without actually doing so. In the ending position adjust your stance to feel balanced. Without moving your feet reposition your tool for the beginning of the cut. Now make the cut ending in a balanced stance

For more information visit my website

<http://RickUrbanWoodturner.com/>

or email me

[RickUrbanWoodturner@gmail.com](mailto:RickUrbanWoodturner@gmail.com) or

[Rick@RickUrbanWoodturner.com](mailto:Rick@RickUrbanWoodturner.com)



Changing the way you think about wood... one piece at a time.