

Three Corner Bowl.

Handout

Introduction.

You may have seen a number of three corner bowl videos on YouTube. Some them are not bad, but a lot of them leave basic questions unanswered, and many provide no warnings about obvious hazzards. Others simply keep the viewer wondering *how to do* what they just saw? This demo is *different!*

Sure, I'll show you how I do it, but what I really want to do is to help you learn how *you* can do it... *safely*. I will cover several important tips along the way that will go far toward success the first time you try it and every time thereafter. Look for these points as we go through the process and be sure to ask questions if you don't understand.



- Start with a blank as close to a perfect cube as possible.
- A sharp gouge and proper pressure are important when cutting alternating air and wood.
- Be aware of the hazards while you cut a tenon and turn the irregular shaped bowl.

Start with a perfect blank (if you can).

The perfect blank is a perfect cube with opposite points toward the pith and bark. This isn't the way most turning blanks are cut, but don't worry. If you can do it, avoid a blank that contains the pith. If you can't avoid it, use a cube with the pith in a corner.

Mount the blank.

Mount the blank with the corner closest to the pith directly in the hole of the head stock spindle. Use a cup live center in the tail stock to hold the opposite corner of the cube. You can also swap ends if that figure orientation is more desirable.

Shape the outside and turn a tenon.

- Adjust the tool rest so it not only allows you to properly present the gouge, but also provides a boundary for your fingers not to cross. Fingers on one side. Spinning pointy wood on the other.
- Remove excess wood from the tailstock end to turn the outside profile and form a tenon which will become a foot.
 - Size the tenon to be just barely larger than the closed chuck jaws.
 - Make the tenon profile match the chuck jaw profile.
 - Safest hold.

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- Least jaw marks on the tenon.

Caution! Be careful in tool presentation to avoid a catch which could catapult the blank out of the tailstock cup center.

Suggestion! Make a 60 degree inverted cone adapter fixture for the tailstock live center.

Caution! Be careful to stop cutting before the waste wood below the tenon breaks.

Remove the waste wood below the tenon.

Option: Remount with a point live center and align to facilitate centering when turning the foot.

Mount the tenon in the chuck.

Check for the remounted bowl turning true, and hollow the bowl to match the outside profile.

Technique: Avoid pressing the bevel against the wood.

Technique: Find the entry at the mouth by gently dragging the bevel back along the inside edge.

Sand.

Turn the foot.

Reverse mount the bowl using a padded jam chuck and live center.

Note: If you used a point center before it is much easier.

Check it is turning true.

Sand and Finish.

It's easier to sand the points on the lathe (*but not with it turning!*)

Remove the nub that remains with this technique.



References.

For more information visit my website at <http://RickUrbanWoodturner.com/> or email me at RickUrbanWoodturner@gmail.com