

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

Overview

Primary Audience: Beginner to Advanced
Time: 1.5 to 2 hours
Prerequisites: None.

This demonstration illustrates a process for producing a *flattened* or somewhat oval form from a round one turned on a lathe. Typically this is done with a blank with a layer of waste wood sandwiched in the middle which is then lost after turning. The outer *halves* are then rejoined.



This method can add an element of the unique to an otherwise common form, and it is the first step in creating one of my *Ovaloids*. The method is appropriate for both closed and open forms.

I owe my awareness of the process to Art Liestman who demonstrated the method at the 2013 AAW Symposium in Tampa. In 2019, Graeme Priddle asked me why I didn't just sculpt my *ovaloids* off the lathe. Having to think about how to answer that question made me realize how much easier it was for me to create pleasing oval forms using this method.

In this demo I start with some examples of my work based on forms created with this process. I then cover blank preparation, grain alignment (particularly as it applies to wood movement and glue joint failure), figure matching, and glue up. I emphasize important proportional relationships for sizing the blank to achieve the desired outcome. Common gluejoint problems that can become dangers are also highlighted.

I then turn a form from a similar blank with previously cured paper glue joints. The part to be *lost* is cleaved away, and the remaining *halves* are reglued after preparing the surfaces to be joined.

Available remaining time may be spent on topics of interest to the group such as...

- Alternative methods.
- Suggestions for blending surfaces
- Laying out design elements
- Relief carving, texturing
- Other surface embellishments.

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