

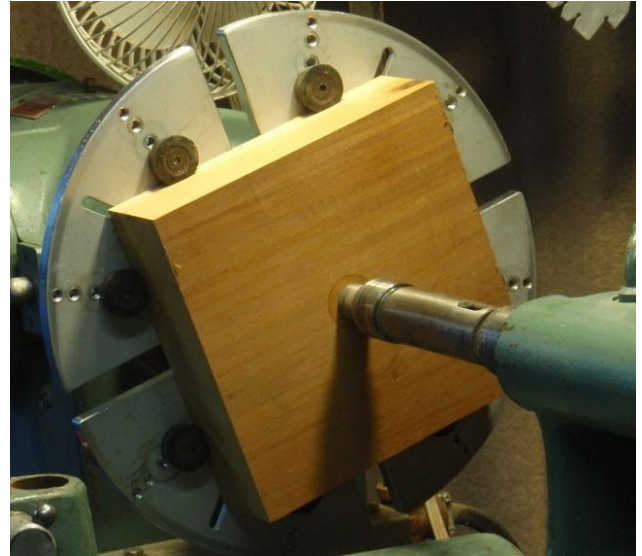
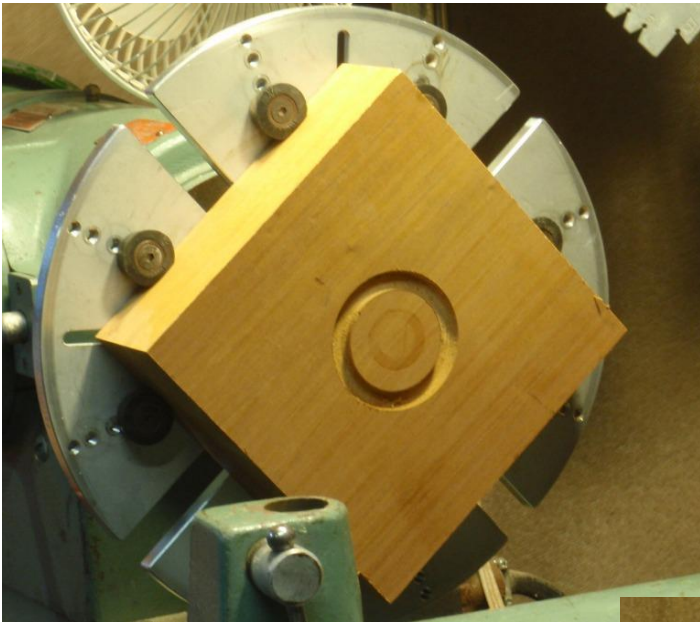
Suspended Bowl Instructions



January, 2015
Clifford C. Weatherell

Suspended Bowl

Start with a square block of wood, try to pick a species with tight grain that will turn well. Mount the block, in your jumbo jaws, with the bottom of your bowl toward the tail stock. I like to use my tail stock to hold the block in place while I tighten the chuck to ensure the block is tight against the jaws.



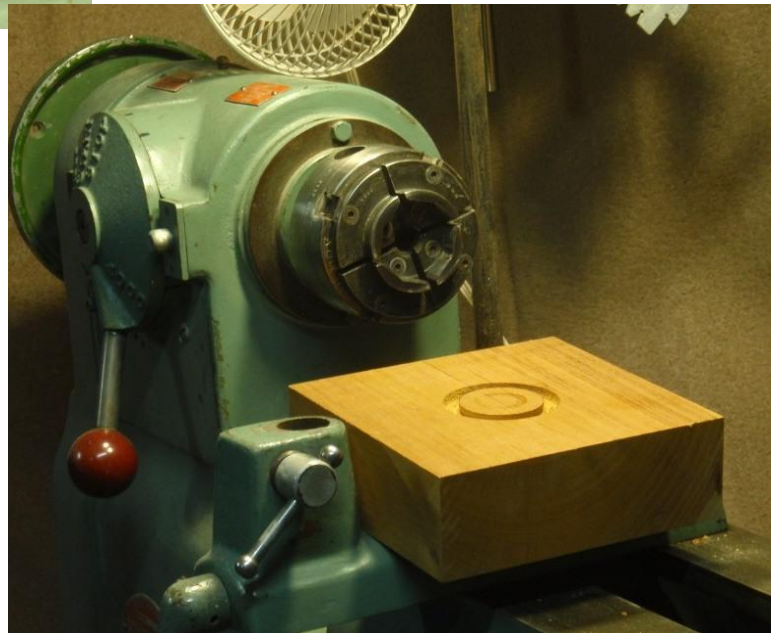
Clean up and flatten the bottom, then cut a 2 inch (ID) by 2 3/4 inch circular groove, make sure the groove is wide enough for your #2 jaws. Using the jumbo jaws to create the tenon will ensure it is exactly centered on your blank.

Top

If you are going to make a top for your suspended bowl now would be a good time to cut a circular groove in that stock while you have the jumbo jaws setup on your chuck.

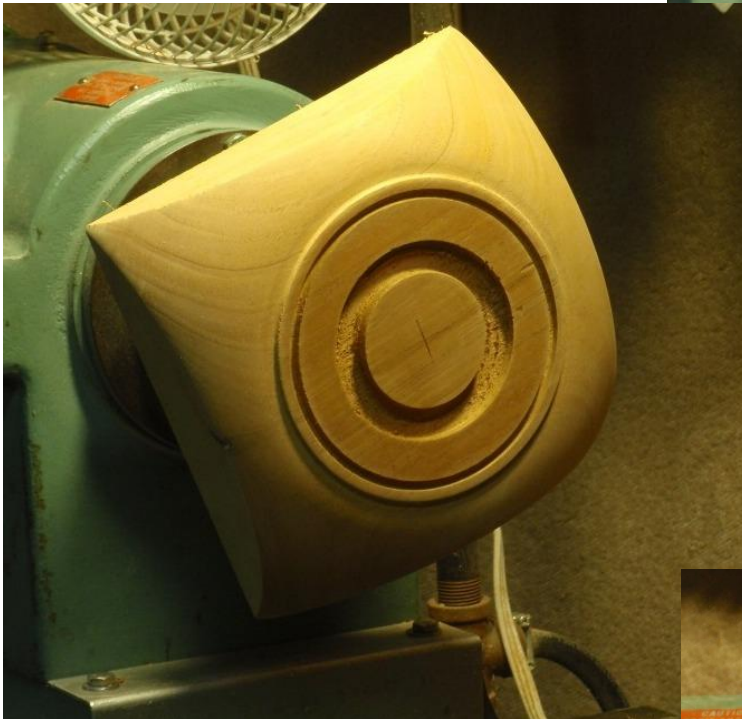
Back to the bowl

Replace the jumbo jaws with a set of #2 jaws and mount the work with the bottom toward the head stock.



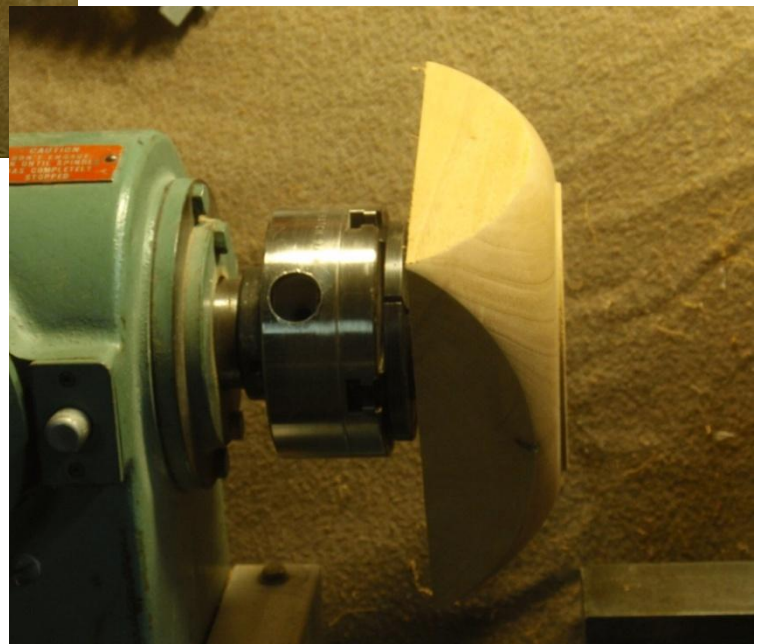
Suspended Bowl

I find making the bowl diameter about $\frac{2}{3}$ the size of the block looks fair. You can try different ratios but I would not recommend a larger bowl to block ratio. Mark the rim of the bowl and another circle $\frac{1}{4}$ inch large. These will create a rim around the top of your bowl. At this time you will also want to cut a 2 inch diameter tenon like the one on the bottom of your piece. Define these using a parting tool.



Round off the top being careful to not go over the edge (leave the corners of the block). If your wood has a tendency to chip try soaking the edges with Cyanoacrylate glue.

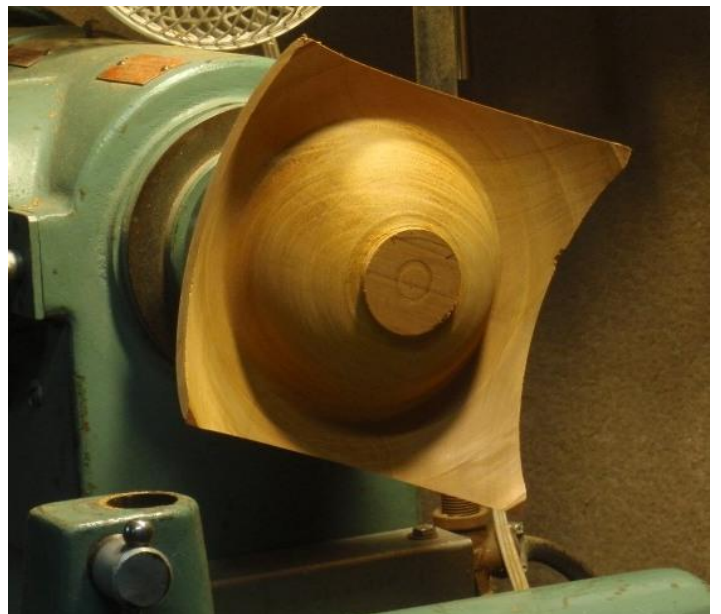
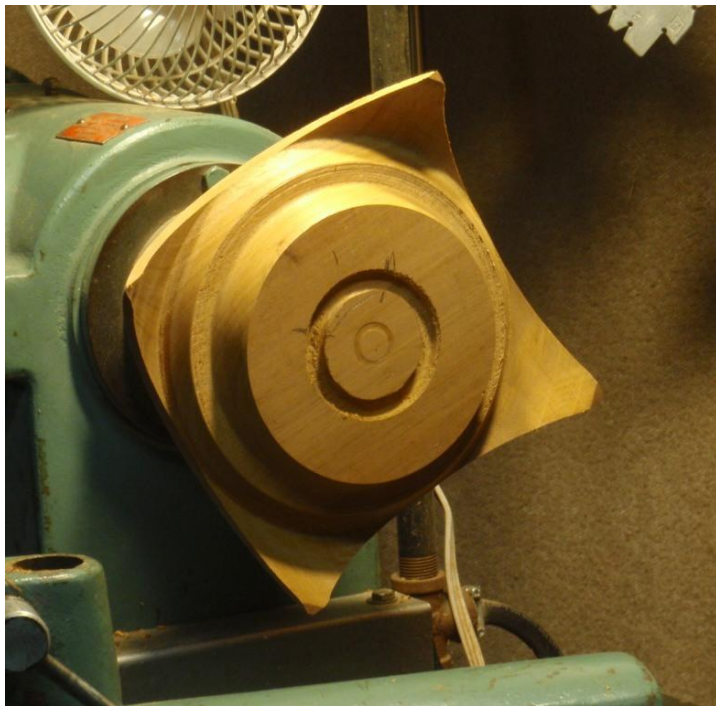
Here is a profile view of the progress so far. Mark the #1 jaw position on the wood then remove the work piece.



Suspended Bowl



Remount with the bottom toward tail stock. Mark the bowl diameter plus bowl wall thickness, then use your parting tool to cut a groove. This is the bottom outside edge of your bowl and will help you define the inside of the feet.



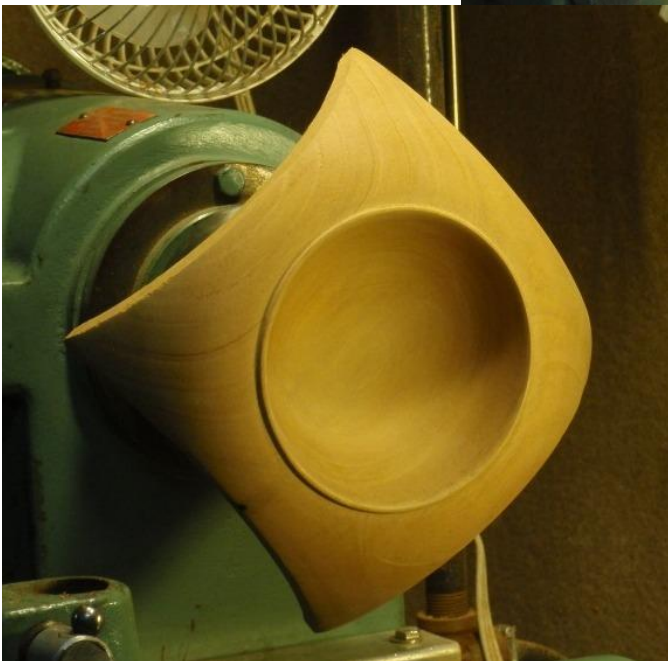
Carefully cut away at the wood shaping the feet bottoms. When the profile has an even edge at the thickness you want, the feet are done. As you shape the bowl outside remember to leave the tenon. Measure the bowl depth (less the tenon). Now is a good time to sand the bottom to within a few grits of your final finish.

Suspended Bowl



Here is another profile view of where we are at.

Remount the work with the bottom toward the head stock then using the measurement you took in the previous step, drill out the bowl depth. Don't forget to take into account the bowl wall thickness.

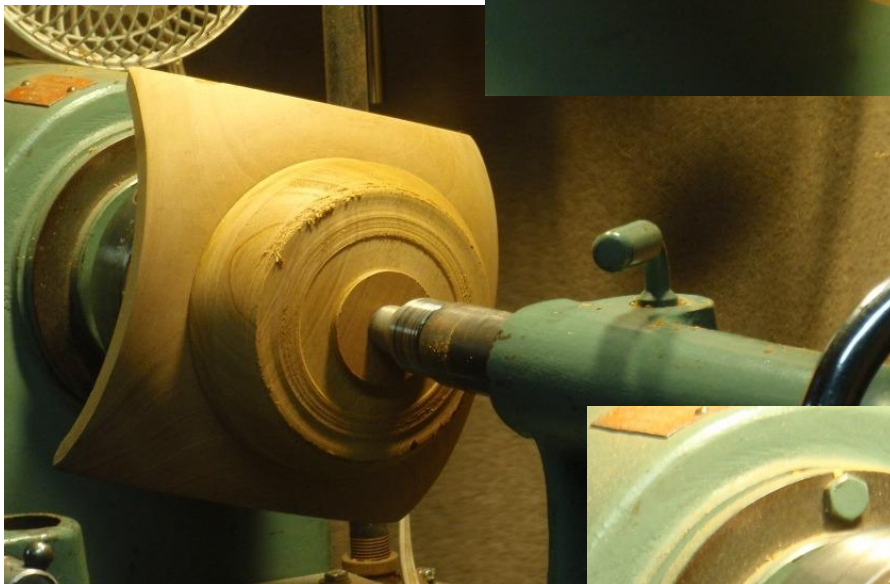
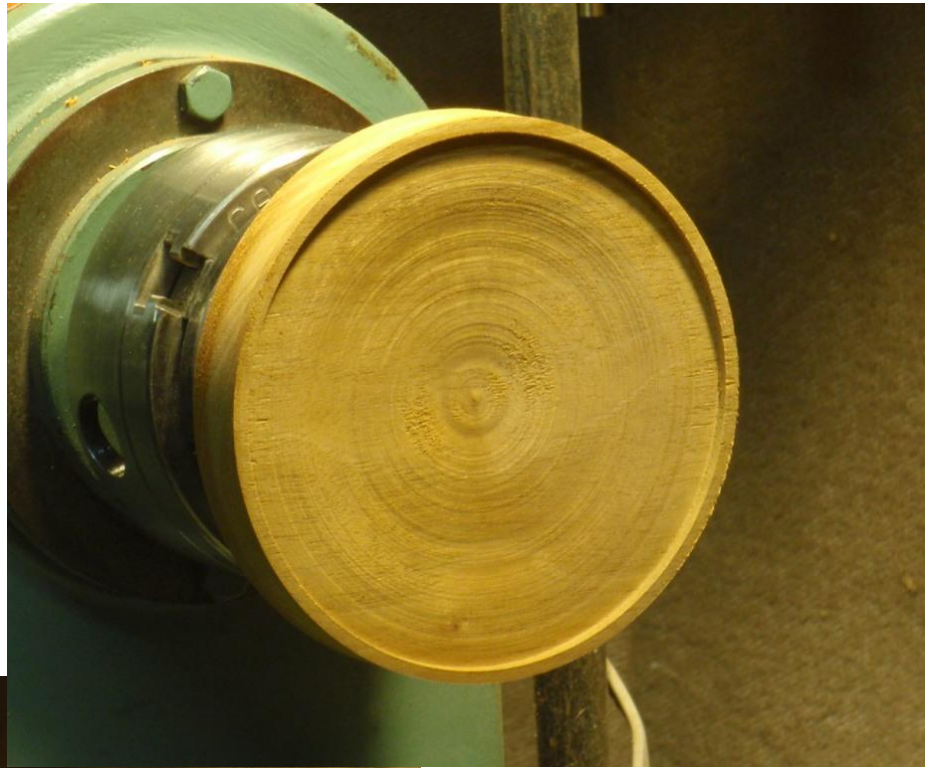


Hollow out the bowl being careful to leave the rim intact. Sand to your final grit and if you are going to apply finish on the lathe, then do it now.

Suspended Bowl

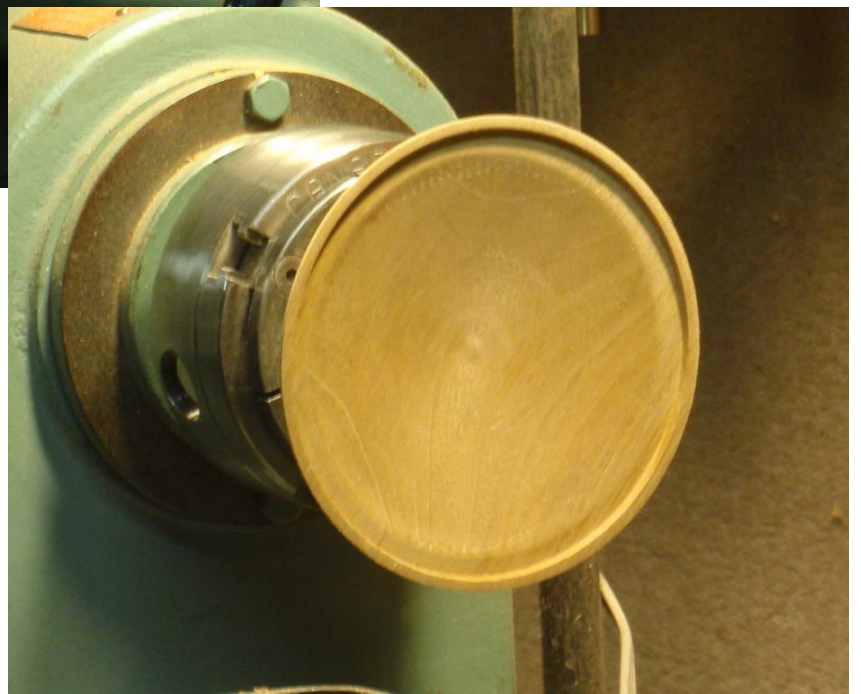
Top

If you are going to make a top now is the time. Remove the bowl and mount your top blank. Make its diameter about 1/4 inch larger than the outside diameter of the bowl rim. Create a rim with an inside diameter equal to your bowl's rim outside diameter. Remove the waste wood inside this.



Remount your bowl and using it as a jam-chuck shape the top so that the bowl and top appear to be a continuous curve. Leave a tenon so the piece can be reversed.

Remove the bowl and remount the top so the underside can be shaped. Sand to your final finish and, again if you are going to apply finish on the lathe, now is a good time to do that.



Suspended Bowl



Remove the top and remount the bowl. Once again using the bowl as a jam-chuck turn the tenon off the top and sand to your finish grit. If you are going to apply finish on the lathe, now is a good time to do that.

Back to the bowl

Change to #3 jaws and reverse the work one last time. Carefully chuck up the work on the rim you left. You may want to bring up the tail stock so you can carefully turn away the tenon on the bottom. Sand and finish the bottom.

