

Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com

September 2022

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Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm.
Our ADDRESS: We're south of Zona Rosa just off NW Prairie View Rd., in the old Mid-Continent Library building on the top floor. Parking is on top of the hill off **Tower Drive.**

Coming Attractions

Newsletters on the Chapter Website:
<http://northlandwoodturners-kc.com>

Event Information:

NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.

Remember—2022 dues are \$10 for the year.

Due beginning January 7, 2022

**Next Meeting:
September 1, 2022**



These turnings were spotted at a rest stop by the TN Editor in Kentucky between Tennessee and Illinois.



The lower bark-on turning retails for \$135, and the bowl above is priced at \$135. The lamps on top start at \$70 and up.

The lamp artist is Alton Mitchell of Princeton, KY. The other woodturnings are from the lathe of Jim Mason of Hopkinsville, KY near Fort Campbell. Jim's turnings are Ash. The lamps appear to be Cherry wood. Both had labels and emails where they could be contacted and purchased from.

Bowl Gouges vs. Spindle Gouges

DIFFERENCE EXPLAINED



The bowl gouge flute is curved with wings and designed for turning wood bowls. A spindle gouge has a more open flat flute and is best used for details and spindle turnings.

I remember when I first started turning there were so many terms and tools to understand. When first looking at a bowl gouge vs spindle gouge they look very similar.

While they do look very similar, they have some very different qualities. Using a bowl gouge and a spindle gouge for their intended purposes is not only efficient but also safe.

In this article, I will share with you the advantages and disadvantages of the bowl gouge vs spindle gouge.

BOWL GOUGE DEFINED

A bowl gouge has a round metal exterior shaft with a curved interior flute. The curved flute might be U-shaped, V-shaped, or parabolic in shape.

That interior flute design allows the bowl gouge to have exterior ground beveled wings that create a larger cutting surface all the way around the tip of the bowl gouge. The size and shape of these side cutting wings are based on the particular use of the bowl gouge and the woodturner's preference.

Bowl gouges can be used to remove large amounts of material quickly or finesse the last smooth cuts of a bowl interior.

The bowl gouge is a very diverse tool and **can be used exclusively** if needed to create an entire wood bowl.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF BOWL GOUGES

A single bowl gouge can be modified for many different uses. It's common to have, for example, two or three of the same 5/8" bowl gouges each with a different bevel angle and each service a different use.

If you are interested in understanding the different bowl gouge bevel angles and their uses, be sure to read my article **[Bowl Gouge Sharpening Angles – Surprise Answer.](#)**

The micro bevel bowl gouge is an excellent example of a specific use bowl gouge. Micro-bevel bowl gouges, also known as "bottom-feeders" are **[detailed thoroughly in this article.](#)**

SPINDLE GOUGE DEFINED

The spindle gouge, like the bowl gouge, has a round metal shaft. However, the flute of the spindle gouge is a wide-open, shallow U-shape which divides the metal shaft in half. Because less material surrounds the tip of the spindle gouge, **this tool is less fortified at the tip** compared to the bowl gouge. Relatively flat, the tip of the spindle gouge can be sharpened to a fine, thin tip and is ideal for making precise detail cuts on spindle and bowl exteriors.

Unlike the bowl gouge, the spindle does not have side wings that can cut. The sides of the spindle gouge can be turned to a 90° angle to scrape, but this is not a true cutting technique.

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DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPINDLE GOUGES

Similar to the bowl gouge, the spindle gouge can be sharpened to a variety of different bevel angles. The angle of the spindle gouge dictates how much control and detail can be created with the spindle cutting tip.

It is common to have multiple spindle gouges each with different style beveled tips. I use a more standard ground spindle gouge and a steeply ground detail spindle gouge. The detail spindle gouge allows access to tight spaces, like the inside angle of a properly created bowl tenon.

BOWL GOUGE VS SPINDLE GOUGE ADVANTAGES

BOWL GOUGE ADVANTAGES

The bowl gouge is a workhorse and can be modified to rough out material quickly, shape intricate curves and finish the surface of a wood bowl.

Because of the mass of metal material at the cutting tip and the overall substantial nature of the bowl gouge, it can be extended, within reason, far beyond the tool rest edge.

This extra reaching attribute is critical when turning down deep into a bowl. It's not always possible to configure the tool rest at the ideal position against a particular turning surface.

Side cutting wings on the bowl gouge act like multi-tools. Rolling the tool over, it is easy to use the side wings to scrape and shear-scrape. Learn more about shear scraping cuts in this article.

The various bowl gouge cutting techniques are a valuable bonus to using a swept-back bevel angle on a bowl gouge.

If you'd like to discover the details about these techniques, read my article [***Bowl Gouge Technique – 4 Turning Cuts To Master***](#).

SPINDLE GOUGE ADVANTAGES

Working in tight spaces and making sharp points are the task that makes the spindle gouge shine. Delicate spindle work such as intricate textures and patterns can be easily created on bowl exteriors using the spindle gouge.

Areas where the bowl gouge can't quite reach are easily addressed with a detail spindle gouge, on the bowl exterior only.

To create an ideal tenon, I will remove material and shape the cylinder of the tenon with a bowl gouge, then switch to my detail spindle gouge.

The detail spindle gouge can easily cut an inward dovetail angle to match my four-jaw chuck jaw angle.

At the base of the tenon dovetail angle, I roll the detail spindle gouge on its side to create a crisp corner and flat tenon shoulder area.

Another advantage of the spindle gouge is that it doesn't need to be sharpened as frequently as the bowl gouge.



SPINDLE VS. BOWL GOUGE COMPARISON CHART



Flute Shape	U-shaped	wide and flat
Cutting Wings	Yes	No
Bowl Exterior	Yes	Yes (limited)
Bowl Interior	Yes	NO
Winged Cuts	Yes	No
Tool Rest Reach	Yes	No
Spindle Turning	Yes (limited)	Yes
Bowl Details	Yes (limited)	Yes
Tight Coves	No	Yes
Sharpening	Frequently	Less Frequent

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BOWL GOUGE VS SPINDLE GOUGE HARMONY

If you are new to the wood bowl turning scene, you might be trying to decide which one to get. Well, I think the answer is both.

People ask me, “*what are the basic tools I need to turn a bowl?*” And usually, the person means, how little can I spend and be able to turn a bowl? It’s a fair question.

My first reaction is I want to steer people to two bowl gouges. **I recommend a 5/8” standard and a 1/2” finishing bowl gouge.**

However, I really feel to have a well-rounded, yet minimal wood bowl turning toolset, you need to add a spindle gouge. And I recommend adding a 1/2” spindle gouge with a detail grind.

The spindle gouge directly picks up where the bowl gouge can’t go. The spindle gouge is ideal for shaping tenons, making a center tick on the tenon, and adding detailed textures to a bowl exterior.

SPINDLE TURNING

We’re focused here on turning wood bowls, but the bowl gouge also pairs well in the spindle turning world.

Because of the bowl gouge’s ease of removing material quickly, it is common to use a **bowl gouge to remove the bulk** of a spindle turning before completing the detail work with a spindle gouge.

It really shouldn’t be one or the other. Two bowl gouges and a spindle gouge are the ideal, complete, yet minimal wood bowl turning toolkit.

BOWL GOUGE VS SPINDLE GOUGE CONCLUSION

I hope this article clears up your questions about the differences of a bowl gouge vs spindle gouge. Each tool has advantages and disadvantages. Using the strengths of each tool, great things can be accomplished at the lathe.

Please leave a comment below and let me know if this article helped answer your questions about the mystery between the bowl gouge vs spindle gouge.



Hi, I’m Kent Weakley and I bet you are a lot like me. You probably do a bit of woodworking and at one point, perhaps awhile ago or just this week, you started thinking about woodturning.

[Bowl Gouge Vs Spindle Gouge Difference Explained - Turn A Wood Bowl](#)

Show & Tell



Steve Dougherty brought a unique vase made from **Walnut** and **Maple**. Turned in sections and then assembled after near-final turning on the outside, it is a striking design that uses lots of different grain patterns in the Walnut. Looking inside on the right picture shown gives an idea of how much was needed to be done at each layer as it was glued together.



Mikeal Jones brought two salt cellars with magnetic latching tops. He used Cherry wood as the medium for his turnings.

This is Item 1.

Mikeal said it was difficult to mark the hole locations for pin and magnets .

From Left to right:

- A.** Assembled item one; **B.** Lid opened but assembled; **C.** Lid showing hinge hole and magnet;
- D.** Body with hinge pin and magnet.

Item 2



B.

D.

Same layouts as above.

A.

B.



Carl Sievering shared some of the skills used by him to generate his laminated designs for the turnings he does.

From Left to Right:

3/4" Ash and Walnut and Cherry and Purpleheart; After one 1/4" strip removed from the Cherry; A set of 1/4" laminations to be glued; and on the far right after making a 45° cut to allow stacking to provide the "diamond" shape.



This is an example of what a project would look like using the glued-up laminations. This is one Carl had previously brought to *Show and Tell*.

At the right is the fixture Carl mounts the glued-up laminations onto to cut the 45° side on the assembly.



After cutting a groove in the 4 sides of a bowl, Carl glues in a lamination piece to make what shows as a piercing through the bowl side. See below right for a finished piece.



Above is an end view of the insert being trimmed in the immediate right picture. Splitting it at a 45° angle is key to the look of the finished piece once turned.



Care must be taken to correctly choose the correct orientation to get the final look to be what is desired.

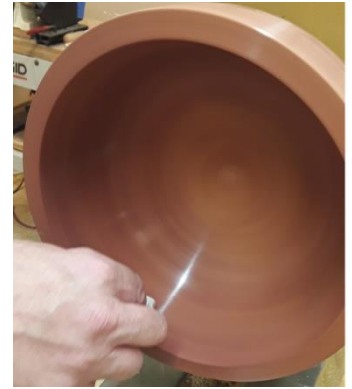
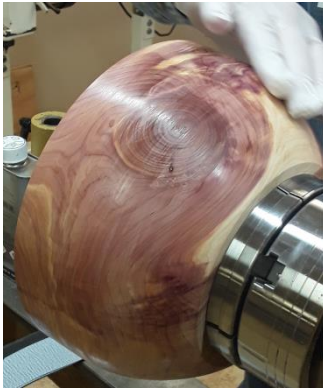
On the left is the fixture holding the bowl for cutting off the excess once glued into the bowl cut. This removes a lot of vibration and makes final turning much safer too.

Carl's demonstration on the lathe took an **Eastern Red Cedar** bowl that was turned to shape ready for finishing and Carl demonstrated applying a special finish called "Friction Polish". The first step is to apply several coats of sanding sealer. He used a product called **MYLANDS** which has its own formulation of sanding sealer.

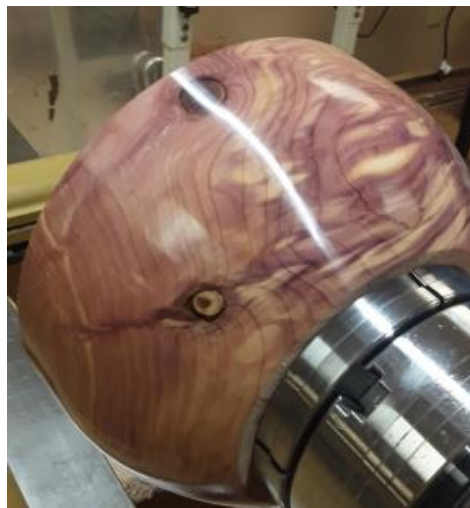


This is the bowl Carl used before applying anything. Nice grain pattern and well-mounted in the chuck.

Applying the Sanding Sealer gave these results below from left to right: *(the first two or three coats don't look like one had done much. ON the 4th & 5th coat of Sanding Sealer the effect at picture #3 shows up. Both inside and outside the bowl must be done at the same time for each coat.*



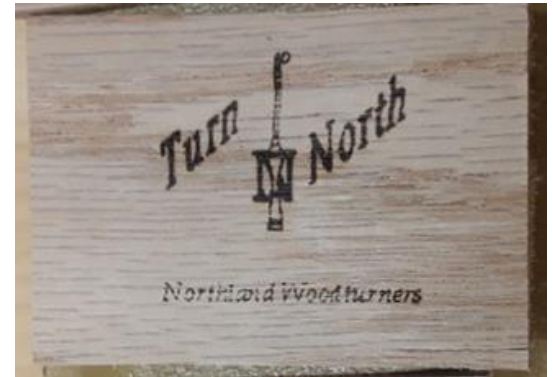
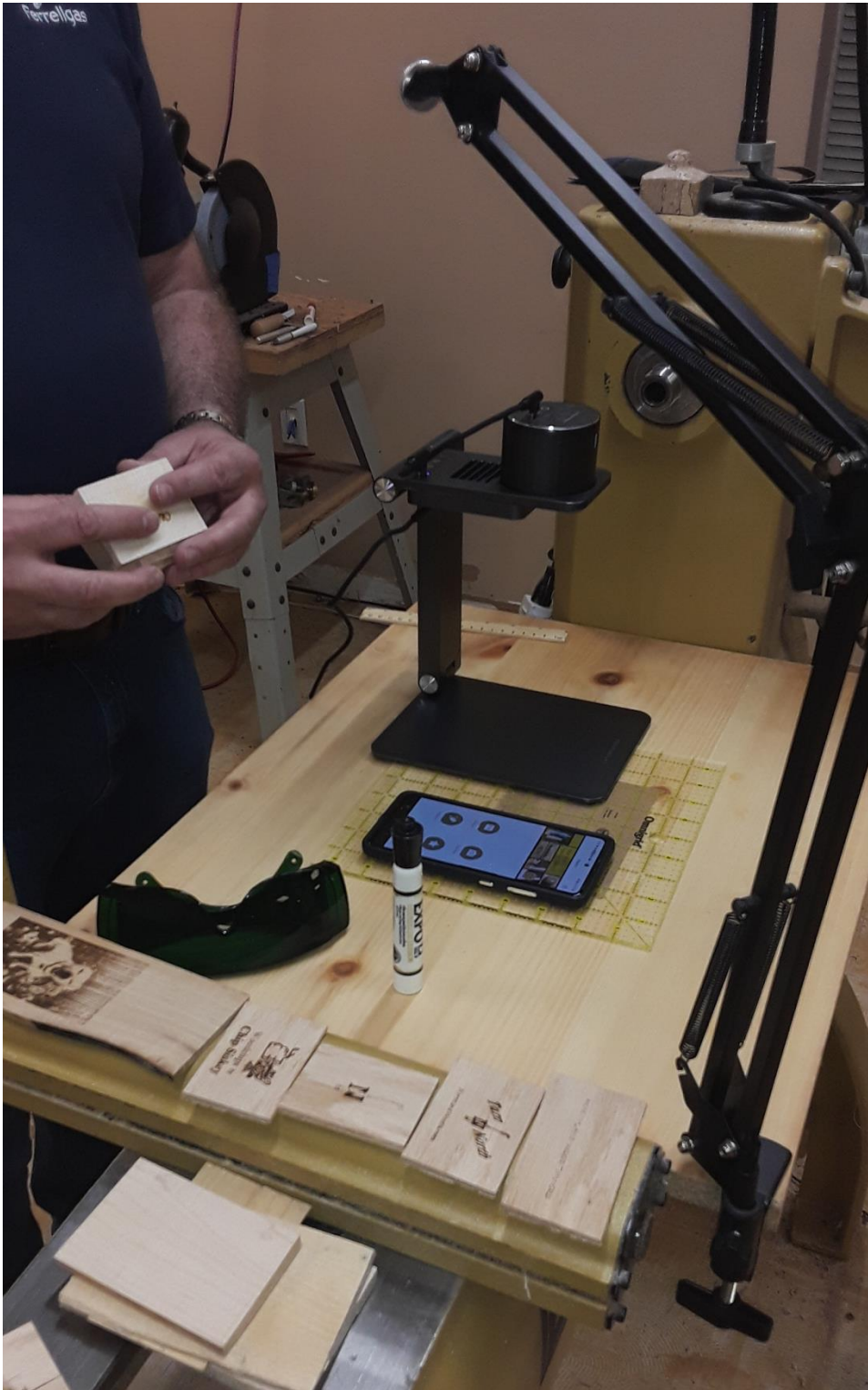
Once the Sanding Sealer had dried, (Carl let it dry while *Show and Tell* was held) he proceeded to apply the FRICTION POLISH.



The FRICTION POLISH gives a more protected coat than the sanding sealer and looks deeper and slightly shinier than the sanding sealer.

All in all it is a somewhat tedious finish but produces nice results on a closed-grain wood such as the Cedar.

The BONUS round was a demo by **Chip Siskey** with his new laser engraving setup. The picture below left shows the total apparatus. The cylindrical part on a stand in the center of the picture has the laser and the stand is “adjustable” just a bit. The articulated arm in the right side of the picture is used for items that won’t fit conveniently under the small stand. Chip demonstrated how to use this and had pre-designed outlines on his phone that he fed to the laser. There is a phone app that makes all this work.



The object above is Chip’s rendition of the Turn North emblem

and the one below is a copy of what is on Chip’s business card. You can see



the laser burning the image into the wood. (look at the business card at the end of this newsletter) Obviously it does NOT give color but only a burned-in image like wood burning would do. This machine is very accurate and gives an exact representation of whatever has been photo’d or entered into the memory. Several hundred dollars will get you a setup like what Chip has.



Here is what a scanned picture comes out looking like using the laser machine. This piece of wood is about 3-1/2 x 5-1/2 birch. Closed grain wood will give a better representation of the image being burned onto the wood. Open grain detracts from the details and may or may not give a sharp laser engraving.

Epilaser™ is a brand name of a machine that will engrave using laser technology. They can cost anywhere up to multiple 5 digits in cost. For simple work and not very large work this setup works well and won't "*break the bank*", so to speak, to get set up.

Thanks Chip for showing us this fascinating machine.

More to come this fall so stay tuned and sharpen your tools!!

See you at the meeting.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with our plug orders in the past. We will be asking for help getting other projects to raise funds. All ideas are welcome along with samples.

The CLUB NEWSLETTER tab of the club website is at


<http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com/>

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REMINDER:

The annual dues for 2021 **are still**
only \$10.00. Advanced payments are accepted.
Checks can be made payable to
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