

John Beaver

After spending over 25 years in Hollywood, filming television commercials, I began experimenting with a lathe I had inherited. Before I even mastered the technique, I could see that I wanted to find a way to give the pieces a little more life. A bowl, or a vase, or a sculpture sits on a shelf and has a form, and there's a certain beauty in that, but I wanted to add movement and energy to that form.

I have always lived near the ocean and was inspired to bring the motion and rhythm of the waves to a round object. The exploration of that concept led to the "wavy" design which is still the core element of my work today.

I started by placing the design on bowls, because that's kind of the obvious thing to make on a lathe, but as I developed new techniques I found that I could remove the restriction of the vessel and let the design stand alone as a sculptural form.

By working with round forms I found this opportunity to create designs that have no beginning or end. Even as they sit still, you can imagine the design wrapping around the piece and coming back into view, giving rhythm to the design. By moving the shapes around on the piece, I found the energy that hopefully gives a feeling of movement to an otherwise static form.

I live in Pacific Palisades, CA. When I'm not in the studio, I enjoy Golf, Paddle Tennis, Skiing, Cycling, Kayaking, Hiking and Bocce.

Demo Description Wave Bowls

In this action-packed demo John will show two different ways to make his signature wave vessels. For the first piece, John will take a block of wood, cut it apart, add a contrasting wood to create the wave and show you how to put it back together keeping the grain aligned. With a bandsaw, a few clamps and basic turning tools, this is a project you will be able to go home and do yourself.

The second piece will be a protruding wave bowl from a rough turned bowl. For this piece John will use his custom jig to cut a turned bowl into pieces. He will then modify the elements and put it all back together. This piece has a higher skill level but there are many tricks that may help you with some of your own designs.

While the design of the wave is the feature of this presentation, there are many additional tricks you will learn. John will show you safe ways to cut a round bowl on a bandsaw with almost any angle, and put it back together keeping the walls and grain aligned perfectly. You will learn how to bend wood in a microwave oven, which is interesting and has many fun applications. You will learn how to precisely turn a bowl smaller keeping the proportions exact. Most importantly, John hopes you will be able to use these ideas and tips to change and improve your own designs.

