

# Bowl Turning 101

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I retired from the electronic industry about 20 years ago. My wife, a woodcarver, dragged me to a carving class she was taking and told me I would find something to do. Turns out there were lathes there. Not being a carver, I was able to use a lathe they had and turned my first pen. After that evening I was hooked and the next week I had my first lathe, a Jet Mini. In 2007 I attended the AAW Symposium in Portland OR and bought a Powermatic 3520B while at the show. After turning about 1,000 pens I have moved on to turning just about anything both between centers and side grain in a chuck. I particularly like turning bowls for the Empty Bowls Program.

The program for July will highlight the fun of bowl turning. We will explore various shapes and sizes that make up pleasing looking bowls. I will start with a look at the various tools that I use and how they are sharpened. We will then explore the different methods of mounting a bowl blank; between centers, face plate, screw chuck, scroll chuck, glue block, and types of tenons. I will then mount a blank, develop a chucking method, and turn both the outside and inside. Then we'll discuss the different ways to remove and finish the bottom of the bowl. Along the way I'll talk about sanding and finishing.

We have many good bowl turners at GTW and everyone has their own way of turning. The July demo is my way of turning a bowl. It is not the only way or perhaps not even best way! But it is my way. It is a method that works well for me. I encourage you to develop your own methods and build on those skills.