



# Wide-rimmed bowl in English ash

Nick Arnull uses a piece of English ash to create a plain bowl with a wide rim which can be enhanced using various decorative techniques

Last month I turned a platter design that was ideally suited to decoration. This month, I will be looking at a bowl with a wide rim. This is equally attractive as a plain turned item using highly figured timber or plain timber that can also be decorated in some way. Hopefully they will encourage you to go to the workshop with a more open mind and have a go at something a little different. For this group I have chosen some very pretty English ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) which really was very tough to turn at times. I hope you enjoy the results.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Protect your eyes and lungs at all times, and work at a speed that allows you to feel comfortable and safe
2. Keep the toolrest between your hand and the work – NEVER let your fingers cross over to the other side
3. Protect yourself with long sleeves and a full-face safety visor when using rotary wire brushes, as bits may well fly out as they are used
4. When working with naked flames, work in a clean space and be extra vigilant about safety
5. Work outside the workshop, if possible, and away from combustible materials. It will take only one flying spark to cause a fire in your workshop

12mm (1/2-in) round skew chisel

French-curve bowl scraper

6mm (1/4-in) square-grind bowl gouge

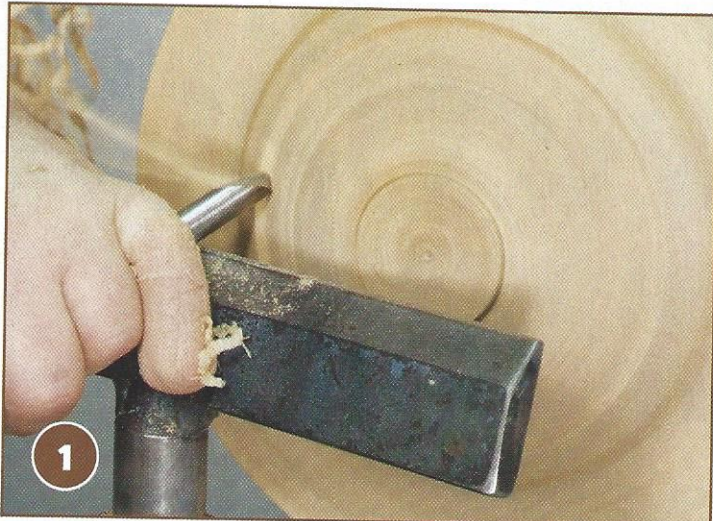
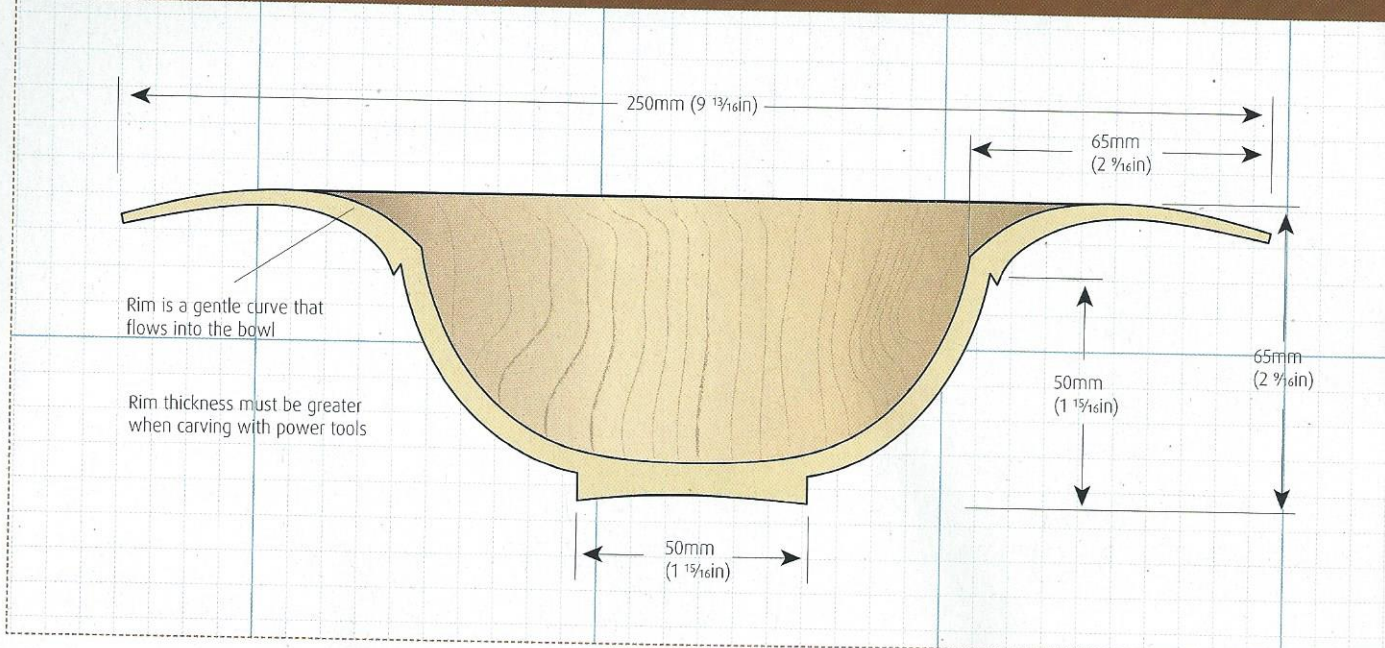
10mm (3/8-in) square-grind bowl gouge

10mm (3/8-in) long-grind bowl gouge

# SKILLS & PROJECTS

## Wide-rimmed bowl

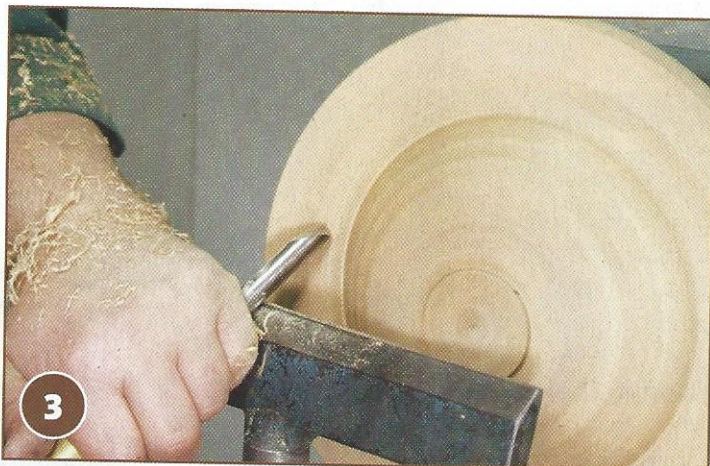
### WIDE-RIMMED BOWL DIMENSIONS



**1** Take a piece of English ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) measuring 255 x 75mm (10 x 3in) and centre it on the lathe with a screwchuck. Start to turn at a slow speed until the blank is balanced, then increase the speed. With a 10mm (3/8in) long-grind bowl gouge make pulling cuts from the centre towards the outside, removing the wood that is not required



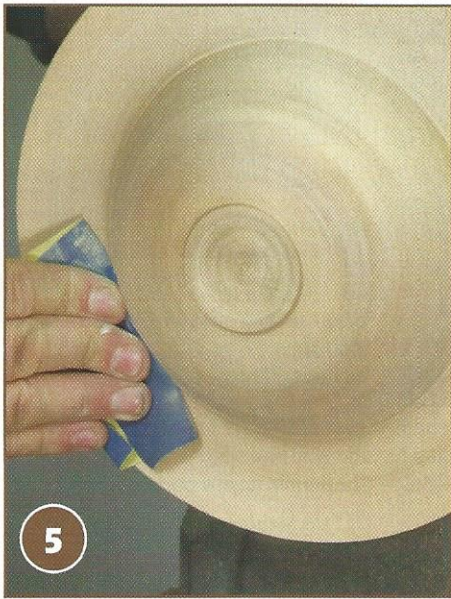
**2** When approaching the final shape, re-sharpen the tool so you are able to produce the best possible cut straight from the tool



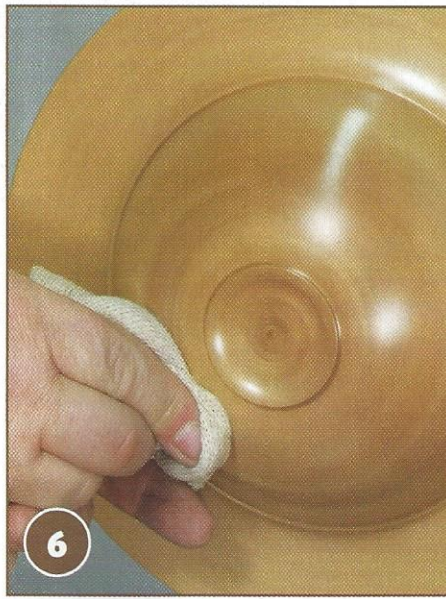
**3** To produce the undercut on the rim of the bowl, lower the handle in a pulling action cut to produce a shearing cut with the wing of the long-grind bowl gouge



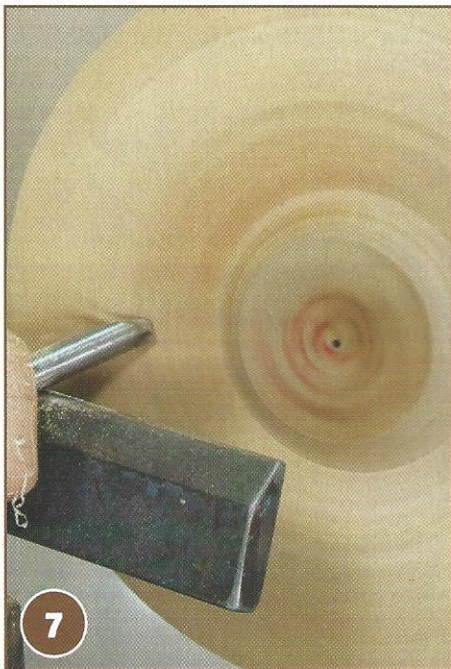
**4** Refine the spigot and outside bowl shape with a 12mm (1/2in) round skew chisel



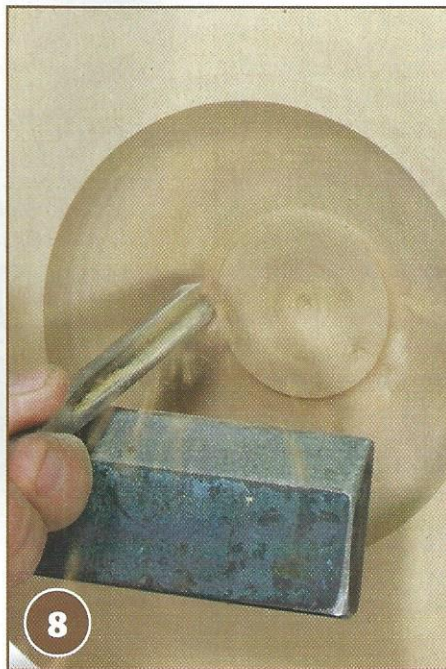
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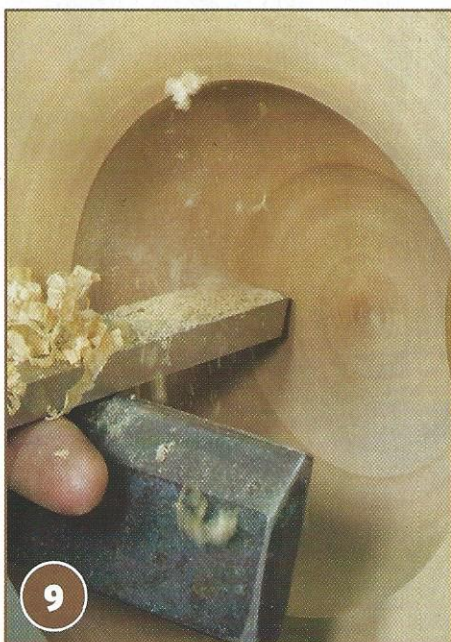
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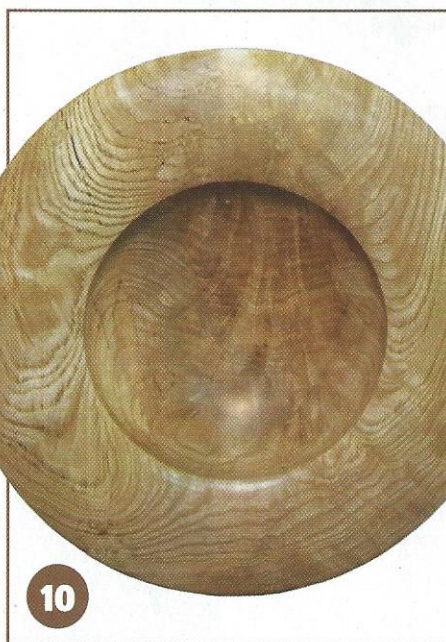
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**5** Sand and seal the wood surface using your preferred finishing method, then cut back the surface of the sanded and sealed bowl using '0000' wire wool

**6** After sanding, sealing and cutting back the surface, you will need to apply a coat of paste wax. Allow to dry, then polish to a shine

**7** The blank now needs to be reversed and mounted in the chuck and then the rim of the platter can be turned

**8** Measure and mark the width of the rim 65mm (2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>in). Next, turn out the centre of the bowl using the 10mm (3/<sub>8</sub>in) long-grind bowl gouge, making sweeping cuts towards the centre of the bowl

**9** If it is required, use a large French-curve bowl scraper to refine the inside of the bowl. You are then ready to sand, seal and polish the finished wide-rimmed bowl

**10** The wide-rimmed bowl is now completed. Decoration can be added to the bowl rim, if you choose. See the next three technique articles for ideas and inspiration •

**“Decoration can be added to the rim if you choose...”**

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### USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS

If you like this article then log on to **The Woodworkers Institute** and follow the links below:



**1. Tracy Owen's off-centre winged bowl**  
<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp?p=1062>

**2. Mark Baker's footed ogee bowl**  
<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp?p=522>

Log on to our new and improved website to see our extensive range of articles

Now turn to page 33 for seven pages showing you how to apply three different decorative treatments to your pre-turned wide-rimmed bowl