

Fits together

Nick Arnall

creates an experimental sectional bowl

This article is, I feel, one that is going to be either loved or hated. I have no emotional attachment to the original piece, which is unusual. The work I produce generally gives me a great deal of satisfaction to create but this piece left me pondering as to the direction it should be taken next. I have been left with more questions than have been answered, however the process is now available to build upon. To this end I have made others using the same method to show other ideas. This is a clear case of sketchbook and more thought required or maybe input from other creative minds to help the piece evolve.

I am going to touch on a contentious subject – art or craft. I have on numerous occasions tried to get involved with art groups in my local area but with no success. I do not want to call my work ‘Art’ but I am constantly looking for creative input from other disciplines to help me broaden the approach to my work. Unfortunately what I am met with is “your work is craft-based and not art”.

Tools used

For this project I have used Ashley Iles’ 3mm (1/8in) bead-forming tool

Timber

Sycamore (acer sp) 170 x 75mm (6 x 3in)



PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE AUTHOR

Health and safety

Protect both eyes and lungs.

In this project I have used two pieces of equipment – the bandsaw and the belt sander. Both of these pieces of equipment need to be treated with the respect they command as they will cause injury if used without appropriate care. The biggest danger while using these types of machines is to your hands/fingers.

When using the bandsaw never let your hands work in line with the blade. Always have a flat surface on the work and place this face down on the table so when the work travels through the blade it will be stable. When using the belt sander watch where your fingers are at all times. Wood soon disappears using this machine – 80 grit eats wood but 60 grit just vaporises it.

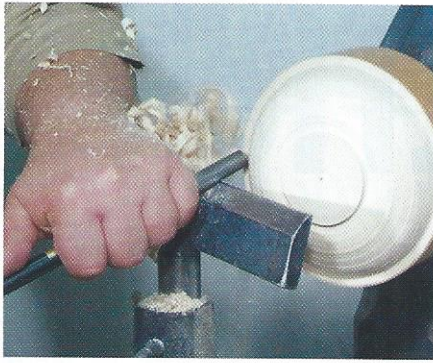
Outer bowl



1 Select and centre the blank. Drill to match your screw chuck. Mount the blank on the screw chuck using a plywood washer to reduce the length of the screw if necessary



2 Measure the chuck jaws for the spigot and transfer this measurement to your dividers. Using the long point of the skew, mark the centre. Now apply the dividers to the central hole with the outer leg trailing and scribe the line – this is the size of the spigot



3 Using a 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) parting tool, cut the spigot. Begin to shape the outside of your bowl using a 10mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) square grind bowl gouge



4 With a 12mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) round skew laid on its side, shape the dovetail on the spigot to match the jaws of the chuck



5 Using a 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) parting tool, cut the spigot



8 Apply a coat of sanding sealer

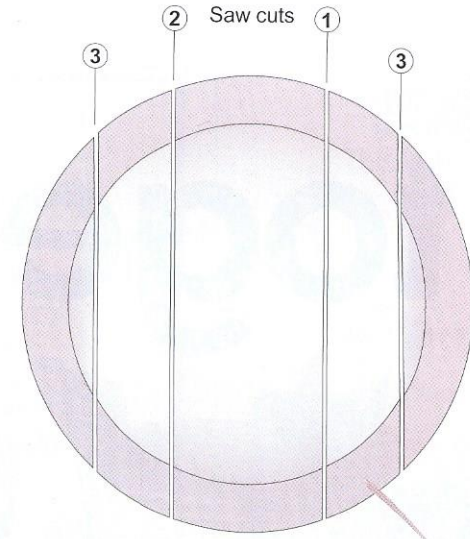


Fig.1 Plan view

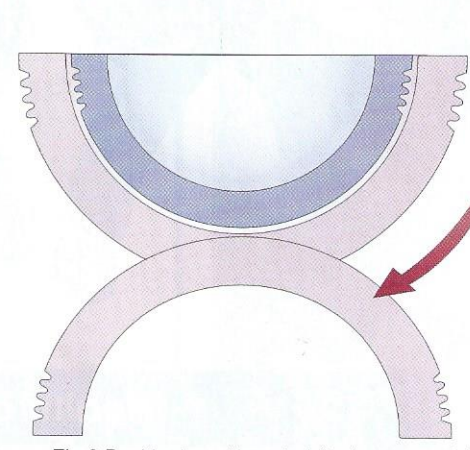


Fig.2 Positioning of inverted (leg) segment(s)

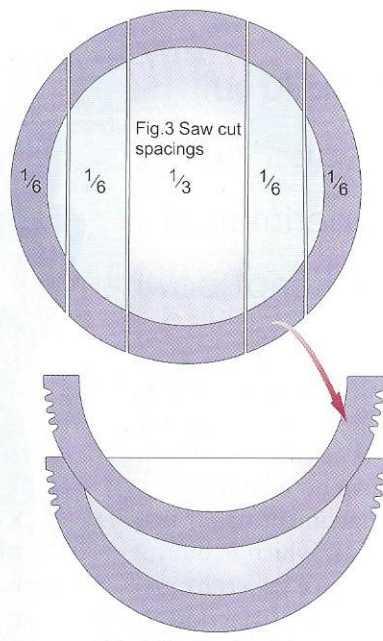


Fig.3 Saw cut spacings

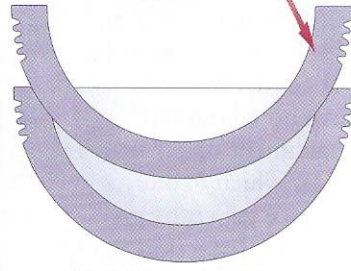
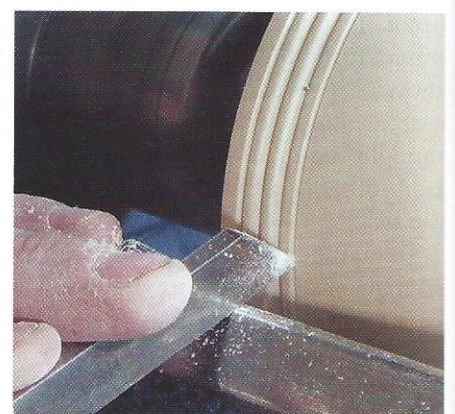


Fig.4 Smaller bowl form showing raised segment(s) position



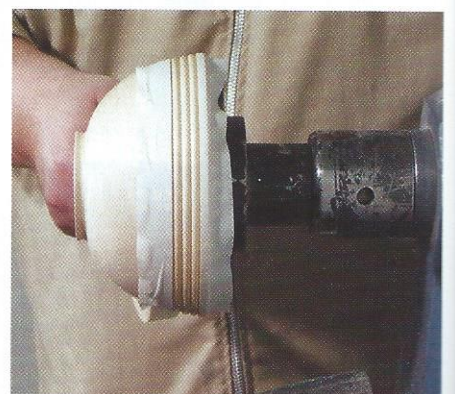
6 True the edge with the parting tool. Using the 12mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) round skew, shear scrape the outside of the bowl



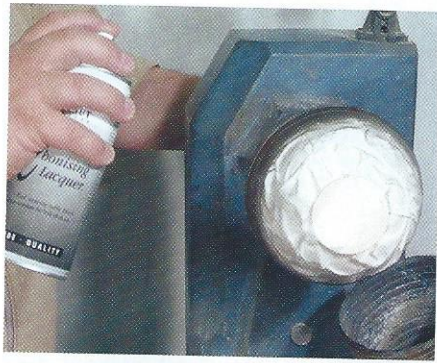
7 After sanding the piece down to 400g, using a 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) beading tool, turn your beads and gently sand



9 Denib with ultra fine abrasive



10 With low tack masking tape, mask around the beads



11 Once the bowl is masked, apply your ebonising product to the unmasked area



12 Once dry remove the tape carefully and remove from the lathe

Top tips on finishing

Preparation is the key to a good finish. Sand to very fine grades and don't miss grit. A finish magnifies, not covers, surface anomalies. Multiple light coats give a better finish than one heavy coat. Allow time for each coat to dry before applying another or the surface may crinkle or not set fully.

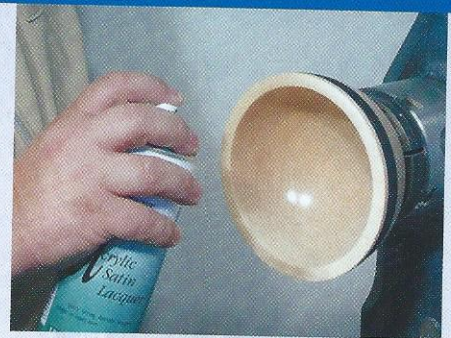
Inside bowl



13 Mount your bowl in your chuck and remove the centre with a 10mm (3/8in) square grind bowl gouge. Try to achieve the best possible cut from your tool



14 Sand, seal and de-nib



15 Lacquer again and remove the bowl from the chuck. Now repeat and make a second bowl identical to the first

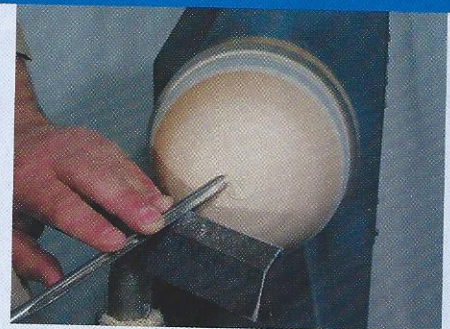
Jam chuck



16 Mount a scrap blank on the lathe and turn a spigot to fit the inside of your bowl



17 Fit your bowl on the jam chuck. If you lack confidence, tape it in place



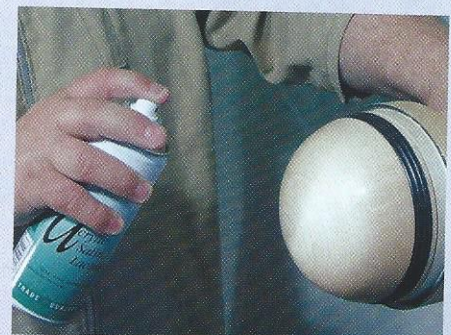
18 Using a 6mm (1/4in) square grind bowl gouge, gently turn away the spigot giving the bowl a rounded bottom



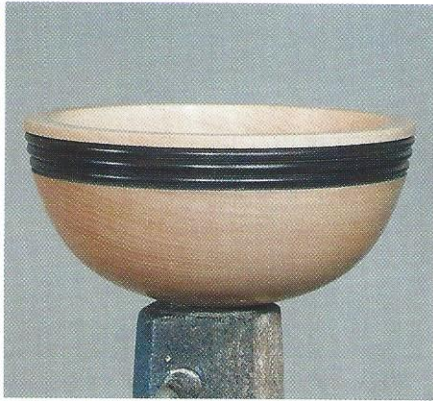
19 Use a 12mm (1/2in) round skew to shear scrape the outside to blend the two surfaces together



20 Sand. Remove the tape and take care to sand to the edge of the beads. Remove any dust. Apply sanding sealer



21 De-nib carefully and avoid catching the beads and removing the black. Lacquer with acrylic spray



22 The bowl finished

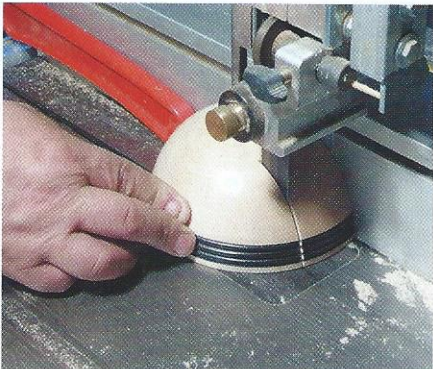
Bandsaw cutting

How you cut up will depend on the size of your bowl. With finished bowls of 150mm (6in) dia:-
 First cut: 50mm (2in) you now have a sq face to work from
 Second cut: 50mm (2in)
 At this stage there are three bits.
 Third cut: cut the two end pieces at 25mm (1in)

Cutting up the bowls



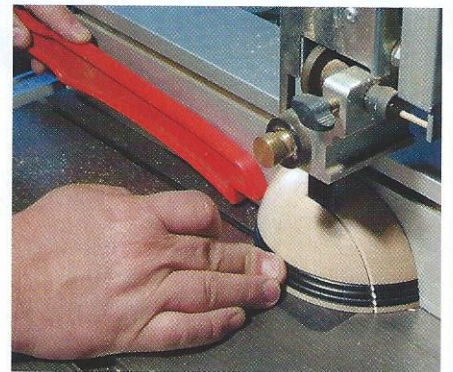
23 Run the bowl through the bandsaw avoiding fingers



24 And again, this time using a push stick to keep hands away from the danger area



25 Two cuts – three pieces



26 Make sure to keep all digits safe as you cut the smaller pieces. If you want both bowls identical, cut both bowls, one followed after the first

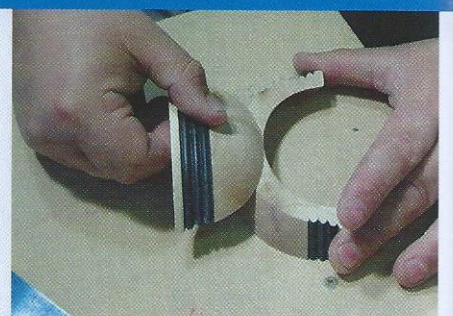
Finishing and assembly



27 Using a belt sander sand the edges of the pieces evenly to ensure parallel sections. Repeat with all pieces



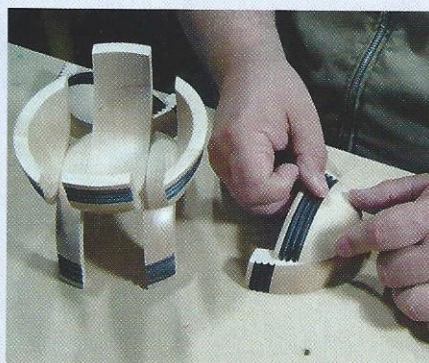
28 The small pieces can be placed against the fence while sanding



29 Glue together to create the desired effect



30 Continue rebuilding your bowl!



31 Second bowl used to build the second layer. When fully assembled seal the raw edges with sanding sealer/spray lacquer



32 The finished piece ■