



Wood Turners Worldwide

worldwidewoodturners.org
The Art of Makin' Shavings

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Dan Richey



Jayson Cote



Bambi Golombiski

It's all in the details!

In this edition of Wood Turners Worldwide, we focus on the little things; the details that make our piece stand head and shoulders above the rest! It's the details that give our turnings character, and show the care with which we create them. Let's celebrate the little things!



Billy Burt

Top left: Poplar and pecan spinning tops, decorated with a chatter tool and colored. **Top right:** Details of a cherry lidded box decorated with a homemade decorating elf. **Above:** Details on a plain wooden vase, power carved and dry brushed. **Left:** Spalted live oak three sided box. The grain detail speaks for itself.

This page, clockwise from top left: Live edge holly bowl with pyrography detail; The quilted grain lid contrasting with the dyed ash body create a contrast that brings focus to the grain; Mulamanama box turned and carved using a rose engine lathe. Notice the yellow cubic zirconium in the center of the lid; Three cherry bowls cored from the same blank. **Facong page, clockwise from top left:** Bradford pear platter, turned, carved, and painted; The neck of a spalted maple vase; Olive wood bowl with exquisite grain; A detail of a natural inclusion in a redwood platter; Acacia slimline pen - pen turning is all about details; A trio of femispheres; Segmented acacia and maple bowl.



Charles Nelson



Kirk Kapp



Stephen Golombiski



Colin Spencer



Dewey Johnson



Doug Miller



Sandi Swayze



Joe Gibson



Al Dawson



Jeff Walters



Victor Todd

In Memoriam

Story and photos by Joaquin Juatai, Editor

In my opinion, one of the most sacred duties that a woodturner is tasked with is creating a funerary urn. To be entrusted with the final resting place of the remains of a loved one can feel a little daunting.

Very simply, an urn is a lidded box or vessel. From there, the sky is the limit in regards to design, features, and details.

Club member Chris Neilan has been in the funeral industry for more than 49 years. In his experience, 200-225 cubic inches is the primary urn size for adult remains. The reason for this is simple:

"What remains to be interred after cremation is skeletal calcium," said Neilan. This volume is fairly constant, contrary to the commonly known formula of body weight to cubic inches. Whether the deceased weighed 400 lbs or 200 lbs, the volume of crematory remains is the same, because all that remains is calcium from the bones.

"The bone mass does not change," Neilan added. "Soft tissue, and even a casket, if used, goes up the flu. The bones are then ground in an industrial



A trio of Brazilian Rosewood (Chechen) "stealth urns," turned by the author. They look like twig vases, however, the top is not drilled deeply, and they are hollowed from the bottom. These are closed with African blackwood threaded inserts.



A segmented pet urn made using Baltic birch plywood with an African blackwood threaded insert, and red mallee burl lid.

grinder and processed into what we call ash."

Worldwidewoodturners.org has a calculator titled "What's My Volume (<https://www.worldwidewoodturners.org/whats-my-volume/>)," that is invaluable. This calculator enables you to approximate the size and shape of your urn using measurements you input, with which you can determine the inside volume of your turning, and adjust your design to accommodate the cremated remains.

In the industry, adult urns range from 200-225 cubic inches. For pets, there are small, medium, and large sizes, ranging from 15 cubic inches (keepsake urns) to 200 cubic inches (human sized) for giant breed dogs.

There is little to no regulation in regards to the urn except when being transported or shipped **with remains inside it.**

For air travel, an urn must be sift-proof and securely closed to prevent spillage, both of which are common sense considerations when creating a funerary urn of any design.

In the US, the US Postal Service is the only allowed carrier for urns bearing remains. Urns must be properly sealed (firmly closed and sift-proof), and must be boxed in a free Priority Mail Express Cremated Remains box provided by the Post Office. Urns containing remains can only be shipped via Priority Mail Express (domestically), or Priority Express International (when allowed by the

destination country).

Some things we should take into consideration when turning urns are:

1. How dry is the wood? A hollowform could warp or crack if the wood is not properly dried, rendering it unusable as a funerary urn. Ensure your wood is fully dried, especially if you're using segments of logs. If you're doing a segmented urn, consider purchasing kiln dried lumber.
2. How will it be closed? Although it may be acceptable to make a firm fitting friction fit lid for an urn, it's preferable to make a threaded closure, whether that is by using metal threaded inserts, or threading your urn and lid yourself. When securing a threaded insert to your urn's body, remember that wood moves - I recommend using a flexible CA glue such as Parfix 400C.
3. Will it be shipped to the customer? Urns should be "sift-proof," in other words, they need to be air tight. If you made your urns with a threaded closure, screwing the lid on tightly before shipping the (empty) urn to a customer could create conditions where differing pressures between the interior and exterior during flight cause the urn to split. Loosen the lid, or wrap it separately from the body of the urn to prevent this occurrence.
4. What is the relative humidity where the urn is going? I live in the South, where the average humidity is high. I have shipped lidded boxes to family on the West Coast, where there is a much dryer climate. Lids that were perfectly friction fit have either split or become a permanent fixture.

I recommend recipients give lidded vessels, such as an urn, a week or two to acclimate, ensuring not only that the wood won't split or crack, but that the lid doesn't warp as well. Flexible glue between body and threaded insert assists with this, allowing the wood to move without losing the glue's bond.



I can't tell you what your urns should look like. Every turner and customer has their own aesthetics and their own preferences.

Detail of a threaded insert in the bottom of one of the author's stealth urns. This African blackwood insert is glued using Parfix 400C, a flexible CA glue that allows for wood movement without sacrificing the bond.

What makes an urn special, however, is the care and craftsmanship which the turner puts in to its creation. Accentuating wood grains, design, materials, threaded inserts for lids, all can be factors in creating a lasting memorial to a loved one.

However you choose to make an urn, I encourage you to remember the end use, and make it with reverence.



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Waukeene Vinson



Then and Now

Jon Moore shared these walnut bowls, the first from March 22, 2024, and the second from March 22, 2026.

"The first bowl was over 1/2" thick with a flat rim and the bottom was about an inch thick. The finish wasn't bad but the inside end grain was a little rough," Said Moore.

"The second bowl wall thickness was about 3/16" with smoother and rounded edges. The finish was smooth and the bowl's lines flowed together well."

Moore added, "My sharpening and tool handling definitely improved."

Share your journey! Send Then and Now images to editor@worldwidewoodturners.org. Tell us how your turning has evolved!



Bob Grinstead



Andy Schuster

Above, left: "Hummingbird house" featuring multiple texture details. **Bottom left:** "Running balls," spheres sized so that they spin freely in the bowl. **Bottom right:** Various resin pens.

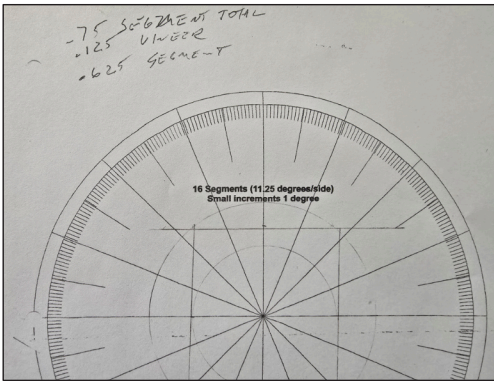
Making the Sun Rise design ring

By Roger Wollam



Editor's note: This design is a "double segmented" piece. The insert design is, itself, a segmented ring that is sliced and inserted into the segmented bowl.

To find the exact size of everything, I start out drawing out the outside shape of the segmented insert.



For this example, the dimensions are 2 1/2" by 1 1/2". It takes a 4 in outside diameter to get the 2 pieces inside the circle.

The measurement of one segment is .750 and using a 1/8 veneer makes it .625.

Cut the segments needed.

Cut the veneer thicker for better fitting and sand it down to the correct angles.



The veneer is glued to 14 pieces of the 16 piece segments leaving the intersecting

without and use a 1/8 thick spacer to separate the two halves.

When the glue is dried install it in Cole jaws on the lathe with the clamp still holding the two halves together and drill a 1 1/8" hole in the center.

After drilling, remove from Cole jaws and remove the clamp. Insert a 1 1/8" center piece to and reclamp.

When glue dries, take it to the bandsaw



and cut it into two pieces through the 1/8" spacers.

Take the tohalves the disk sander and flatten thebottom edge, then take them to the table saw and cut them to 1 1/2".

Then, using the crosscut miter gauge cut it to 2



1/2".

Now you have the finished insert piece to insert into a segmented ring.





Club patches are now available to order! We thank you all for what you do and for how you make this group better! Cost is \$7.50 per patch. Shipping worldwide!
<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/VFTUCPQX89ZYG>

Our club is free, but it still costs money to run. You can help ensure the world's greatest woodturning club continues to provide world class demonstrations, meetings, and our newsletter by supporting WWW with your donations. Make your donations here: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2MMMBP439JBSN

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Wisconsin Rapids Wisconsin
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All you have to bring is your gouges & turning tools of choice. We have a special room rate at the Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, WI call the front desk @ (715) 423 1500 and use code Level-Up for \$130 rate.

Tools

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<https://www.worldwidewoodturners.org/level-up-plans-to-date/#whereWhen>



Todd Williams

Above: Small vases of Baltic birch plywood and mahogany. There's no such thing as scraps! Just wood you haven't turned yet!