

How To Turn A Mini Wooden Bowl - Item #FP001

PSI offers a selection of wood species in blanks suitable to turn small bowls on your mini lathe. You will find that turning bowls, and other small decorative items, is easy and rewarding. It might even take your turning skill to a higher level. Bowls are admired for their beauty and creativity, and will be appreciated as a gift or for sale.

Following are turning instructions and suggested plans for popular mini bowl profiles.

Preparing The Blank

Use a 4" x 4" x 2" or 5" x 5" x 2" blank or larger. Mark the center of each square surface, and drill a 1/8" pilot hole at the mark. Scribe a circle of the maximum diameter of your design. Use a band saw to cut away the excess wood from the circle drawn.

Turning The Blank

Listed are some basic methods to secure the work to the headstock for turning.

A) Expanding Collet Chuck (#CXC)

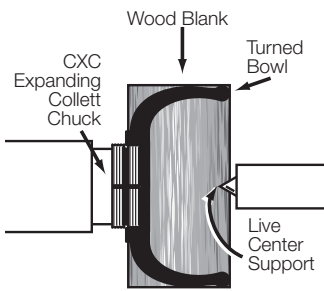


Diagram A

Use a forstner bit (PSI #FB138) to drill a 1-3/8" hole, 1/4" deep in the pilot hole. Mount the blank securely over the chuck in the headstock. Bring the tailstock with the live center up to the blank. Insert the live tailstock center into the pilot hole and tighten in place to support the piece. Turn the outer surface of the wood blank to the

profile desired, then sand the exterior. Reset the tool rest to work on the interior surface. Using a bowl gauge start turning the inside of the bowl as far as the live center allows. Remove the tailstock and safely continue turning, removing bulk wood from inside the bowl. Use a thickness caliper to gauge the wall thickness and be careful not to turn through the bottom hole. Sand the completed bowl on all surfaces. Finish with your choice of friction or other wood turning polish.

B) Face Plate Mount With Screws

Use either a 2" or 3" diameter face plate

Note: To save turning time, you may remove some wood in the open end of the bowl before turning by drilling a large hole with a large forstner bit. Use a 1"-2" diameter bit.

Center the face plate over the plain surface (bottom) of the blank. Use 3 short wood screws to fasten the

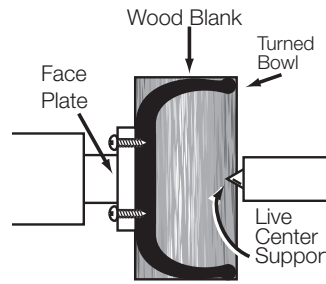


Diagram B

wood to the plate. Mount the assembly on the headstock spindle. Turn the outside of the bowl to the desired profile, and sand the exterior. Reposition the tool rest to work on the interior surface. Using a bowl gauge, turn the inside of the bowl. Use a thickness caliper to gauge the wall, and be careful not to cut through the bottom or hit

the fastening screws inside. Sand the completed bowl on all surfaces. Finish with your choice of friction or other wood turning polish.

C) Face Plate Mount With A Bowl Buddy Double Sided Adhesive Disc

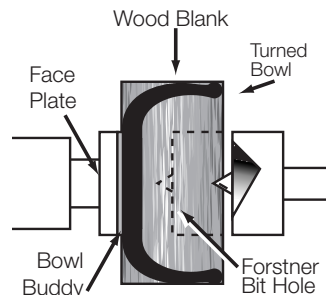


Diagram C

Use a 2" or 3" diameter face plate. Select the appropriate disc size and stick the tape disc on the face plate surface. Sand the surface of the blank flat, and clean off all traces of wood dust. Lay the face plate over the center. To achieve good adhesion/bonding, it is best to place the assembly into a bench vise and apply pressure.

When adhered, mount this assembly on the head stock spindle. Bring the tailstock with the live center up to the blank. Insert the live center into the pilot hole and tighten in place to support the piece. Turn the bowl as indicated in the previous paragraph.

To remove the completed bowl from the faceplate use a wide putty knife to pry apart. Remove residue and finish the bottom surface.

Suggested Mini Bowl Profiles



For Pewter Lids:

