

Platters

Steps to prepare the blank:

1. Find the center (draw diagonal lines corner to corner, or other means)
2. Scribe a circle (compass, etc.)
3. Cut circular blank (band saw, chain saw)
4. Drill center for worm/screw drive (drill press, 5/16" bit)

Steps to shape the platter:

1. Mount the blank on the worm/screw drive
2. Create recess for chuck - make sure it will fit!
3. Shape bottom - establish recess area, then establish rim
4. If shaping an ogee on the bottom, use a pencil to set up outer, inner, and transition points.
5. Shape outer areas FIRST, turning from rim inward, scooping out first half of ogee to the transition point, making curve concave.
6. Begin shaping inner section of ogee, making it convex and blending it towards the transition point.
7. Blend the transition from the inner ogee to the outer ogee.
8. Make sure you finish the inside area of the recess also.

9. Remove the platter from the worm/screw drive, flip it, and chuck it using the recess.

10. Begin shaping the top of the platter, starting with the rim area FIRST. This is because, as you get thinner, the outer parts of your platter will not be supported and begin to wobble.
11. Generally, follow the curves of the bottom of the platter - but you don't need to do so exactly. Decide how wide you want the rim, whether you will be coloring or decorating, what sort of shape and contours you want to create. There are a lot of options.
12. Try to reach your final thickness on the outer sections, before moving inward. Blend your cuts with the section you are turning with the outer finished sections and try to not have to do any more turning on the outer finished sections.

There are many options for platter top shapes and contours:

- Square edges or rounded edges.
- Beads on the top and/or the bottom at the rim.
- Narrow rim or wide rim.
- Flat/horizontal rim or sloping (downward or upward) rim.
- Smooth transition to central bowl, or delineated (bead, groove, sharp edge, etc.) transition - or no transition at all.
- Deep or shallow (or no) bowl, square-edged or rounded bowl.

A platter can often serve as a canvas for further embellishment(s). When planning your surface contours, consider your embellishment designs so that your contours will match your plan.