

A photograph of a light-colored wooden bowl with a smooth, polished finish. The bowl is resting on a dark, textured surface that resembles a manta ray's skin. The bowl's design is a manta ray, with the bowl's rim forming the head and the body of the ray. The text is overlaid on the image in a semi-transparent white box.

Winged “Manta Ray” Bowl Demonstration

Detroit Area Woodturners

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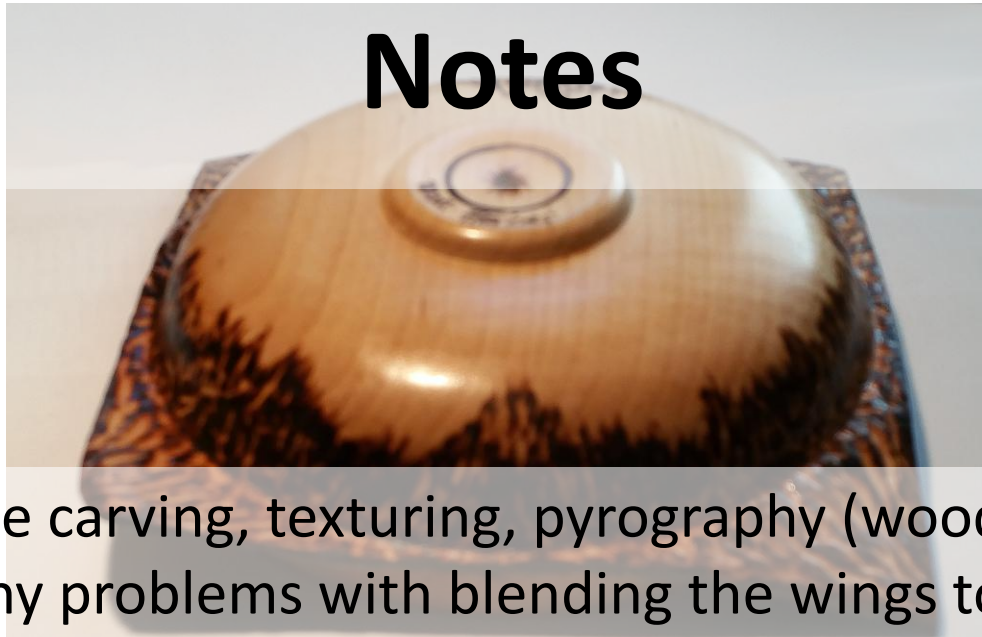
Resources

- Terry Scott (step by step with pictures):
<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp?p=1854>
- Carl Jacobson (video):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5GIEehTMz4>
- Tools used: Deep fluted gouge, skew and/or detail gouge. Possibly some scrapers to smooth and define surfaces.

Steps

1. Use a square piece of wood. Find dead center using corners. Drill a pilot hole for your screw chuck.
2. Turn bottom of bowl first. Decide if you want the bottom center (foot) resting on the table or the wings.
3. Make tenon to hold the piece when turned around. Shape bottom of wings by downhill from bowl edge and from bowl bottom.
4. Cut the surfaces to blend together.
5. Make sure your curves are smooth, no flat spots.
6. Use a marker to define the thickness of wings and bottom of top wings.
7. Remove material between wings, using detail gouge or skew. Check your tool rest! Keep edge high and rotate into the cut, slicing. Start in center of cut and work toward edges. Work to prevent heel of tool from creating vibration on wings, while slightly rubbing bevel. No push cuts!
8. True up tenon, then turn piece around in the chuck.
9. Cut top wings just like bottom wings. Blend them with the rest of the piece.
10. Desired: visible lines of bowl should appear continuous through the wings. Use butt end of calipers to check distances.
11. Turn inside of bowl as any other.
12. Finish bottom of bowl (foot). Use jaws or vacuum chuck.
13. Carve away the wings you don't want. This may be easier on the lathe.
14. Carve and sand the edges, blend the wings together.

Notes



- You can use carving, texturing, pyrography (wood burning) to disguise any problems with blending the wings together.
- Work to have the wings appear to merge before they get to the bowl, with more-or-less parallel merged wing surfaces at the bowl.
- Don't go too thin on the wings!
- I have had the best success carving off the wings using the Foredom carving tool and typhoon bits.