



ROLY BOWL

BY TROY GRIMWOOD

EXPLORING SHAPE & BALANCE

There's something special about taking a rough, freshly cut piece of timber and shaping it into a beautiful bowl on the lathe.

The simple design of a Roly bowl gives the piece a minimalist look without the need for a foot to stand on.

You can create a nests of Roly bowls as you will see above from the same piece of timber which can help to reduce waste and create an interesting set of unique pieces.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

A spherical shape is ideal for this project as it has a very neutral centre of gravity.

There are also different variations to this form you may like to consider. Thick and chunky, thin wall or a wide rim. You may also like to texture the outside of the bowl also as shown below.



In this Demo we will go through:

- The types of timber suitable for this project.
- The form required.
- Turn the outside of the form.
- Turn the inside of the form step by step to achieve a thin wall.
- Look at different options to remount, then turn and finish the bottom.

THE BEAUTY OF THE BOWL SAVER

You can use a bowl saver, and create a nest of Roly Bowls as you will see in the above image, This helps with reducing waste and creates a beautiful set of bowls.

WHICH TIMBER TO USE?

A Piece of timber with an attractive natural edge is best suited for this project,

The timber can be any size desired or available.

Think carefully how to get the most out of the the piece or what form will best show off the grain and the natural edge.



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CONTINUED

TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT

- 10mm, 3/8" or 13mm, 1/2" Bowl Gouge
- Parting Tool
- Negative rake scraper (optional)

A BRIEF WALK THROUGH OF TURNING THIS PIECE

Begin by securing your chosen blank to a faceplate or worm screw. If using a worm screw, ensure the mounting surface is perfectly flat so the chuck seats firmly and achieves full contact.

With the blank spinning true, begin shaping the outside profile much like you would a traditional bowl. Aim for a graceful, near-spherical form, gently flattening near the rim if you wish to accentuate the natural edge and showcase the timber's grain.

Once the shape pleases your eye, sand the exterior through the grits to your desired smoothness and apply your preferred finish to seal and enrich the timber.

Turn a clean, well-proportioned spigot to suit your chuck. Reverse the piece and secure it firmly, ensuring it runs perfectly true before proceeding.

Carefully begin hollowing, working down in controlled stages. Establish your desired rim and wall thickness early, then progress gradually toward the base, frequently checking wall thickness as you go. Leave the base slightly thicker to help the finished bowl sit upright with balance and presence.

Sand the interior thoroughly through the grits, then apply your chosen finish to highlight the grain and protect the surface.

To complete the piece, remount it to remove the spigot or tenon: If the bowl is solid, use a vacuum chuck for clean and secure holding.

If the piece has openings or you don't have a vacuum chuck, turn a waste block and use a pad of foam with tailstock pressure to support the piece. With the bowl safely mounted, turn away the spigot, then blend, sand, and finish the base seamlessly into the rest of the form.