

Echos From the "BAT" Cave

JAMIE DONALDSON SQUARES AWAY BAT



Jamie Donaldson wowed BAT by turning a square platter and a winged hollow form. He also displayed some variations of his techniques (*below*). There were also two raffles at the July meeting.

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Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

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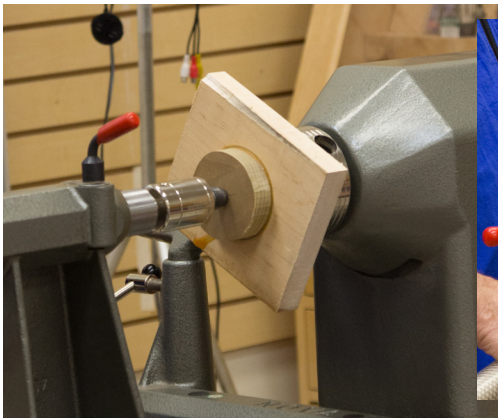
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The glue-blocked plank is started between centers.



Turning a tenon and cutting the corners.



Ready to flip.

JAMIE DONALDSON DEMO

Jamie Donaldson's visit to BAT was a joy. His easy manner and his obvious skill in woodturning kept us captivated. Using only a handful of tools, he transformed a board into a square platter and a block of wood into a winged hollow form. Between cuts he told stories, such as when TSA thought his [Vari-grind](#) was some sort of ray gun. He polled the audience to see how many beginning, intermediate and advanced turners were in the group and gave folks of all levels lots to digest.

He boils the procedure down to three steps: 1) He started with a square maple plank glued to a round glue block. He prefers Tight Bond 1 or 2 to CA for gluing blocks. He punched a hole in the center of the glue block and put the tail stock center pin into that hole and jammed the plank against the chuck jaws on the headstock. He cut a tenon on the glue block making sure to cut square shoulders. He roughed the bowl from the corners out. He then flipped the piece and secured the tenon in the chuck.

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Chucking with golf ball support.

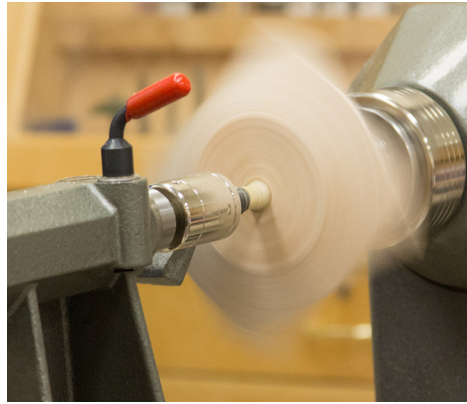


Shear scraping the bottom.



(Clockwise from lower right)
Judging thickness digitally, Hollowing the interior. The completed interior. Jamie's drilled out golf ball for tail-stock support.





(Clockwise from upper left)

Securing wooden jam chuck. Finishing platter's bottom. Ambrosia Maple blank jam chucked. Turning the bottom and the tenon. Beginning to shape the interior of the wings.



MORE JAMIE DONALDSON

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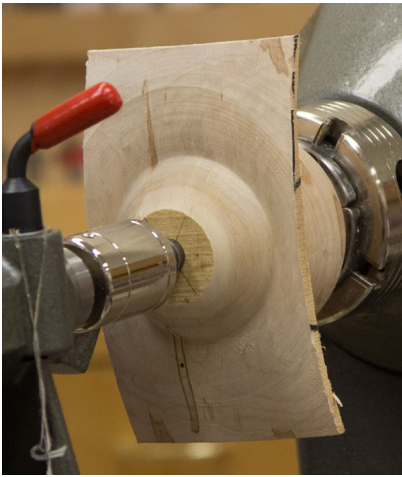
Step 2) – He supported the chucked piece with the tailstock but used a bored golf ball over the tailstock center pin. (The pin can be deflected by grain; the ball stays aligned.) First, he shear scraped the bottom to true it up and refine the surface. The bottom could be sanded now but he did not sand for the demo. (After sanding, he usually coats it with sanding sealer diluted with 5-10% acetone - stored in a metal container.) Then he started removing material from the bowl interior corners. He started with a peeling cut, then finished with a shear cut. He worked in stepwise, going for uniform wall thickness. He then removed the tail stock and turned away the central area from outside in and finished with shear scraping.)It could now be power sanded on the lathe. The piece should not be moving when being sanded. He keeps the corners a little extra thick to allow for sanding.)

Step 3) He flipped the bowl and jam chucked it over a rounded cylinder, centering the tailstock center point on center dimple in the glue

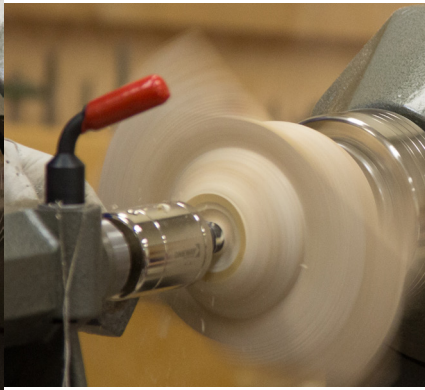
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(right to left) Refining HF with detail gouge; Hollowing HF; Blowing out chips.



Jam chucked to turn bottom.



Turning away tenon.



Chiseling off nubbin.

FINISHING THE PIECE

(Continued from Page 3)

block. (He could also use a vacuum chuck.)

He trued up the rotation as much as possible and wasted away the glue block to achieve a flat bottom. He used a detail gouge to get the last nubbin off.

For the second part of the demo, he turned a winged Maple hollow form. He did not use a glue block for this piece but the blank started out jam chucked as before. He cut out the wings, starting at the corners, working towards the center. He said he uses the rule of thirds – edges of wings should be at the top or bottom 1/3 lines. He cut a tenon with a parting tool, flipped it and chucked it. Again he first smoothed the bottom with shear scraping. Then, starting with corners, he cut away first inside to outside, then he cut from edge to center. To create crisp delineation between the wing and the HF he made bevel rubbing cuts with a detail gouge along the wing and along the side of the HF. Then, he hollowed out the HF. He started with a bowl gouge, using it to cut a hole in the center. After that, the final hollowing was done with a [Hunter #5 tool](#). He cut with the Hunter from the base to the rim. He cut the edges of wings to square them to the surface. Finally, he flipped and jam chucked the piece to turn away the tenon.

For finishing, he said he usually sands to 400 or up to 1000 or 3000 for a glossy finish. He said the best finish he has found is [General Finishes Woodturner's Finish](#) which is water soluble, doesn't stain the wood, and can be sprayed on with a hand or mouth sprayer such as the Atomizer available at [Ben Franklin](#).

This was a wonderful demo. Jamie made it all look so easy. I wouldn't be surprised to see a number of square pieces in the upcoming Show and Tell. Thanks, Jamie



Applying signature to the base.



The famous signature.

TIPS FROM JAMIE DONALDSON

TIP - to find the center of a square plank, draw lines diagonally from corner to corner. Their intersection is the center.

TIP – on Nova chucks, engrave markings with arrows to show which direction Closes (< C) or opens (O >) the chuck.

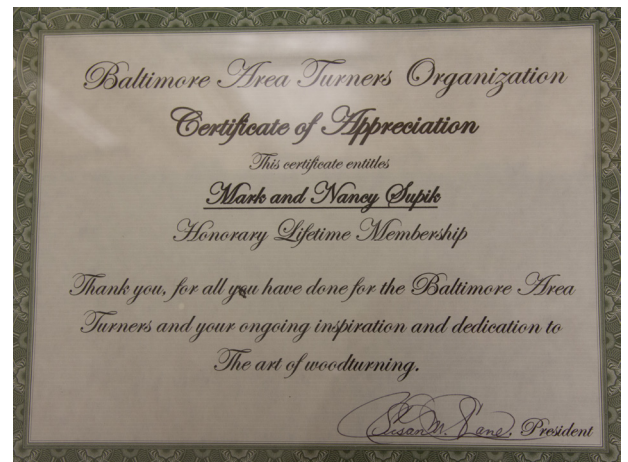
TIP – keep a length of PVC pipe on the tool rest post to allow easy maintenance of proper height when adjusting tool rest position.

TIP - Use Go / No-Go gauge (*right*) to assure tenons are correct size for the chuck jaws. The cutouts are the maximum and minimum diameters for tenons.

TIP - When turning square forms, you can avoid split-out on the edges by applying a layer of CA glue or masking tape.



MARK AND NANCY SUPIK AWARDED SPECIAL LIFETIME BAT MEMBERSHIP



BAT President Susan Shane (*above*) presented Mark Supik with BAT's first Honorary Lifetime Membership. Mark, in turn, donated a hoodie (*right*) to the raffle.





SPECIAL RAFFLE NEWS

Congratulations to **Don Bonsall** (*left*), winner of the July Special Raffle - a right angle tool rest donated by [WoodPRO Tools](#). Thanks to WoodPRO.

The August BAT meeting will feature a special raffle of a Thompson 1/2" bowl gouge donated by [Doug Thompson](#). Wayne Kuhn has made a 'Handle Kit' so the winner can turn their own handle.

Remember, raffles and dues are BAT's primary sources of income. We use the money to pay for equipment, supplies, DVDs and books for the library, demonstrators and more.

RAFFLE NEWS

Walnut Splits, Cedar and Maple logs, S&S Maple, server cable control arms and more were generously donated by BAT members to the May Raffle. Mark Supik donated a hoodie sweat shirt. Lou Rudinski brought a truck load of Cherry splits. Thanks to all.

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at the Greater Baltimore Woodcraft Store at:

1125 Cromwell Bridge Road
Towson, MD 21286

Next meeting:
August 8, 2012 at 6:30 PM

Agenda:
Show and Tell



COMING UP: SHOW AND TELL

The August BAT meeting will feature show and tell by BAT members. Bring in your successes and your problem pieces. We all gain knowledge and inspiration from seeing each other's work and talking about it. Don't forget to bring your GOBLET for the President's challenge.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Don't forget the President's Challenge for August's Show and Tell:

August - Turn a GOBLET. (You may wish to pierce, or carve it or burn or paint a decorative design.)

Susan Shane