

# ECHOES FROM THE "BAT" CAVE

## BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

### Resin Inlaid Bowls - Chuck Cohen

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Our very own Chuck Cohen demonstrated how to make resin inlaid bowls. Chuck's technique doesn't require any special equipment, like a pressure pot.

#### Getting Started:

For casting resins, the wood used must be dry. He starts with a round blank held with a woodworm screw as shown on the right. He trues up the outside and squares the bottom to the side.

Put a tenon on the bottom using a parting tool, to make a U-shaped channel. The center stub is 1/8 inch



larger in diameter than the chuck jaws when they are closed. This allows the piece to be held with the chuck in contraction on the stub, or in expansion by the outside edge of the channel.

Now turn around the blank, grip by the tenon, and true up the top. Using a parting

tool, make a channel that will hold the casting resin, as shown at right.



As you can see on the left, the shape of the channel determines the shape of the of the resin inlay in the final turning.

To center items such as beads in the channel, it may be necessary to use the parting tool to make a small centering groove for the beads to rest in.

Items that float may require a drop or two of CA glue to hold them in place before the resin is added.



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# Resin Inlaid Bowls (continued)

## Inlay and Coloring Options:

Some things added to the resin are cast in a way they will not contact the turning tools. An example of this is the bowl shown with the coins in the rim. The coins are placed in the center of the band of resin by casting it in layers. First a layer of resin is poured and allowed to setup. Another layer of resin is poured and the coins are carefully added to avoid trapping air bubbles. The layers of resin are thick enough to prevent contact with the coins as the final shape is turned.



Other items, such as calcite crystals, are soft and can be placed in the resin so they are exposed on turning.

The Mohs' hardness scale is a scale of relative hardness for minerals, named after geologist Friedrich Mohs. The softest rating is Talc (1), and the hardest is Diamond (10).

When embedding items to be exposed on turning, do not use items with a Mohs hardness greater than 5. Items with a Mohs hardness of 5 can be scratched with a nail, and will not ruin your turning tool when it comes in contact with them.

Calcite crystals are white, but Inlace Nuggets come in a variety of colors.



The resin is naturally clear, but can be colored using TransTint Dye or PearlEx. The bowl to the left is colored with PearlEx. The one below and to the right is colored with TransTint.



## Mixing and Pouring Resin:

Now that the bowl blank is prepared with a channel to accept the resin and you have decided on inlay and coloring options, it's time to prepare for the pour.

It's important to make sure your bowl blank is positioned absolutely level before pouring the resin. Use a small level and make any adjustments before you begin mixing the resin.

The resin Chuck uses is Clear Coat resin, the type with a ratio of two parts resin to one part hardener. He uses a small digital scale to measure each part separately to the proper ratio by weight. Use disposable plastic drinking cups and chopsticks to mix the two parts together. If you are adding colorant to the resin, be careful to mix enough, or carefully note the amounts of resin and colorant used. As you can imagine it's difficult to match colors.



When working with the resin, it's possible to pour in layers, particularly if you are embedding objects, layering colors, or both. It all depends on the effect you want in your casting. Pour a layer and allow it to cure for a day. Then you can add another layer as desired.

When adding a layer that will capture embedded objects, add the objects and carefully add the resin to avoid trapping air bubbles. You can use a heat gun or hair dryer to gently warm the resin to help release trapped air. If you find a surface air hole in the cured resin, use a drop of the product Rapid Fix to fill the hole and cure with a UV light.



# Resin Inlaid Bowls (continued)

## Turning the Bowl:

Once casting and curing of the resin is complete the bowl can be turned. The casting resin is very hard and can chip easily. Your tools need to be sharp and you should take your time. Chuck recommends the techniques described in the online article [No Catches-Using a Bowl Gouge With Confidence](#). Carbide tools work well on resin.

When hollowing the inside of the bowl, be careful entering the cut near the resin. It's a good idea to use a parting tool to make a small channel to support the bevel of the bowl gouge when entering the cut.

The resin can be very “stringy” when turned. It's a good idea to wear a smock and a face shield when turning.

## Sanding and Finishing:

Chuck usually starts sanding at 220 grit and goes to 3,000 grit. He power sands the wooden areas of the bowl. Power sanding does not produce good results on the resin. For sanding the resin, hand sand with the lathe running. This orients sanding scratches in the direction of the bowl rim. He finishes with wet sanding of the resin using micro mesh sandpaper.

The finish is applied in multiple steps.

1. EEE Ultra Wax- Use a paper towel and polish at high speed (~2500 rpm) until no more residue is removed with the paper towel.
2. Yorkshire Grit - Apply and polish with a paper towel as in step 1.
3. Shellawax Cream - Apply and buff at high speed, but carefully use a small piece of cloth. An old t-shirt works well. Note, do not use Shellawax liquid. It will cause streaking on the resin areas.
4. Shithot Waxtik - The name says it all...



At this time, Chuck uses jumbo jaws to reverse the bowl, turn off the foot, sand and finish (as above).



# Resin Inlaid Bowls (continued)

## Summary:

Thank you to Chuck for sharing your process and lessons learned with the club!

Below is a list of the items Chuck uses and where he obtains them.

- AWS Scale (for measuring resin) - Ebay
- Micromesh with foam pad backing - Amazon
- Calcite Crystals - Woodcraft
- TransTint Dye - Amazon
- EEE Ultra Shine - Penn State Industries
- Shellawax Cream - Penn State Industries
- Rapidfix UV - Ace Hardware, Walmart
- Shithot Waxtik - Timbnerbits
- Klear Kote Epoxy - Creative Wholesale

Suggested Reading - [No Catches-Using a Bowl Gouge With Confidence](#)

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## BAT Mentoring

Please know that free mentoring is available to all paid members. This is a great opportunity to get some one on one expert advice on any questions, problems or other issues you may have in relation to your turnings. So if you're frustrated, unhappy or just not completely satisfied with your turnings this your chance to get help. Our experienced mentors can help you with all aspects of wood turning. Whether it's basic bowl turning, hollow forms, spindle work, sharpening, sanding, embellishments, etc.

No question or problem is too small. In just one free, 3-4 hour session you could take your work to an entirely new level. The sessions are also relatively anonymous. Only I, the mentor and you will know. So please at the next meeting take this wonderful opportunity to fill out a mentoring request form.

This your chance to possibly bring something to the next show and tell in May or an upcoming meeting. We are truly looking forward to some different members to show their work. This is not a competition or a judging. We welcome every one of our members to bring something. No matter what.

Thank you,

Chuck Cohen

Mentoring

# The President's Turn



With a plan to have a club-wide Show & Tell at the May meeting, I'm writing to encourage everyone to participate. While I am by no means an expert turner, I'd like to think I have picked up some skills along the way from symposiums, classes, and fellow members. There is no substitute for practice and working on skills, even to the point of repetition. The old saying "Practice makes perfect" absolutely applies in turning.

To that point, I encourage everyone to bring something to show the club. Too small, not the shape you were aiming for, catches, etc.? Doesn't matter! Even our very best turners started out with the same problems. Please bring in what you have been working on, and don't be afraid to ask for input. I guarantee you that everyone in the room has made the exact same mistakes. Take advantage of their knowledge to help you learn how to improve. I have found that woodturners are more than willing to share knowledge with others, so take advantage of it. Also, keep in mind that the BAT mentoring offer is open to all. Don't be bashful about asking for assistance. Chuck Cohen will be happy to set you up with a member who is ready, able and willing to help.

Just because you may not have some of the 'ooh and ahh' stuff doesn't mean you should be hesitant to show it off. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of pieces from the range of experiences in the club.

P.S. – Please keep in mind that the second President's Challenge for 2019 is to make something from wood won in the monthly wood raffle. The possible items can be anything made from wood raffle items – pen, bowl, hollow form, vase, etc. Take advantage of getting this one done!

Ron Ford

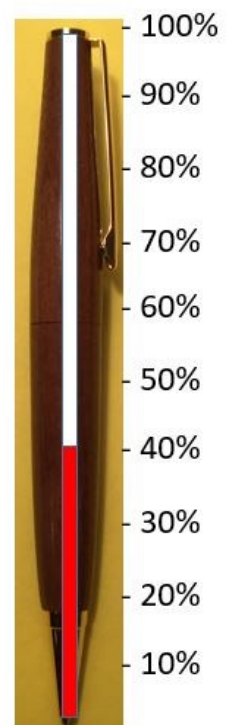
President

## Turn for Troops Update

The Baltimore Area Turners has taken on an ambitious project for this year. Led by Louis Harris and Tom Szarek, the club has set a goal to make 1,000 pens to contribute to the Turning for the Troops.

We are almost half way to our goal, with 405 pens completed! We have 205 kits outstanding, waiting for return.

Please consider helping the club meet our ambitious goals for this service project for our military personnel. What better way to say thank you to our Troops than a hand crafted pen! Please see Louis or Tom at an upcoming meeting to obtain pen kits.



# Tip of the Month



## PROGRESSING IN WOODTURNING

How do we progress in woodturning? The most popular way is to practice. Well how should we practice?

My suggestion is to first pick a technique such as a planing cut. Then, list the steps involved in posture, hand motion, tool movement, lathe setup, etc. Then in slow motion with the lathe off, practice these moves a few times.

Next, mount the practice spindle and practice the cut. If you experience a catch or dig in, STOP, OBSERVE, ANALYSE and SOLVE. Alternatively ask for assistance at the next club meeting. The goal is to master the various cutting and shaping procedures so that when doing a project, you concentrate on form as opposed to “how do I do this cut?”. The more you understand the mechanics of these procedures, the easier they are to accomplish.

Louis Harris

Mentoring

## What's on Tap for May?

This month will be our Show & Tell meeting. Show & Tell provides a source of inspiration, encouragement, assistance and enlightenment for our members. Every member that presents will benefit in some way all other members. It may be an opportunity to present a problem to the membership for a solution. It may be an opportunity to introduce a new or unique approach. It may be an opportunity to receive advice on how to make your particular turning even better.

Those of us who have participated in the past recall our first time. We felt our project paled in comparison to the others shown; however, the praise and positive comments encouraged us to continue our efforts to produce the quality of those turners we admired.

I urge you participate for personal development and for the benefit of your fellow club members. See you on May 8th.

Ed Cohen

Program Director

**Interested in sharing a tool, technique or project with the club? Demonstrate your project-in-progress at an upcoming BAT meeting. Contact program director Ed Cohen for details.**



# 2019 President's Challenge

The first President's challenge for 2019 is to turn 10 pens for our *Turning for the Troops* service project.

The **second challenge** will be to prepare a finished piece from an item won from the monthly wood raffle. There is no limit on what the item may be, just that the material came from the monthly raffle. Get your creation ready for the May Show and Tell meeting!



## Want to build your woodturning skills?

The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) strives to deliver the publications and services that our members need to grow, connect, explore, and thrive in the areas of woodturning that are important to them. With nearly 16,000+ members and 360+ chapters internationally, AAW's many resources, including our award-winning *American Woodturner* journal, help our members to learn, create, and connect.



By signing up for a complimentary Guest membership, you can have limited access to a sampling of AAW resources for a full **60 days**. You'll be able to explore what the AAW has to offer, kick our tires, and hopefully decide to become a full-fledged, paid AAW member to benefit from everything the AAW has to offer.

Visit us at [woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org)

# Baltimore Area Turners Meetings

May 8 - Show and Tell

June 12 - Steve Haddix - Embellishment

July 10 - Renaissance Woodworker

August - Picnic

The club meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm Our meetings are held at the Boumi Temple located at:

5050 King Avenue  
Baltimore MD 21237-3325

Drive around to the parking lot at the back of the building and enter thru the set of glass doors.

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## BAT Club Discounts

Mark Supik & Company - \$20 discount on instructional classes for members of BAT  
( [www.marksupikco.com/workshops](http://www.marksupikco.com/workshops) ) 410-732-8414 [mark@marksupikco.com](mailto:mark@marksupikco.com)

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BAT is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) which serves the Baltimore metropolitan area. A wide range of skills and interests are represented by our members. Work ranges from small utilitarian project to galley art and includes pen making, bowls and platters, hollow forms, small projects, furniture spindles and architectural work. We are fortunate to include professional turners and published authors among our members. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in woodturning, and guests are always welcome.