

TURNING PONDEROSA PINE

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This paper will summarize how I turn translucent, end-grain bowls from Ponderosa Pine.

WOOD

Spectacular patterns in Ponderosa Pine are the result of a spreading fungus in the wood introduced by the Ips beetle or Western Pine beetle.

Close inspection of the log for even the smallest splits is critical.

When selecting wood for end-grain turning, consistent concentric growth rings are important for even drying. Avoid knots unless they are uniform in position or at the pith.



Leave bark on the log sections to preserve moisture.

Seal "fresh cut" ends with Anchorseal® or similar and bag in plastic after sealer dries.

Place in cool, shaded area.

Maximum storage life - 1 to 2 months (Arizona).



PREPARE TURNING STOCK

Remove bark from piece to be turned with chisel and mallet. Some bark may be better turned away - always wear a face shield - BARK FLYS!

Parallel sides of stock and use spur center, mounting between centers to determine best orientation of stock - usually dead center on pith.



Face plate mounting on one sealed end - large, coarse threaded screws. Mount plated blank and use tailstock. Consider stock length for two bowls.

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ROUGH TURNING



Wide-mouthed vessels will produce the best opportunity for translucent effects.

Turn V shape for two bowls, leaving tenon for both. Rough turn first bowl and part it off.



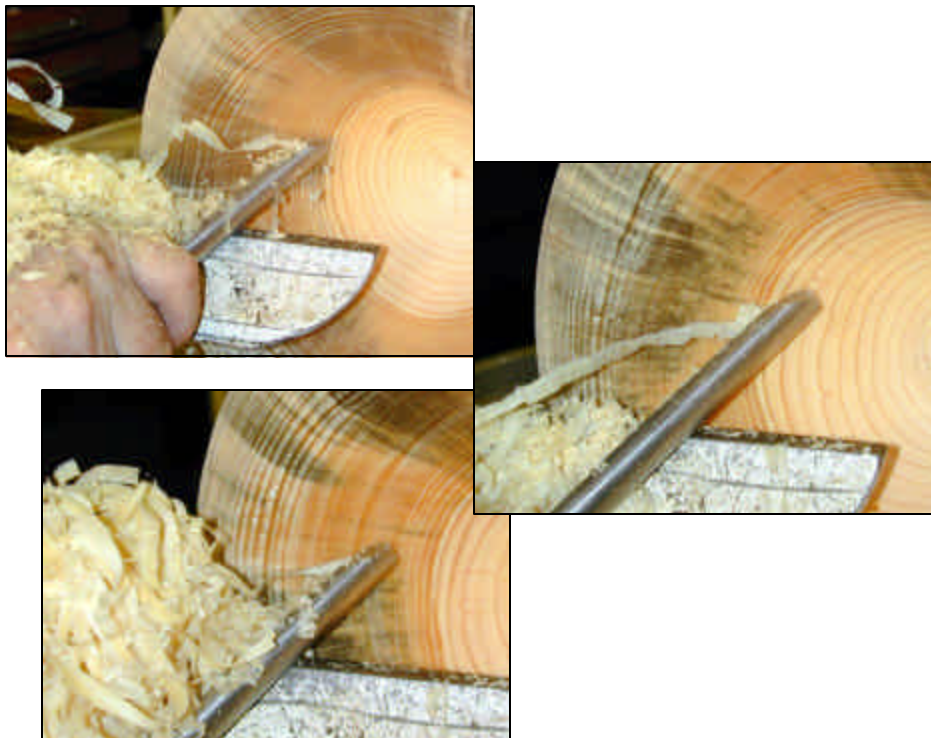
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Remove faceplate and rechuck to turn 2nd bowl.

End-grain stock - turn downhill on the outside. Turn from the center out on inside of bowl.



Rough turn bowls to approximately 1/2-5/8" and soak in soap solution of 60% water / 40% clear liquid dish soap (Kirkland brand, available at Costco.) A small amount of alcohol may be added to preserve purity of mixture. See Ron Kent's web site (www.ronkent.com) for added information on soap solution process.

Soak bowls for up to 7 days (at least 4). Make sure bowls are completely submerged - a carpet cover works well. Best when bowls have sunk to the bottom. I use plastic barrels to hold solution. Bowls are removed and allowed to dry under controlled circumstances; in and out of plastic bags until finish turned.



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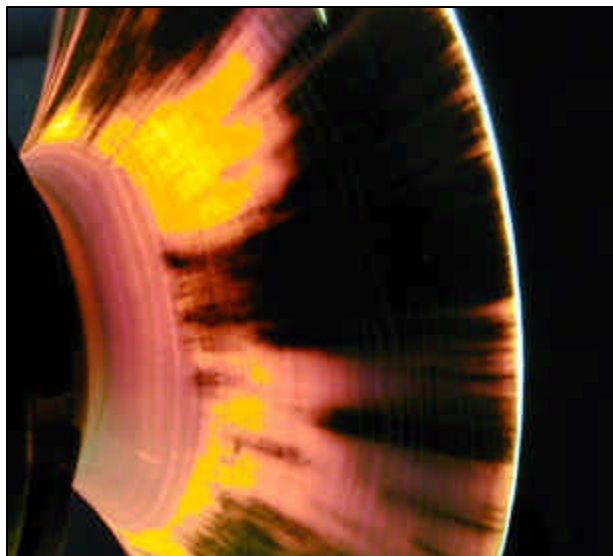
FINISH TURNING

Most successful thickness for reduced cracking seems to be about 3/16-1/4" final wall thickness.

Turn and finish sand the outside.

Apply a light coat of oil to outside of turning to reduce potential splitting; pay close attention to edges of stain streaking, this seems to be potentially weak area. Avoid the use of super glue.

Use a bright light to gauge final wall thickness. Turn final wall and sand interior. Part and finish bottom or reverse turn.



APPLYING FINISH

Watco® brand Danish oil. Brush heavy coat on complete piece (or submerge in oil.) Let set for 30 minutes and look for drying spots, re-apply to those areas.

Wipe down after 30 minutes and put in plastic bag.

Re-apply oil after 24 hours, sanding oil into surface (wet & dry paper - 320 - final sand to desired level - 600?) This step can be repeated until desired translucence, 10 or more times.



Final coat of paste wax or lacquer may be used.

