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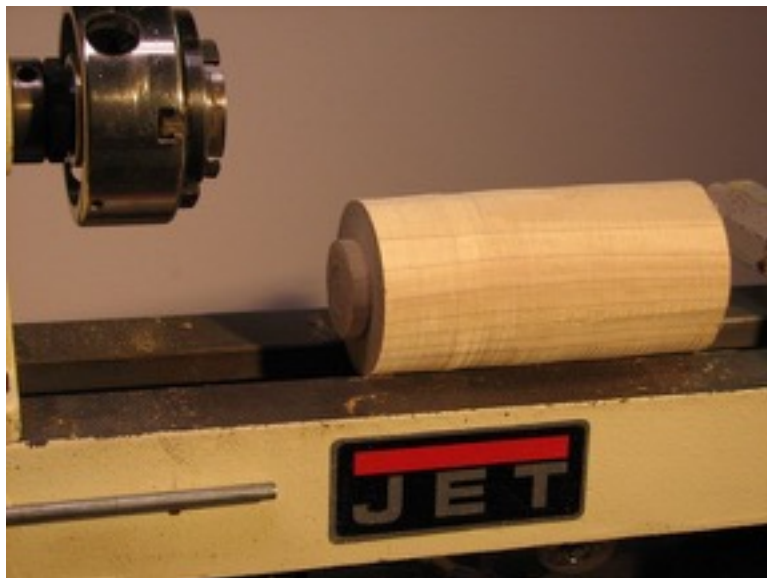
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Turning a Goblet with Captive Rings

by John Wolf

Turning a goblet involves spindle turning and end grain hollowing. Though the final project can be quite ornate, an attractive functional piece can be made by a beginner.

Tools used for this project: Roughing gouge, 1/2" spindle gouge, 1/2" drill, André Martel turning hook tool, beading tool set, parting tool, 1/2" bedan, and sandpaper.



Blank turned round with a tenon on one end to fit the chuck.

I typically use a blank that can be roughed into a cylinder that is about 3" diameter and 8" long. Choose a close grained hardwood. Maple, cherry, white oak and poplar are good choices. The wood can be wet, but the resulting goblet will become oval as it dries. While an oval shape can be attractive in a bowl, it is less so in a goblet. Therefore, I'd recommend a fairly dry piece.

Start by turning your blank between centers with grain oriented parallel to the lathe bed. Create a cylinder and face both ends so they are true. Turn a spigot on one end to fit your 4-jaw chuck.

Mount the 4-jaw chuck on your lathe and secure the blank in it. True the goblet blank, including the exposed end. This establishes the outside diameter of the goblet.



The blank has been mounted in the chuck and trued to its new mounting.



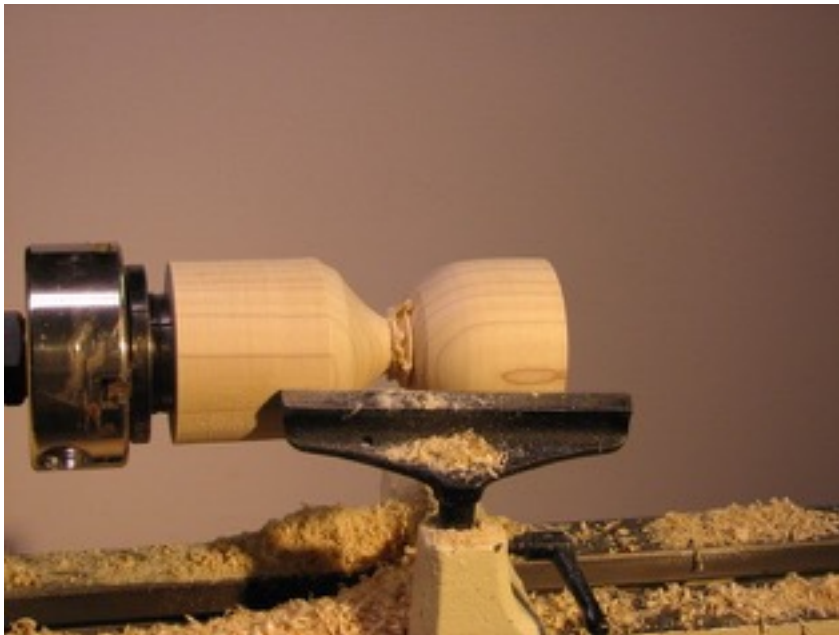
Drilling a pilot hole in the end of the blank to simplify hollowing and to establish a depth for the bottom of the bowl.

Drill a pilot hole in the free end to ease hollowing the goblet bowl and also to serve as a depth indicator for the bottom of the bowl.

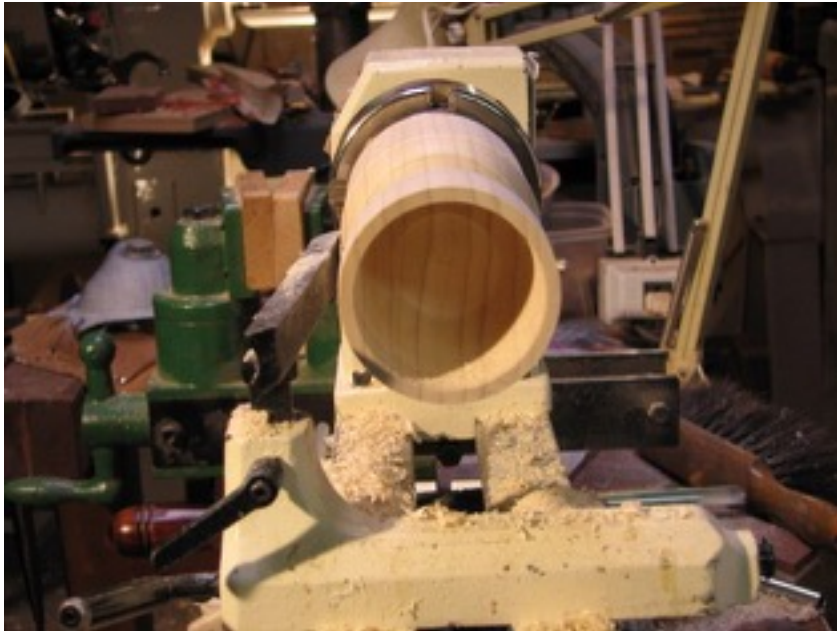


Using the tool of your choice to hollow the free end to form the interior of the goblet bowl.

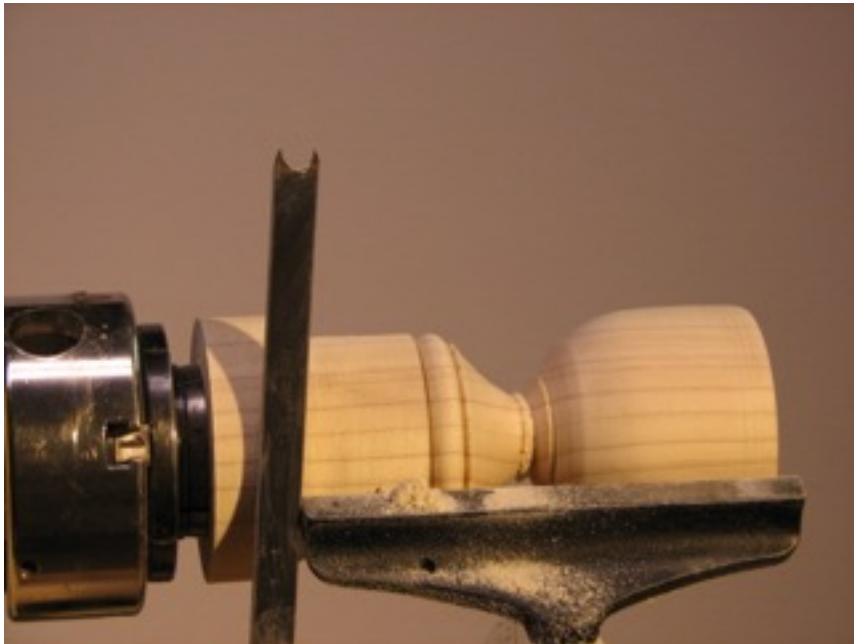
In the picture I'm using an André Martel brand turner's hook tool, but a gouge, termite tool, or any other end grain hollowing tool will work.



Form the exterior contour of the goblet bowl and the upper part of the stem next.

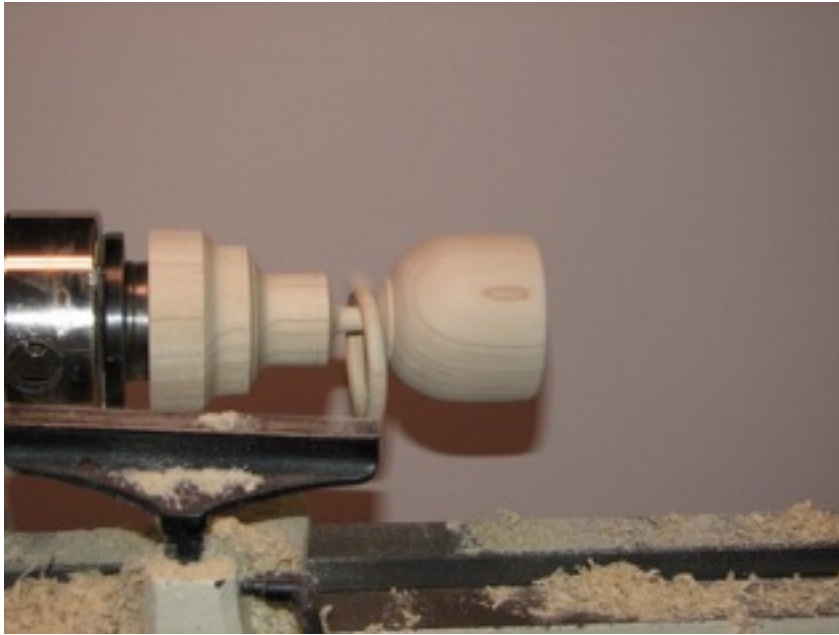


Sand the goblet bowl and apply finish if you are using a lathe applied product.



Reduce the diameter of the blank in the area where the ring(s) will be formed.

If you choose to use this feature. I used a 3/8 bead forming tool for this example.



The ring has been cut loose in this photograph.

Cut the ring(s) until almost free. Sand the surface of the rings now. Finish cutting ring(s) free, then slide the free ring forward toward the bowl. Reduce the diameter of the area where the ring was attached until it is a smooth cylinder. Tape a strip of sandpaper to this area. With the lathe stopped, slide the ring over the sandpaper. Turn the lathe on while holding the ring. Move the ring so that the inner surface is sanded smooth.

Finish turning the stem of the goblet to any profile that pleases you.

Contour the foot of the goblet. I find that a diameter that is slightly smaller than the widest part of the bowl is visually pleasing.

Part off the goblet with about one inch of remaining material protruding from the chuck.



Turn a spigot on the waste block so that the mouth of the goblet is a snug fit on it.

Turn the remaining exposed part of the waste block to the diameter of the outside of the goblet bowl.



Slide the goblet onto the waste block spigot and secure it with a wrap of tape.

Use the live center in the tail stock to add additional support while the bottom of the goblet foot is finished. Remove the tail stock to finish the middle of the base.



Sand the stem and base. Apply finish if using a lathe applied one.

Some thoughts about finish on goblets: While most clear finishes are reported to be food safe once fully cured, that doesn't make them well suited for use on a goblet. Shellac, wax, and lacquer are not stable with alcohol exposure. A hard film finish, such as epoxy, will eventually get moisture under it and lift. All finishes will eventually fail from repeated exposure to beverages and washing. If the goblet is actually going to be used, you could consider leaving it unfinished. When I make these as a wedding goblet (it has two captive rings) I apply sufficient coats of a food grade polyurethane made for food exposure to achieve a high gloss. I don't think any have been used enough to lift the finish.



The Finished Goblet with one loose ring.