

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

May 2017

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
Meeting location: Homewood Senior Center, 816 Oak Grove Rd., Homewood, AL 35209
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am
www.alabamawoodturners.com

MAY DEMONSTRATORS ~ ROUND ROBIN

Myra Harper, Howard King, Justin Miller, Ronny Perkins,
Royal Ritchey and Staten Tate

As the May demonstration is a Round Robin, we are going to highlight two of the six turners participating in this demo, Ronny Perkins and Staten Tate.

Ronny Perkins - It all started with Sears, Johnny Carpenter and a pen. I saw one of Johnny's pens and told him I wanted one, but that I wanted to make it. The rest is history. I've been turning for more than 15 years. I like working in wood and always have. I mostly turn pens and pour acrylic blanks. I had no idea when I started how many tools and extras I would need. My favorite turner is Maurice Clabaugh and Johnny Carpenter is my mentor.

Outside of turning, I'm a Christian and I like fishing. I was a firefighter for 25 years and managed a finance office.



(See ROUND ROBIN | page 10)

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Or you
could just
turn the
page
here!

Upcoming President's Challenges:

May - Lidded Box

June - Small Turning-must fit in a 1x1" cube

July - Finial

Please bring a piece and show what you can do!

INSIDE/OUT TURNING

by John Lucas

Inside-out turning is a process where you take four pieces of square timber, glue them together and turn a design (usually a silhouette) into the part that will be the inside of the piece. Then take this apart, rotate the pieces, glue them back together and turn the outside. This is why it's called inside-out turning. I will try to describe the process of inside-out turning and hopefully stop you from making some of the errors that I have made. I learned most of what I know by trial and error, error, error. I listed my sources of information at the end of this article.

The Process

Start by cutting four pieces of wood equal to the length of your turning. Each piece must be perfectly square. This is important because you will have gaps in the turning if they are not square. I generally cut four separate pieces from a flat board, but if you want the grain to match it is possible to re-saw a piece of thick timber and square up each piece. The grain won't match perfectly but will be close. Since there is a learning curve to this style of turning I recommend turning some 2x2 scrap as experiments. I use pine 2x4's for practice (see photo 1.)

Because you are turning the inside first, the outside shape will be limited. It is important to make a few trial runs so you can

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Hey! Wanna learn more about turning? Or help someone else learn more about turning?

Mentoring is available Saturday afternoons in the Craft Room at the Homewood Senior Center. Sessions start one hour after the demonstration ends or 1 pm.

AWA owns lathes, chucks and tools to use in class, but you may also bring your own.

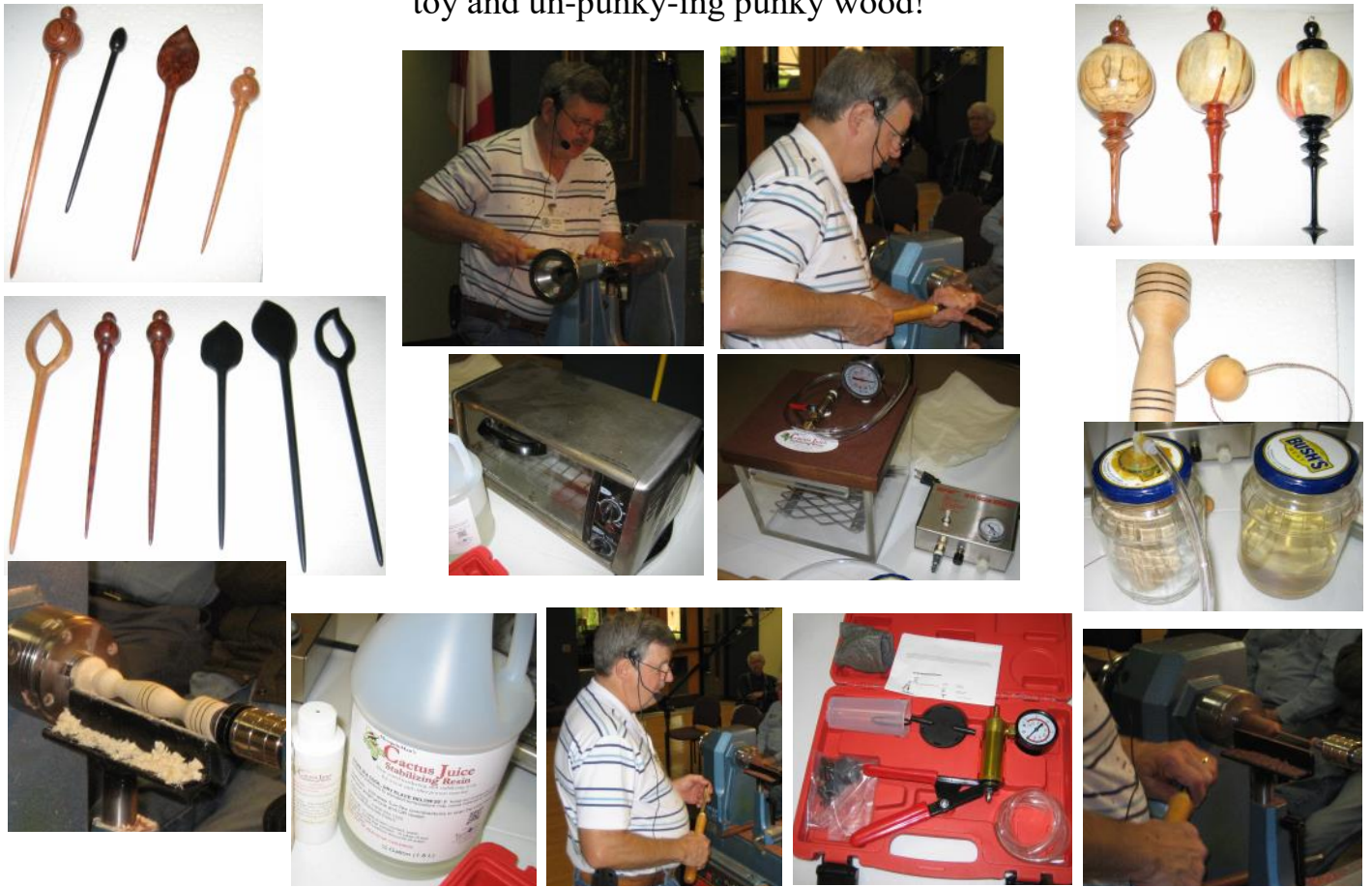
If you are interested in participating either as a student or a mentor, Phil would love to talk to you and sign you up!

**Phil Fortmeyer
(205) 612-7496**

See page 6 for upcoming classes.

April Meeting Recap

Thank you to Dwight Hostetter for providing the demo on hair/shawl pins, the ball catching toy and un-punky-ing punky wood!



Upcoming Events

May 13

Morning Demo

Afternoon Mentoring

Round Robin

TBD

June 10

Morning Demo

Afternoon Mentoring

Pete Marken

Segmented Turning or
Finishing

TBD

July 8

Morning Demo

Afternoon Mentoring

Howard King, Royal
Ritchie and Justin Miller

TBD

Christmas in July



American Association of Woodturners

The most comprehensive woodturning learning experience can be accomplished through both a local chapter membership and AAW membership. For 30 years, AAW and its chapters have partnered to share, support and deliver a shared educational mission to those interested in turning wood.

This is a special chance for you to add an AAW membership to your chapter membership for the “total experience”.

- Learn to turn your way.
- Boost your learning curve.
- Expand your skills better and faster.
- Maximize your turning time.
- Have more fun.

Limited-time offer. Sign up to receive a one-year introductory AAW membership for just \$30 (restrictions apply).

Details:

- 50% discount. One-year AAW membership for just \$30.
- Introductory offer. Only chapter members who have never been AAW members are eligible.
- Limited-time offer. Exclusive sign-up period from April 1 to June 30, 2017.
- Each discounted one-year membership includes the printed bi-monthly American Woodturner journal (six issues)

To sign-up:

- Online: Use the special online portal at <http://www.tiny.cc/AAWNewGen>
- By phone: Call toll-free (U.S.) at 877-595-9094, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST.

Become a member of the AAW and you’ll have access to extensive educational resources and advice from leading woodturners worldwide.

- American Woodturner (six printed issues annually)
- Woodturning FUNdamentals Online Learning Center (six digital issues annually), an easy-to-use integrated online learning experience designed for new turners, which complements the Woodturning FUNdamentals digital publication.
- Discover Woodturning Online, a compelling new resource designed to educate the general public about the art and craft of woodturning.
- Safety for Woodturners and an expanding selection of other digital learning and mentoring resources
- Unlimited access to online website tools, including: EXPLORE!, Video Source and Connects

See AAW’s complete portfolio of member benefits online at <http://tiny.cc/AAWBenefits>

AWA May Birthdays

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Terry Tingle - 5/10 | Perry Andrews - 5/26 | Pat Faulkner - 5/29 |
| Gary Hales - 5/15 | Rick Lampkin - 5/28 | James Files - 5/29 |
| Winifred Duncan - 5/21 | Will Pate - 5/28 | Jim Black - 5/30 |
| | Jean Cline - 5/29 | |

Congratulations to **Greg Dobbs** for winning the birthday door prize for the month of April, a block of maple!

Birthday Door Prize News

AWA gives a birthday gift door prize to a turner who has a birthday during the month of that meeting. Here are the 'rules' for 2017 as they stand now:

- 1) This is a door prize so, yes, you need to be at the meeting and stay for the drawing to win.
- 2) You need to make sure Jean and/or Amy have your correct birth date. No fair changing your birth date in the middle of the year! You're stuck with the one they originally gave you!

Congratulations to our raffle and door prize winners for the April meeting:

Bryan McFee, Buddy Finch, Miriam Finch, Doctor Phil, James Gilbert, Myra Harper (x 2), Clyde Hoover, John Jackman, Howard King (x 2), Ronny Perkins, Richard Serviss (x 2), John Sowell and Jack Tyler

Raffle Ticket Prize News

We're changing the raffle once again!

Bring an item to donate and buy raffle tickets. We'll raffle the items donated and all of the tickets will go into the pot for a new lathe!

Soooo...what do you donate? How about a tool, jig, turned item, wood blank, etc. If you've been to the last several meetings, you probably saw some of the items that were donated for the lathe raffle. That should give you a pretty good idea. Use your imagination ...within reason, of course! As a bonus, if you bring donations, you'll get one additional raffle ticket for each item!

The success of this raffle and when the drawing takes place will depend on your willingness to donate nice items and also to buy raffle tickets.

\$1 each~~~~~\$5 for 6 tickets~~~~~\$10 for 13 tickets
More money = more tickets!!! See Amy for details!

If you don't think you are an expert turner, look at any of the newsletters from other clubs. You will see that your turnings are equal to anything out there. Your turned items **ARE** 'good enough'.

The Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge

AWA has established a perpetual turning challenge in memory of Karl Harper. This challenge is an excellent remembrance of Karl as he continuously expressed a 'try anything' spirit and was an inspiration to us all. This is the process: a piece will be turned by a member to be presented at the next meeting, a name will be drawn from those attending and, if accepted, they will take that piece to keep and will bring a piece the following month. If they decline, then another name will be drawn. If you question your skill level, don't! Karl never did! You are good enough at whatever level you are! Karl would want us to put a bag over our heads before we turned because he thought 'Lights are for people with disabilities!'



At right is the piece brought by the April challenger, **Greg Dobbs**. **Richard Serviss** will be the May challenger.

Donations Needed!!

To My Friends and Woodturners,

My name is Myra Harper, I have been a volunteer at the Southeastern Blind Rehabilitation Center for over twenty years. It is sad to see how many of our Heroes are in need of so much, and how few people help. We have an Alumni Reunion every year that is the highlight of the year for most of them, with a golf tournament on Thursday, barbeque on Friday and a banquet on Saturday. This year's event will be held May 11 - 13.

At the banquet we have an auction which is a big money maker. Last year we took in more than \$1,500. Many of the Birmingham woodturners donated items they had made (big money makers). I am asking for donations again this year. Anything will be appreciated. You can bring your donation to the meeting this week or next month or I will make arrangements to pick them up at your convenience.

I and our Veterans thank you.

Myra Harper
myragharper@gmail.com

Interview with an “Original”

As we approach the 20th anniversary of this AWA chapter, we thought it would be nice to look back to the charter members, the “Originals,” to see what got them started and keeps them coming back. Below, you will find an interview with one of the Original Turners, **Jim Black**. We hope you enjoy.

How long have you been turning? Why did you decide to join Alabama Woodturners?

I have been a member since the very first meeting. I joined so I could learn correct ways to turn.

What would you like to see AWA accomplish?

I would like to see AWA retain more members. We have lost many excellent turners over the years.

How did you get started turning?

After purchasing a Shopsmith in 1977 and a few turning tools, I tried to teach myself with very little information about turning available to me, causing me to develop some poor turning habits. After a while, in total frustration, I stopped trying until one day in Bo Thuston’s Sawworks, I was introduced to Nelson Brooks who told me he was trying to get a woodturning club started. I couldn’t wait for the first meeting two weeks later!

What do you like to turn most?

Bowls, Christmas ornaments, boxes and some spindle turning.

What do you wish someone had told you when you were first starting out?

To buy a good grinder with good wheels. I tried to sharpen tools by hand. The second meeting of AWA was on sharpening which demonstrated Oneway sharpening jigs and other equipment.

What do you have the most difficulty with?

Consistent thickness of bowls.

Do you have or did you have a mentor and/or favorite turner?

I have admired Maurice Clabaugh’s work since beginning of AWA.

What do you like to do when you aren’t turning something?

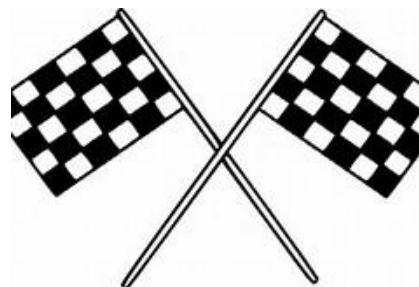
Fishing, target shooting and attending grandsons’ many ball games.

We’re all turners here. What makes you special and different from everyone else? (It doesn’t have to pertain to turning or wood or your shop, etc.)

My love for woodturning. I have not missed more than six meetings since AWA’s inception.

What have you done in a previous or current phase of your life perhaps not related to turning?

I worked as a volunteer in 1950’s and 1960’s with the Sportscar Club of America at races in Daytona, Sebring, on tracks in Alabama and Florida and local tracks as radio operator, flagman, timer, and pit steward. During this time, I met many world famous and local drivers.



March Turn and Tell Highlights



John Jackman



Howard King



Myra Harper



John Sowell



Tommy Hartline



Ronny Perkins



Jack Capps



Carl Cummins



Sandy Bishop



Cont. on page 9

March Turn and Tell Highlights, cont.



Gary Garris



Pete Marken



Jim Black



Lee Beadles



Justin Miller



Maurice Clabaugh



Staten Tate - For me, it all started 10 years ago with Phil Duffy. He invited me to a meeting and I haven't been the same since. This is what I have learned, there is no such thing as talent. It is all interest, motivation and practice, practice, practice. Your perception of things is a skill also. You hone it by practice - it's how you move up the learning curve. I recommend *The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking* by Edward Burger and Michael Starbird to anyone attempting to learn anything. I learned most by observing how professional turners approach their work. Not just the odd technique or widget here and there, but the top down, business-like mind set with which they approach their work. Mike Mahoney has a good act.

My favorite piece to turn is the next one. I have too many plans and ideas. I have the most difficulty finding the time and motivation to do all I would like to do. (And my glasses and the last tool I used...) I document most of my work. It's instructive to look back and wonder why I was so proud of something. Eventually, I get tired of looking at even my best work and sell it in my wife's antique booth or at a show.



(INSIDE OUT | cont. from page 2)

learn to see the problems. For practice pieces, I use strapping or filament tape to hold the wood together. This makes it easy to pull the tape back and re-assemble the piece to check your progress. Start with simple shapes such as diamonds, circles, crosses etc. Shapes such as hearts and flowers require you to undercut the turning when doing the silhouette. This is difficult to turn and to judge the shape.



Photo 1

Gluing the piece

To turn the inside, glue the four pieces together with a glue that can be separated. I have used CA glue, paper joints, strapping or filament tape, plastic tie wraps and hose clamps to hold the pieces together for the first turning. I prefer a paper joint. It is more secure and keeps the wood aligned properly. The space created by the glue will show up as a space in your silhouette so it is important to have a very thin line. I use newspaper for my paper joint. This creates a good bond and a thin line. Tape, tie-wraps, hose clamps and rubber bands all work well as "clamps" to glue the work but have drawbacks if they are used instead of glue.

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Centering

Centering is very important, so I take a very small sliver of wood (about 1/8 inch) off each corner of the square stock before I glue or clamp them together. After you get them together, the four “knocked off” corners make an accurate hole to align the center pin of your drive and tailstock centers. Label the end of each block so you will know how to reverse them later. I stack the wood together to find out which side should be out for the best grain pattern and then label the end with numbers and an arrow pointing toward the center. Turn them 180 degrees so the good side is in and glue them together with a paper joint. Spread glue on the piece and place newspaper over the glue. Clamp the pieces together and let it sit. It will take longer to dry than the glue normally requires so be patient. Use a cup center of some kind on the tailstock so you won't split the piece. I also use a fairly large drive center so the teeth help hold the four sides together. Long cones in the center of drive and tail centers will act like a wedge and split the paper joint.

Draw the design full size

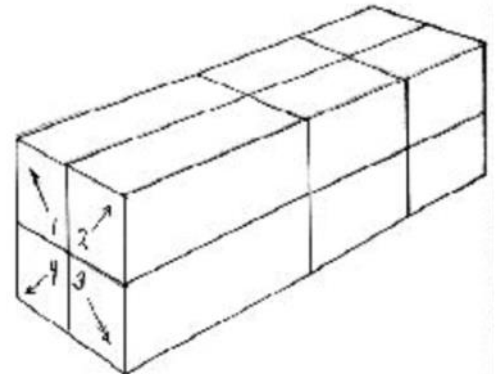
I find it very difficult to accurately copy the silhouette without a drawing. After you complete the drawing, fold it in half and cut out half of the silhouette. When the drawing is folded in half, the cut out silhouette will stick out and make a perfect template to check your turning. You will also have a guide for the outside turning. Just because you can draw it on paper doesn't mean it will work in the final turning. The outside shape is dependent upon the inside. Make a test piece to check your design.

Rough out the silhouette

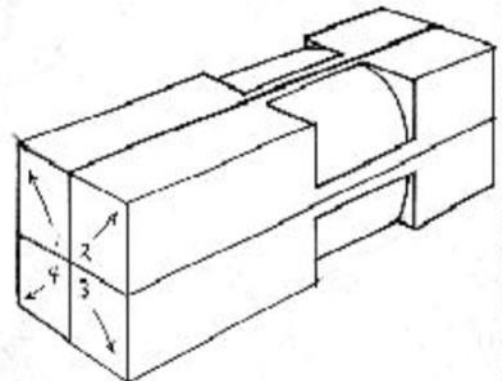
I mark the edges of the design on the square block.

Rough out only the area where you will place your silhouette. Don't round the piece down to a cylinder. *Leave small flats on all 4 sides: 1/8" to 3/8" is fine.* If you round it down to a cylinder, there will be a thin line running through the piece that destroys the effect of the silhouette. I mark lines all the way around the square at the edges of the silhouette and then use the toe of the skew to cut a large “V” cut on the inside of this line. This keeps me from tearing off a corner. I start the “V” on the inside of the mark and work my way back to the line with small cuts by sighting down the bevel of the tool. Then I use a bowl gouge or skew to rough out the cylinder, leaving the four flat areas.

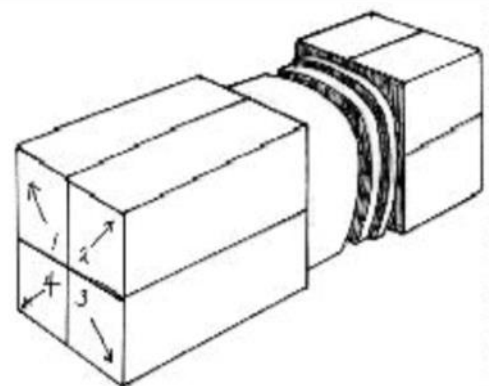
The outside corners will be the center of the piece when it is reversed and re-glued. If you round these off you can't have a thin stem like the one in my candlestick drawing. However, if you are making a lamp, you could knock off the corners about 3/16" and there will be a 3/8" hole down the center for the cord.



Drawing 1



Drawing 2



Drawing 3

Silhouette

Now you are ready to cut the silhouette. Cut very carefully and check your progress often.

Stop the lathe and place the folded drawing on the flat side to see how the cut out portion fits in your turning. Check often and cut very carefully --it's very difficult to sand the inside of the silhouette. I end up using custom-made scraping tools a lot. They are easy to make. I use drill rod, old screwdrivers, and old allen wrenches. They can be ground to any shape fairly quickly. I don't even bother to harden them unless I know it's a tool I'll use a lot.

Re-Glue

When you have finished the silhouette, remove the work from the lathe and split the pieces apart. I use a 1" chisel. It should pop right apart. If it fights you or looks like the thin areas near the silhouette will break I drive a paring knife down the joint until it pops apart. Rotate each piece 180 degrees and then glue them back together. Don't get any more glue than necessary on the edges near the silhouette.

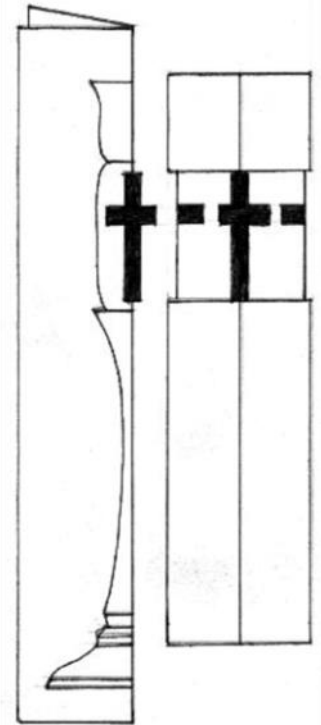
It will be difficult to clean off the squeeze-out on the inside of the turning. Trust me on this. If your pieces were not perfectly square you may have to glue up two pieces and then flatten one side before you glue up the others. This will affect the shape of your silhouette so take off as little as possible. If they were perfectly square, simply clamp them together with the silhouette aligned and wait for the glue to dry.

Turning the outside

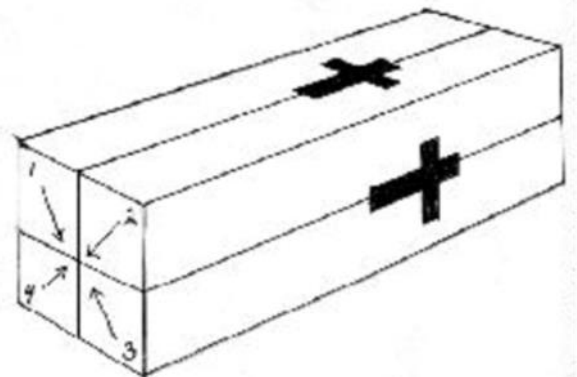
Turning the outside is fairly straight-forward. Stop the lathe frequently and check the wall thickness around the silhouette.

It can be difficult to see and will "blow up" if you get it too thin. I am still learning about the shapes that will work together on the inside and outside. In the beginning, you should be prepared to change the shape of the outside to accommodate the wall thickness. Once you have made a few, you will have a better understanding of the process. I suggest starting with something simple like a circle or a cross. Cut several circle or cross silhouettes in a long piece of scrap material and then play with the outside shapes to see what happens to the wall thickness and the shape of the silhouette. I've had a lot of fun doing this style of turning and hope you will also. There are a lot of options. You can rotate each piece 90 degrees and turn the combination four times. This method turns four pieces that are off center but exactly alike. You can paint, carve, or burn the inside before the reassembly. Use your imagination and have fun!

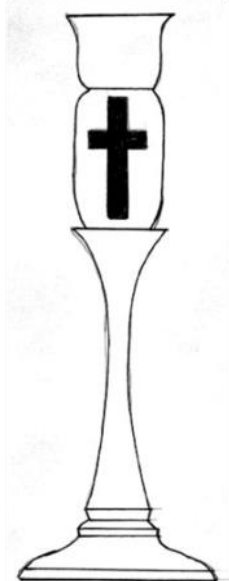
(See INSIDE OUT | page 13)



Drawing 4



Drawing 5



Drawing 6



Photo 2. A finished piece.

Inside-Out Turning Resources

Better Homes and Gardens, Wood-Turning techniques, Pg.62, split turned vase

Woodturning Magazine, Vol. No. 45 Pg. 52, Inside-out vase

Woodturning Methods, Mike Darlow, Pg. 118, Inside-out Turning

The best from Woodturning Magazine, Faceplate Turning, Pg. 66 turning inside-out Platters

The best from Woodturning Magazine, Spindle Turning, Pg. 85, Inside-Out Christmas Ornament

The best from Woodturning Magazine, Useful techniques for woodturning, Pg. 94 Involute Turning-90 degree turning

American Woodturner, AAW project Book, Pg. 52, Inside-Out Christmas Ornament



Photo 3

