

Spalted Maple Bowl With Inlay Ring And Collar (Steve Schwartz)



I am a former Industrial Arts Teacher and was first introduced to a lathe in 1975. As part of a college woodshop class I had one lesson on how the lathe worked, how to mount the wood using a glue block and faceplate, and all the tools. The tools being a spindle gouge, round nose scraper, a straight scraper (skew) and parting tool. After making one project I was considered knowledgeable enough to teach this through high school level. I loved it, my students loved it and we scraped our way through lots of great projects and used the 80 grit gouge (sandpaper) to grind our way to a good finish. I've seen amazing growth in the creation of new tools and teaching resources in the past 20 years which gratefully makes it possible for us to be much more creative and sand less. I came across the idea for this bowl while unsuccessfully trying to sleep in one morning and was pleased that it came out exactly as I envisioned it. I felt that the inlay ring would add more

interest than laminated rings since I could leave the ring and collar proud of the surface. The first thing my fellow turners did when I showed them the bowl was run their finger on the inside to see how well it was sanded. Then they tried to peer inside when they couldn't feel the underside of the inlay ring. I knew this would happen because only a turner would care if the part you couldn't see was sanded or not. Then they wanted to know "how did you do that!" ... here's how.

<p>1. I start by creating my bowl profile keeping in mind where I want the ring. It is best to choose fully dried woods which are unlikely to have much movement.</p>		<p>4. Next I match the profile on the wood being used for the inlay. Note the two marks on the template that indicate the width of the ring in it's position relative to the bowl.</p>	
<p>2. Use a molding profile tool being careful to align it perpendicular to the bed.</p>		<p>5. When the inlay profile is ready and it's outer diameter cut, I use a thin parting tool to cut in from the edge making the ring roughly 1/4" thick. The ring will be very brittle on the end grain so don't make the ring too thin. Try to match the angle of the surface profile. If not obvious, the angle that counts is on the undercut. This allows the ring to fit into the recess in the bowl with a matching angle.</p>	
<p>3. Transfer the profile to a scrap of plywood to use as a template.</p>		<p>6. Part off the ring at the inside diameter mark.</p>	

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7. Transfer your ring size to the bowl and cut the recess to fit the ring. Use a parting tool and sneak up on the inside and outside diameters very slowly with frequent trial fits. Try to match the profile angle of the bowl's surface and cut in about 1/8 – 3/16 deep. To cut the oblique inside angle on the outside of the recess you might consider re-profiling your parting tool to a matching angle.



8. The inlay ring should now sit proud of the surface. This leaves open your options to flush cut, or shape the ring as I did to leave it proud of the surface. The biggest problem I encountered on the bowl used in this example was when I achieved my final fit I broke the ring on that brittle end grain trying to lift it out. You should now glue the inlay permanently in place. I used yellow wood glue, thinking that this would help fill any gaps where the fit beneath was less than perfect but medium CA glue should be fine.



9. I wanted the collar to be the only color wood showing at the rim so I cut a recess about 1/2" smaller than the final opening and about 1/2" deep then flattened the top surface of the bowl going back about 3/8". This left me with a 90° edge to fit my collar into. Conveniently the piece of wood you cut the ring from is large enough to use for the collar. I cut the outside diameter to match the recess leaving it just a little bit oversized. The depth of the collar rebate should be slightly less than the depth of the bowl recess. The collar will be glued on the surfaces of the rebate and the center is turned away so it doesn't need to fit flush.



10. Fit the collar to the bowl by taking fine cuts and checking for a tight fit frequently. Try to align the grain orientation of the inlay ring and collar then glue the collar in place. You are now ready to clean up your outside profile and start hollowing.

