Wooden face plates, by Steve Schwartz

I had an epiphany the other day. I looked at a problem I had been thinking about for a long time and sudden realized "why didn't I think of that before"! I didn't have a faceplate to fit my newest lathe and wanted to turn on the outboard side of the lathe. I had a Stonghold chuck which I could screw on left handed but wouldn't have a tailstock for support to turn between centers. What I did was make my own wooden faceplate out of scraps. It cost me next to nothing (best part) and later I can reuse it or trash it. Here is what I did to make my faceplates;

1) cut a scrap of 3/4" or thicker hardwood 3" x 3" (this will vary according the jaws on your chuck)

2) Drill at least 5 pilot holes.

3) Screw this to the bowl blank face so you can turn a tenon.

4) Clamp the bowl blank into the chuck with the corners sticking out between the jaws.

Taking that further I had a natural edge bowl blank which needed a larger faceplate for more stability. So I made a two part faceplate and screwed this to natural edge side into wood that would later be cut away.

1) cut a scrap of 3/4" hardwood 3" x 3".

2) cut another scrap depending on your blank size to about 6X6 or 8X8.

3) glue and screw the two pieces on center. I used 5 screws and drilled pilot holes.

4) Lock this assembly into the 4 jaw chuck.

5) True up the larger square.

6) Drill lots of pilot holes.