

# Making Bowls From a 1" x 6":

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Front Range Woodturners  
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## List of Materials:

1 - 28" Long 1" X 6" Finished Lumber If rough lumber, you will need access to jointer, planer and/or thickness sander.

## Safety Considerations:

- Use Face Shield
- Let glue dry 24 hours prior to turning
- Be aware of dust issues
- Lathe speed
- Be aware of very sharp edges on blank when first turning
- Background noise to a minimum  
Listen to your lathe/bowl

## Supplies / Tools:

Face plate w/ plywood disc / sandpaper  
Face plate w/ waste block  
50 mm Scroll Chuck  
Revolving Center  
Square  
Clamps  
Compass  
Sandpaper - sheet 180 grit  
Flat MDF Piece - 9" X 12"  
Wax Paper  
Glue Press  
Pencil  
Sharpie  
Sam Maloof Poly Oil  
Cushion Material (Drawer Liner)  
Lathe  
Band saw w/ ability to tilt 45 degrees  
1/2" Bowl Gouge  
3/8" Bowl Gouge  
3/8" Spindle Gouge  
1/8" Parting Tool  
50/50 Mixture of Lacquer Sanding Sealer and Lacquer Thinner  
Table Saw (Jointer, Planer, Thickness Sander)  
Passive Sander (Sanding Solution)  
Various grades of sanding discs  
Titebond Original Glue  
Paper Towels  
Optional: Vacuum System

## Basic Instructions and Outline:

1. Select lumber to be used. If a person does not have the ability to finish rough stock lumber, then be sure to select finished lumber that is flat.
2. Cut 28" 1" X 6" lumber into two equal lengths.
3. Square (jointer or table saw) one long side of each of the two lengths.)
4. Clamp material with finished sides together.
5. Lay out outside maximum diameter of bowl on clamped material with compass. Be sure to leave heavy, visible lines for ease of viewing when cutting on band saw.
6. Continue to make smaller concentric rings with compass. Make each ring smaller in radius by the same amount as the thickness of the board. Mark ring orientation for future reference.
7. Remove Clamps. Cut out rings on band saw with base tilted at 45 degrees.
8. Sand feathers off of rings to insure clean, small glue joints.>
9. Glue each ring together. Glue on both surfaces of each joint. Press and hold together on flat surface covered with wax paper. Hold for approximately 3 minutes. Set aside for 24 hours drying time.
10. Sand one side of each glued ring using the flat MDF piece (9" X 12") with 180 grit sand paper attached. Sand in 10 even strokes. Rotate 90 degrees, sand in same number of strokes. Repeat rotation 90 degrees until you have completed 360 degrees. Sand other side of ring using same procedure.
11. With the band saw table returned to 90 degrees, cut 2 circles from left over 1" X 6" pieces. Diameter of these circles should match the smaller diameter of the smallest ring section. In my case, approximately 2 5/8" in diameter.
12. Lay out general bowl blank shape. Keep ring orientation as noted in step 6. Rotate ring glue joint 3/8" on each ring so you don't have the glue joints in a single line. Use either stair or brick type pattern. Keep remaining sections in line with grain direction to avoid cross grain gluing. Mark one side with sharpie for future ease of reference.
13. Begin gluing largest two rings together. Apply glue to both surfaces being glued. Align pieces per sharpie line. Clamp in press for 1 hour. Continue with next ring and continue, adding last of the ring pieces, then two circles cut out in step #11. On last three sections, be sure to match grain alignment. Use wax paper under pieces being glued to keep press somewhat clean. Wait 24 hours.
14. After general bowl blank has been created, find center of the smallest section, in relation to the outside bowl blank diameter. Use flat surface and wall to mark center in four 90 degree positions. Mark center with center punch.

15. Mount bowl in lathe, using face plate with plywood/sandpaper on head stock, bring revolving live center up to center mark on bottom circle. Tighten and secure tail stock.
16. True up bottom of bowl and make tenon to hold in 50mm chuck. Use 3/8" bowl gouge and 1/8" parting tool. I believe I turned this at 810 rpm.
17. Remove bowl from lathe. Replace face plate plywood circle with 50mm chuck. Change speed to 1230 rpm. Install bowl tenon into chuck and tighten.
18. Turn inside of bowl with 1/2" bowl gouge to finished size.
19. Turn outside rim/edge of bowl with 1/2" bowl gouge.
20. Turn outside of bowl with 1/2" bowl gouge to desired size, shape, thickness.
21. Sand both inside and outside of bowl, still held in chuck. I started with whatever grit sand paper I needed (depending on how much tear out I had) and worked down to about 400 grit. On the lowest grit paper, I used the angle drill. From that point on, I used the passive sanding system.
22. When satisfied with sanding, apply coat of 50/50 mixture of lacquer sanding sealer/lacquer thinner to inside and outside of bowl wipe off. (If you do not have a vacuum system, continue with step 23. If you do have a vacuum system, jump to step 26.)
23. Remove bowl from chuck. Replace chuck with either face plate/plywood circle or face plate with waste block. Bring up tail stock with revolving center to center mark of bottom of bowl. Tighten and secure tail stock. Be sure to use cushion material between bowl and either face plate system to avoid damaging the sanded surfaces of the bowl.
24. Complete transition area between bowl body and bowl bottom. Use 3/8" spindle gouge for transition.
25. Trim up bottom of bowl to desired diameter and depth, leaving minimum center support from tail stock and revolving center. Remove bowl from lathe and trim of last bit of support material using knife or small saw. Clean up and sand bottom. Apply 50/50 mixture of lacquer sanding sealer/lacquer thinner to bottom of bowl. Go to step #30.
26. If using vacuum system, position bowl in vacuum chuck, bring up tail stock with revolving center to center mark in bottom of bowl. Tighten and secure tail stock.
27. Start vacuum system, Leave tail stock in place for as long as you possibly can for safety purposes.
28. Complete transition area between bowl body and bowl bottom. Use 3/8" spindle gouge for transition.

29. Trim up bottom of bowl to desired diameter and depth, leaving minimum center support from tail stock and revolving center. Remove tail stock and complete bottom of bowl, sand, and detail as desired. Shut down lathe and vacuum system. Remove bowl and apply 50/50 mixture to bottom.
30. Apply coat of Sam Maloof poly oil to entire bowl. Wipe off excess oil. Let dry for 24 hrs. Repeat coats of poly oil until desired finish is achieved. I usually do between 3 and 5 coats of the poly oil.

#### COMMENTS ON THE UPSIDE AND DOWNSIDE OF MAKING THESE BOWLS

##### UPSIDE

Inexpensive source of bowl blanks  
Great practice on wood preparation  
Great practice on band saw cutting - circle and 45 degree angle  
Great practice on gluing  
Great practice on turning techniques, tool position, etc.  
Great practice on ability to sharpen bowl gouge  
Great source of bowls for gifts

##### DOWNSIDE

Limited shape of bowl

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Richard Kuivila has come up with a wonderful jig for gluing the two halves together. To view the Powerpoint file, [click here](#).