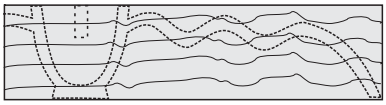
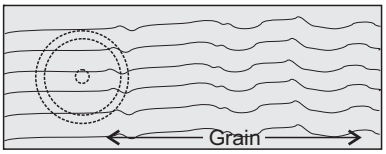
WOODTURNERS
SOUTH AUCKLAND
WOODTURNERS GUILD INC
TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

A WAVY ONE-WINGED BOWL

Note: The drawings shown here are not to scale. Your chucks, your faceplates, and your wood, may all be slightly, or considerably, different in size.

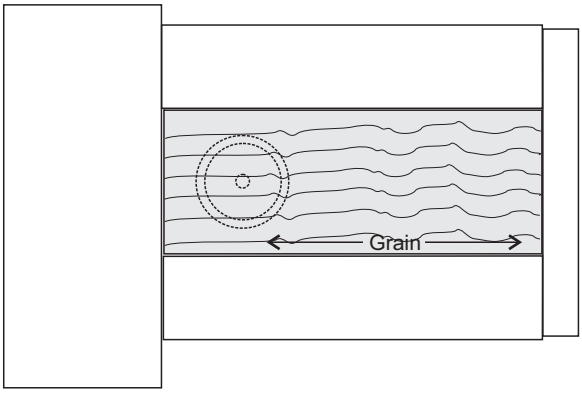
For your first one-winged bowl I suggest you start with a block of medium density wood about 2 x 3 x 8 inches. This should be a perfect rectangle or the feet may end up uneven. Future variations may utilise different shapes or include natural edges.



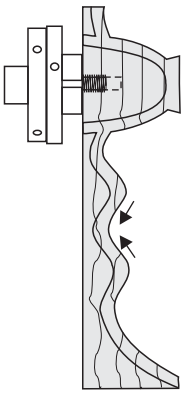


Plan the placement of the bowl and the curves to be cut. Drill a screw chuck hole.

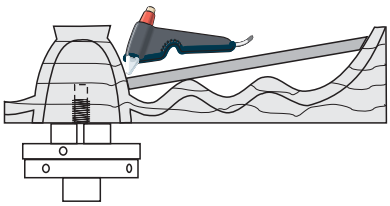
When wood of this size is mounted as shown on the lathe it can be turned without any counter-balances or additional waste wood. However, some woodturners like to add waste wood to reduce chipping at the edge of the wood and make the turning part of this project easier. The downside of this is that the waste wood has to be removed later without damage to the finished project. Use paper joints between the waste wood and bowl but the centrifugal force of turning can break these so use the best glue you have between each part of the surrounding waste wood.



The wavy one-wing bowl project with waste wood added. A paper joint with PVA glue or hot melt glue can be used for this. If hot melt glue is used you need to be very quick or use a hot air gun to keep the glue on the entire edge hot until the two pieces are pressed together. More wood can be added to make the work a full circle. Note that adding pieces to the long edges of the project, where chipping may occur, also adds weight to the long end of the project. This makes it desirable to add more waste wood to the short side of the project so that counter-balances (lead or steel) can be added.



Mount on a screw chuck, or a faceplate if the screws will be within the planned bowl. Turn the underside. Keep the speed up to reduce the time the chisel is cutting air. Cut the spigot for re-mounting first. Then work from the end of the wing towards the centre. A ⅜ bowl gouge sharpened with a 35° cutting angle works well here. Within each wave cut downhill at all times.
Sand and finish the underside.



If your project does not have waste wood added to the sides, you may be wise to add support to the ends of the wing. Use hot melt glue to fit a strut along each side of the project.

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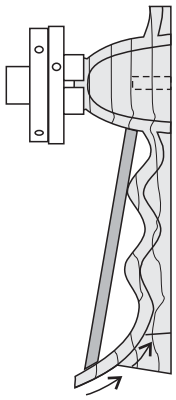
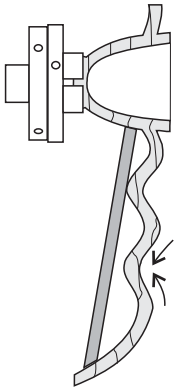
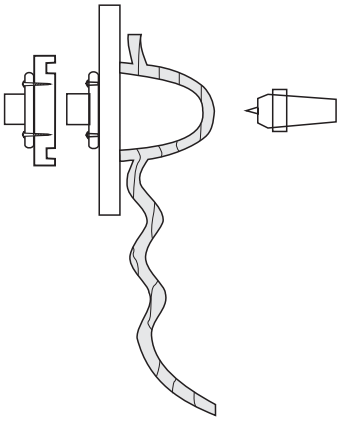


Turn the work over and remount it by the spigot.
Mark the approximate position of the bowl rim.
Work from the extremities towards the centre.
Use a freshly sharpened small bowl gouge with a cutting angle of about 35°. Thin the wing down bit by bit while leaving adequate support further in towards the bowl. These first cuts will be uphill, against the grain. Very fine cuts are needed.
Cut each section to final thickness before moving on.



Continue in towards the bowl cutting one wave at a time.
Within each wave cut downhill at all times. Keep an even thickness of the wood all the way from the tip to the bowl edge. Ensure that the outer edge of the bowl rim is an exact continuation of the curve from the bowl bottom.
Hollow the bowl. Here it will be easier to use a small bowl gouge with a 55° sharpen.
Sand and finish all the upper surface and edges.

Remove the work from the chuck. If you used a waste wood add-on with paper joints these should just split off. Remove the struts supporting the wings. To take off the hot melt glue you can use a hot air gun, denatured alcohol, acetone, or lacquer thinners to soften the glue. The struts may lift off or be assisted by the use of a hot knife. Then clean the work with denatured alcohol, acetone, or lacquer thinners.



A bowl of this size may be too small to be held in Cole jaws or a vacuum chuck. The options are a jam chuck, which will allow you to take the tailstock away for the last little cuts and sanding, or pressed against a faceplate with the tailstock brought up and then you will need to hand cut and sand the last little bit.
Sand and finish the entire underside.

A Wavy One-Winged Bowl in
Pinus radiata by Michael Bernard