Turning Your First Platter

Here is one way to turn a platter using the minimum of lathe fixtures & accessories:

1. Prepare a face plate and glue block
   a. Make the glue block dead flat and sanded

2. Cut blank of one inch thick stock to fit your lathe
   a. Mark the center on both sides
   b. Remove the corners
   c. Sand face side dead flat for gluing

3. Glue face side of blank to the glue block
   a. Use the tail stock for alignment

4. Using a deep-fluted gouge, carefully round the edge of the blank

5. Flatten face and back of blank with deep-fluted gouge
6. Lay out project
   a. Mark depth of rim, bowl and foot on edge of blank
   b. Mark diameter of foot on base side
   c. Mark diameter of recess for selected chuck

7. Cut recess to fit selected chuck’s expanding jaws
   a. Be sure recess is not more than 1/8 inch deep
   b. Recess must be shaped to match the expanding chuck jaws
   c. Sand the recess interior to completion

8. Turn bottom of bowl and rim sections
   a. Complete and sand

9. Shape edge of platter interior
   a. Complete the interior of the rim
   b. Sand to completion

10. Reduce interior of bowl area to near the glue block if possible
    a. Watch thicknesses carefully
11. Reverse platter into the expanding chuck  
   a. Do not over tighten jaws

12. Remove faceplate carefully  
   a. Reposition tailstock to support project

13. Reduce glue block to approximately ½ inch

14. Reduce interior carefully  
   a. Constantly check thickness of bowl area

15. Level out interior  
   a. Completely remove glue block remnant  
   b. Complete interior  
   c. Check flatness with a straight edge
16. Sand and complete interior
   a. Add finish

17. Reverse and complete the base
   a. Using “jumbo jaws” with your chuck
   
   b. Using a jam chuck with rubber pad

   i. Remove point from live center and add a hard rubber block
   ii. Readjust platter position to center perfectly and tighten the tailstock
   iii. Remove excess stock from base, sand, finish

Here are some videos that may also be helpful:

http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Projects/plates.html
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ip0ThPqlqJY&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udj9euwBEVE&feature=related