

Turning Your First Platter

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

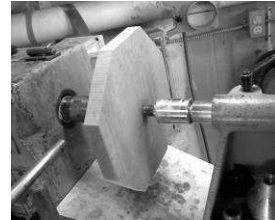
1. Prepare a face plate and glue block
 - a. Make the glue block dead flat and sanded



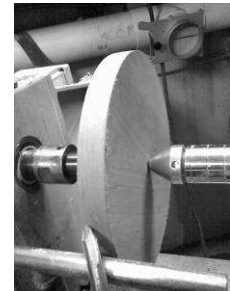
2. Cut blank of one inch thick stock to fit your lathe
 - a. Mark the center on both sides
 - b. Remove the corners
 - c. Sand face side dead flat for gluing



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



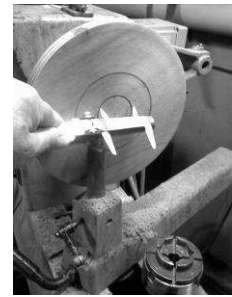
4. Using a deep-fluted gouge, carefully round the edge of the blank



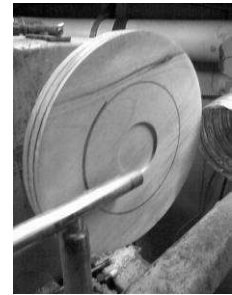
5. Flatten face and back of blank with deep-fluted gouge



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 1/2 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=ip0ThPqlgJY&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udj9euwBEVE&feature=related>