# "Bark"ing Bowls

Tom Boley

Making natural edge bowls is a delight which many woodturners have discovered. Here are four designs you may wish to try, from the simple to the complex. Basically, use a piece of fresh-cut wood with the bark on. Wood cut in winter will hold its bark much better than wood cut in the spring and summer. Mount the wood, turn the outside first and put a tenon on the bottom. Soak the outside edge of the bark with thin super glue. Chuck up the tenon and turn the inside, leaving it as thick as 1/10 of the diameter of the bowl. Super glue the inside edge of the bark. Mark it as to type of wood and date of roughing it out, then wax-seal it with Anchorseal or other similar product. Don't wax the face of the bark – just the exposed sides. Set it in a place where it can dry for several months, then re-turn it to round off the tenon and outside. Sand thoroughly. Chuck it in the tenon, re-turn the inside to final thickness and sand. Remember that the bark may look more interesting if it is thicker than you might normally make a bowl of that size.

Here are four different shapes of natural edge bowls for you to try.

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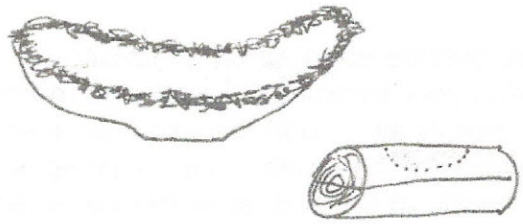
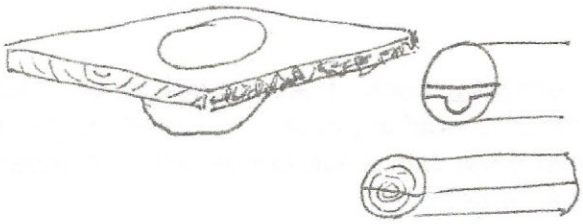
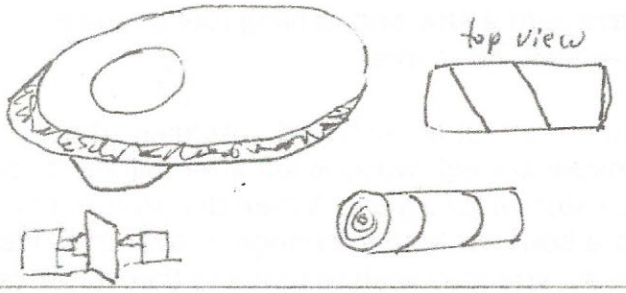
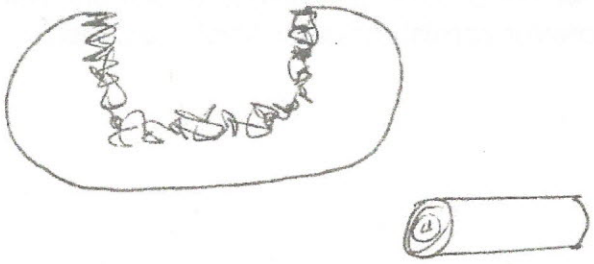
|  | **Standard** This is the basic natural edge bowl, turned from a half log with the bottom toward the center of the log and the bark making a "roller coaster" around the edge. |
|  | **Square** This bowl is just the opposite, having the bottom of the bowl toward the outside of the log and the top of the bowl being the section just outside the center of the log. The bark only appears on two edges. |
|   | **Bias** I heard this called "turning on the bias" some years ago and can't recall who said it. Crosscut the log at about a 45 degree angle or so and then mount it so the two cuts are perpendicular to the line of the lathe. The point is to offset the head and tail stocks so the bowl part will be offset within the top flare. |
|  | **Log** Cut a small log, no more than 6" in diameter, about a third longer than it is wide. Mount it on the center of the two sides so it spins end for end. Round the end and treat the tail stock side as the bottom, working a tenon into that side. Chuck it and treat it as a hollow form, hollowing out the inside so the inside becomes wider than the outside on the sides only. |

Red Oak Hollow Lathe Works, ~~Purcellville, VA~~ Wamego, KS www.redoakhollow.com ~~540-338-1718 tboley@erols.com~~ 785-456-7890 tboley10@gmail.com