

Segmenting Tree Limbs

First: Start with making a layout of what size bowl you want to make. Take a look at what wood you are planning to use. In the two I have built I used pieces about 2 ½" round and cut ¾" thick.

I started with a piece of 2x6 for a waste block. Put a tenon on one side and face off the other. Right in the center I put a hole just the size of a piece of wire, I used wire from a coat hanger. Make sure the wire is perpendicular to the waste block. Cut out a circle from paper, I used old newspaper, make a hole in the center just bigger than the size of the wire. Place a roll of pieces of wood on the waste block and drop the circle of paper down over the wire, do not bend the wire off to one side. Now move the pieces of wood around until they fit the way you want them. They should all stick out from under the paper about the same all the way around. Take the paper off and glue the pieces of wood to the waste block. Drop the paper back on to make sure you did not move the pieces when you picked them up to put glue on them. Next cut another piece of paper out making it whatever you want to step each layer out. I used about ½" on each step, so each new circle was 1" larger than the one below it. You are using the circle of paper as a guide. This is to help keep you from going more off to one side or way out of round. You just keep adding layers until you get the height you want to make the bowl.

I let it set over night to make sure the glue dried well. I put an end plate to it and pulled the tail stock up and I was ready to start turning it.

One word to remember is "EASY".

I started at the lower edge of the 2nd roll down from the top. Took off the very corner and then slowly worked my way up the roll. I then moved down to the next lower roll and again started at the lower corner and worked it until I came up to the next roll. I did this all the way down. Now I could run the whole side until I got it roughed in. I pulled the end plate off and backed the tail stock back out of the way and started with the top roll and really easy worked it until I had the top roll inside down. Moved down the next roll and did the same all the way to the bottom.

I started with a piece of wood that was just plain, not too much showing that would make it a nice bowl. It needed something. I turned the bowls with the sides about 5/8'-3/4" thick. I marked out what I wanted to cut out of the sides. I made sure that I marked out the two cuts as close to be straight across from each other as I could. I cut one side out and then used the cut out to mark out the other side. I cut a piece of heavy paper and put it on the inside of the bowl over the cut out. Resin will soak through the paper if you don't coat it. Or you can use heavy plastic. I used the paper so I could hot glue the pieces of wood to them. I put a roll of hot glue just off the cut and then put the paper up to it. I duct taped edges. I had cut a number of small pieces of wood. I wanted to leave a gap between the small pieces so I cut some stir sticks so I could put between them. I started at the bottom, put a drop of hot glue of the end of the piece of wood and stuck it to the paper. I laid a piece of the stir stick between the bowl edge and wood piece. I then just worked my way up using different sizes until I had it above the rim of the bowl.

Now I'm ready to close up the outside of the cut. Again I put a roll of hot glue just off the cut and this time I used plastic. The reason it that the little pieces of wood were sticking out just a little past the edge of the bowl. I put pieces of plastic in the glue and pulled it tight as I could. Let it set up and then cut off the loose plastic just off the glue. I put another piece of plastic over that one and cut it just a little larger than the first. I duct taped it off and ran the end of the hot glue gun over the tape to make sure it sealed down good. It's ready to pour. I poured it and let it set over night.

It did good. I had a crack in the wood and some resin leaked down the crack, not more than a tablespoon full and it did not really get out. Most stayed under the tape. I turned it and had a little touch up to do but over all looked good.

Now for a top. Because I had used sticks for the sides I said let's use it for the top. First I started with a waste plate that I had glued a piece of heavy paper on and coated. Again cut some pieces of wood, sanded one side so they would set flat on the waste plate. Glued the pieces on and let set until it set up. On the band saw I cut the ends off flush with the waste plate. I took a piece of plastic and

with the hot glue gun ran a bead of glue just under the waste plate and put the plastic in it. I cut the plastic off that was not stuck in the glue and then ran duct tape around the whole thing. Using the end of the hot glue gun I ran it over the tape and made sure it was sealed down. Poured the top and it was ready to turn after setting over night. After turning the top to the point I wanted I drilled a 3/8 hole through the center and then pulled it off the lathe and separated the lid from the waste block. Because I had coated the paper the paper split. I used the bolt for the chuck and put the lid on, the bolt went all the way through so I had to put a thin piece of wood as a washer to space out the lid. I then turned what would be the inside/bottom of the lid checking as I turned to make sure it fit the bowl. With the bowl fitting good I pulled the lid off turned it around and did the top. The lid is now ready.

I need a knob for the top of the lid. I found a piece of cedar and in the chuck turn a small knob with the hole in the top for a Beads of Courage bowl. When I turned the knob I left a stem about 1 1/2" long and just under 3/8" round. I fit that in the hole of the lid and cut off what stuck out, glued it and sanded the end off. It's all done.