

Introduction to Wood Turning

1. Understanding Wood Types

- Identifying different types of wood
- Common local woods and their characteristics
- Introduction to burl wood and its unique properties

2. Sourcing and Securing Wood

- Harvesting your own wood safely and ethically
- Purchasing wood: what to look for and where to buy
- Working with exotic woods: pros, cons, and considerations

3. Preparing Wood for Turning

- Safe and effective use of chainsaws for rough cutting
- Using bandsaws to dimension blanks for turning

4. Tools of the Trade

- Introduction to basic turning tools: gouges, scrapers, and parting tools
- Overview of specialty tools and their uses
- Proper care and maintenance of tools

5. Working with the Lathe

- Understanding lathe components and setup
- Basic turning techniques and project demonstration

6. Shop Safety & Best Practices

- Proper personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Dust collection systems and air quality management
- Safe tool handling and workspace organization

7. Sanding & Surface Preparation

- Sandpaper grits and when to use each
- Introduction to sanding tools and equipment
- Techniques for achieving smooth surfaces

8. Artistic Embellishment Techniques

- Intro to wood carving on turned pieces
- Burning (pyrography) for texture and design
- Piercing and decorative accents

9. Finishing Your Piece

- Overview of finish types: oils, waxes, and sealants
- Techniques for application and polishing
- Preserving and protecting your finished work



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10. Mounting the Blank

- Methods for securing wood to the lathe (faceplate, chuck, centers)
- Balancing and truing the blank
- Aligning for safety and precision

11. Rough Turning Techniques

- Shaping the exterior form
- Removing excess material
- Managing speed and tool control during initial shaping

12. Refining the Shape

- Defining design elements (shoulders, beads, coves, curves)
- Achieving symmetry and consistent wall thickness
- Using calipers and layout tools for accuracy

13. Final Turning & Project Completion

- Preparing the base and finishing details
- Final sanding and sealing while on the lathe
- Removing the piece safely and cleanly

14. Graduation and Celebration

- Class critique and praise
- What's next Q&A
- Departure

