

Wood Turning from Log to Artistic Creation

Gene Adcock, *Turner of Truro*

Wood turning happens on a **lathe** that rotates a block of wood at high speed while the workpiece is carved into the desired shape using a variety of chisels held on a stationary tool rest. The block of wood is called a "**blank**", that has been harvested from recycled/reclaimed **logs**, chain sawed into sections, then band sawed into "blanks". Usually blanks make two visits to the lathe, the first time is to **rough profile** it to the desired bowl, vase, vessel ...; baseball bat, whatever. Once rough cut into a thick version of itself the piece is stored for drying ("a year an inch") and to let it stabilize (i.e., finish warping). The second trip to the lathe is the part most people consider "*wood turning*": **final profiling** involves carving and sanding the roughed work to intended piece, then **finishing** with oil, lacquer, or varnish and wax. Some pieces are embellished into **artistic creation** with carving, color dyes or specialty paints.

Here are my five stages of wood turning:

(1) Harvesting: Chain saw



(2) Blanking: Band saw lathe sizing



(3) Roughing: Lathe carving thick version



(4) Profiling: final carving and sanding



(5) Finishing: Staining/ Dying/ Polishing

