

## May '09 Wood Turning Tip

Last months tip was on making deep hollowing tools. I turned a vase form ash during the month of May as pictured below. It came out quite well (my opinion). It is 10" tall and 8" in diameter. The wall is ¼" thick and the bottom is ½" thick. My home made tools worked very well.



Unfortunately as can be seen in the next photo (page two) the bottom developed a "nice" crack about 5" long the next day. I had coated the interior with several layers of shellac and the outside with two coats on an oil finish.

After discussing it with several friends I came to the following conclusions to help prevent the bottom from cracking next time. One of the readers of this tip may have another tip which I will be glad to pass on.

1. Machine the walls and bottom to ¼" thickness or thinner so the wood will dry out evenly.
2. Microwave the vase slowly, as soon as it comes off the lathe, until there is no weight change.
3. Liberally coat the bottom inside and out with a hydroscopic fluid such as "Pentacryl" wood stabilizer. I purchased mine from WoodCraft. I have used this before when turning lamps from freshly cut cherry timbers. It worked very well for me. I kept coating the wood exterior for several days and kept the lamp cord hole full of the wood stabilizer. Once stable it took a finish very well and no cracks developed.

I am going to use both # 1 & #3 on my next vase.

The ash was donated by a neighbor who had to remove the tree. I took a piece 14" thick and 5 feet in diameter. So I have a few more pieces left in the timber.

