



Winged bowl

Nikos Siragas shows you how to make a turned and carved 'winged' bowl in European olive

Combining carving and turning has become a popular part of artistic turning and impressive work can be seen at various exhibitions and competitions. However, hobby woodturners can be nervous about incorporating a carved element into a turned piece as perhaps they have not tried carving or do not know how to create a satisfying form. It is a good idea to take a look at work on the Internet and also to look at forms in glass and pottery to get inspiration for your own pieces. Turning and carving go hand in hand and adding a carved element to your turned piece can

really help to elevate your work and also helps to broaden your skillset. Also, nowadays there are many tools that can help turners to shape their work beyond the round, using power tools and various different shaped rasps – as can be seen in this article. With this design, I wanted to create a bowl with a real three-dimensional effect so first I cut and shaped the wide 'rim' of the bowl and then cut into the side to add more shape in a way that is not too difficult for intermediate turners to do. Thus, the carving on the bowl can be seen both from above, with the 'wings', and from the sides, with the wave effect.

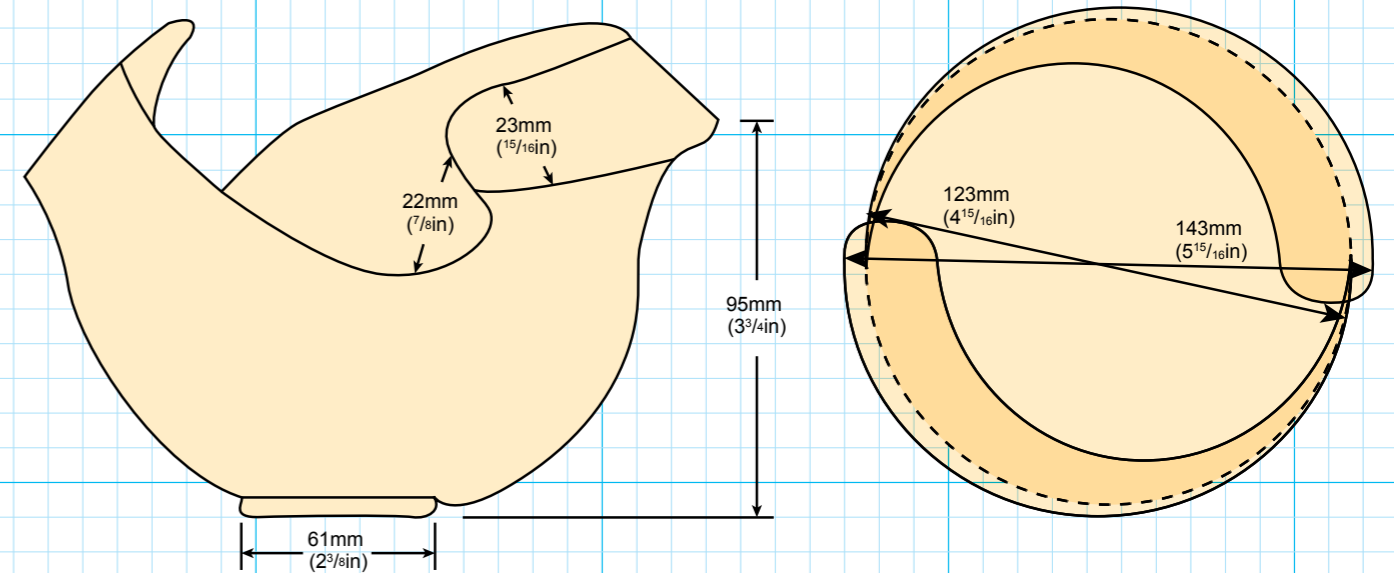
NIKOS SIRAGAS



About the author: Nikos specialises in turned and carved work, running a gallery and workshop in the historic tourist town of Rethymno on the island of Crete, Greece. He holds courses at his workshop in the hills above Rethymno and also demonstrates and teaches each year in the UK as well as other parts of Europe. You can see more of his work on his website.

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WINGED BOWL DIMENSIONS



INFORMATION

TIME TAKEN & COST

Time taken: Xxxxxx

Cost: Xxxxxx

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Round skew chisel
- Bowl gouge

- Spindle gouge

ADDITIONAL TOOLS

- Sandpaper and sanding discs
- Small saw or angle grinder with carving disc
- Large round rasp

- Flat rasp
- Callipers
- PPE: facemask, respirator/dust mask and extraction



1 For this project, you will need to start with a dry bowl blank of about 140mm diameter, 110mm long. For this piece I am using olive (*Olea europaea*), which is a compact wood that is good for both turning and carving. Mount this securely on the lathe and then create a chucking spigot the correct size to fit your jaws, using a round skew chisel. Using a bowl gouge, level off the surface and then mark a line (A) about 20mm down from the top part of the blank. Also mark a line (B) on the surface about 30mm in

2 Cut off the corner at a shallow slant between line B and A with a bowl gouge. Note the angle the gouge is presented to the wood surface in the photo, at this angle you will cut away the wood quite effectively

3 Mark a line across the centre of the piece and then another line around the piece, about 20mm down from the edge. Join the central line to the line around the wood



4 Start shaping the outside of the bowl with your bowl gouge, using the line on the side as a guide for the shape. This line will disappear as you remove the wood but will be marked again later



5 After rough shaping the outside you should end up with a lip at the top and a gradual curve towards the base. Leave it with this basic shape as you will go back to work on the outside after hollowing out. Start hollowing out with your spindle gouge. Use the gouge as a drill to open up a hole in the middle and gradually open up the hole with short, sweeping movements from the middle of the bowl, moving slightly upwards and then to the left



6 To ensure you get to the right depth and don't open up a hole in the bottom of the bowl, use your gouge to measure approximately how deep you should go



7 When you have hollowed out a certain amount of timber, go back to the outside, using your bowl gouge, and turn it further to its final shape. Use the gouge at an angle and to the side of the flute, as shown, so it shear scrapes the surface



8 Now you need to hollow out the centre to the wall thickness you want. Here I am using my scraper to open up and refine the inside surface



Handy hints

1. Before you start, make sure your tools have been sharpened, you are wearing a mask or protective eyewear and suitable clothes for turning and you have your dust extraction system turned on. If using power tools it is a good idea to wear ear defenders
2. Sanding often works better if you work with the lathe in reverse mode. Remember to keep the sandpaper moving along the surface of the piece, never leave it in one place when it is rotating or you will get sanding lines
3. For sanding curves and other tricky parts of a carved piece, I have found it useful to make myself a wooden stick that is flat on one side and curved on the other. I then stick a strip of hook-and-loop abrasive to it so I can attach sandpaper – with flock lining on the back – to it and sand more easily



9 Use callipers to check the wall thickness. The rule with carving is always to leave a little extra wood in case of mistakes



10 Sand the bowl inside and out, I go up in stages to 600 or 1,000 grit. Mark a line around the outside of the bowl, about 30mm down from the lip and join this line to the one you have drawn across the centre of the bowl top



11 Use either a small saw or a Proxxon angle grinder with the black Arbortech carving disc attached. Cut across the top of the bowl 'wings' on both sides down to the 30mm line marked on the side of the bowl. Note that I have had to add wood dust and glue to many parts of the timber as the olive wood developed small cracks as I worked on it. This is a typical feature of olive even when it is quite dry

“Now you have the top rim cut in half you need to find the centre of each half”



12 Now you have the top rim cut in half you need to find the centre of each half. Use callipers to find the central point and draw a line. This line sets the limit of where you will cut the rim to get the 'winged' shape



13 Use the angle grinder and carving disc or a small saw to cut diagonally from the top edge of the line you have just drawn, down to the bottom of the cut in the side of the bowl. Repeat this process on the other half of the bowl so you have a symmetrical design



14 To get the curled wave effect on the side of the bowl, use a large round Microplane rasp to cut into the side of the bowl, on both sides. Cut the wood gently with the rasp until the rasp fits almost two-thirds into the side of the bowl and there is a circular shape

Handy hints

4. For reverse chucking, another method for creating a bung in the chuck is to have a wooden bung with a wider piece of insulation polystyrene glued to the end – it looks a bit like a large mushroom – and then you can use a chisel to shape the polystyrene to fit the piece you are working with. I have a wider one, for bowls, and a narrower one, for vases

◀ **15** Clean off the rough edges with a flat rasp, smoothing the surface and rounding off the edges on the side of the bowl. Use your eye to make sure there is a smooth transition from the turned element to the carved part

16 Use cylindrical sanding discs attached to a Dremel to give finer detail to the carved part and to round off the ends of each 'wing'

17 Sand all around the carved section of the bowl using a rounded stick with sandpaper attached to it – see handy hint 3. This will give you exactly the shape you want to sand the wave detail on the side of the bowl. Sand the whole bowl and then brush on oil or sealer, whichever you prefer. On this piece I brushed on sealer, wiped off the excess with paper and then cut it back with wire wool. Repeat this a few times

18 Make a bung for the chuck so you can reverse the bowl between centres. Use a round-ended piece of wood and add some thick soft cloth to avoid contact marks on the bowl

19 Use a spindle gouge to shape the foot of the bowl and to reduce the size of the chucking spigot to a small plug in the centre of the base

20 Complete the sanding of the base and add sanding sealer, then part off

21 You should be proud of your work if you have done a good job, so sign it on the base. I usually add the year and my signature in indelible ink, and then trace over it with a pyrography pen

22 Your finished bowl should look something like this ●

Handy hints

5. Finishing is an extremely important part of completing a good piece of artistic turning and requires patience. Make sure you spend enough time on sanding your work, going up in stages to at least 600 grit. Experiment with finishing oils/varnishes/waxes to find a combination that suits you and the wood you work with. You will see the difference immediately in a well sanded and finished item as the wood colour and grain will be more vivid and it will feel very smooth to the touch. These are all key factors that make your work attractive

