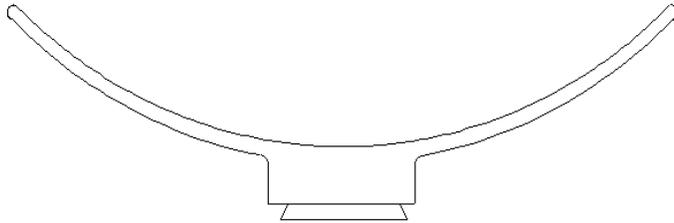


Three Footed Bowls

Dennis Ford

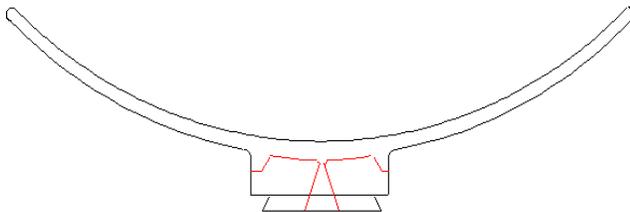
Shaping the outside:

- Lifting the bowl up on feet highlights the shape of the bowl, so good form is very important.
- Leave enough wood at the bottom to make the feet with a little extra (just in case).
- The lower curve of the bowl should be continuous down the side, across the bottom and up the other side with the feet projecting from this curve. Looking at the bowl from what will be the side; drawing an imaginary line through the wood at the bottom connecting the sides. Try to shape the sides so that this imaginary line follows a smooth curve.



Reverse the bowl to turn the bottom

- I use a jam chuck but other options are available; vacuum chuck, Cole jaws etc.
- Cut away the waste as much as you are comfortable with. It is better to leave a little too much that can be carved or sanded away than to cut too much off. If you are making tall feet, it is a good idea to cut a notch in the foot area to help judge how much to cut away.



Layout the feet (off the lathe):

- While looking at the bottom as if it were a clock face, draw three marks at; 12:00, 4:00 & 8:00. Go back around the clock, marking on each side of the center marks for cut lines. If the center marks look unevenly spaced the cut lines can be adjusted. Precise spacing is not necessary.
- Carving the feet is much easier than expected; there are several options depending on what tools are available.
 - A coping saw is a good tool to start this process, make sure the teeth point towards the handle (cut on pull stroke). Wear a leather glove on the hand holding the bowl and cut away most of the waste between the cut lines drawn earlier. Don't try to cut right up against the bowl, leave a little wood to prevent damaging the bowl surface.
 - Carving gouges can be used to remove additional material if you are comfortable using them.
 - Power carving tools can be used after the coping saw if you have those available (if not 80 grit disks are almost as fast and will be needed anyway).
 - Sanding disks work very well to clean up the area between feet. Start with 80 grit; do not go above 120 grit until the shaping is nearly finished. I use a close quarter drill with 3" disks for most work, 2" disks will be necessary for small bowls.