

End grain Vase From log

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1. **Evaluate log, decide on design.** Decide which end will be the top and which will be the bottom, keeping or avoiding any flaws or features in the log that you would want or do not want in the finished piece. (sharpen gouge)
2. **Turn between centers with bottom at tailstock.** So you will have the center mark for re-chucking later to finish the base.
3. **Rough out, leaving bark on log where rim will be.** With a 3/8" or 5/8" bowl gouge start at tailstock end cutting downhill from left to right toward tailstock, remove bulk being careful not to knock bark off of rim area at headstock end leaving about 1" of bark. Cut tenon on tailstock end. (sharpen gouge)
4. **Mount log in chuck, use tailstock for support.** Check for loose bark and use CA glue if necessary to hold bark in place. Using freshly sharpened bowl gouge (I use 3/8", 40 degree gouge) true up top of rim and finish shaping about 1/3 of inside of rim (cutting from rim toward center). This portion of the rim interior can be sanded now if you wish. (sharpen gouge)
5. **Begin cutting outside of rim.** Start removing some bulk on the outside of vase using bevel supported cuts working down hill from left to right then cutting down hill from right to left following the established interior shape to the final thickness you want on the first 1/3 of the exterior.
6. **Sand outside of rim area.** Be careful with bark, some hand sanding may be necessary especially on rims with multiple petals. (GREX D/A orbital sander is a WONDERFUL thing for this).
7. **Continue cutting interior shape.** Cut interior as far as possible before removing tailstock.
8. **Drill a 1" hole to establish final depth.** This removes the hard to cut center portion in the bottom and establishes the final depth.
9. **Hollow the interior to final shape.** Because this is end grain I like to use either the Sovereign Ultima Hollowing System by Robert Sorby or the ROLLY MUNRO HOLLOWER for hollowing the interior. Hook tools are also very efficient but a bit harder to control. Then I finish cut to final shape with a 5/8" Ellsworth grind bowl gouge. Shear scrape or use a negative rake scraper to smooth out tool marks if necessary then sand interior.
Information on Negative Rake Scrapers by Stuart Batty can be found in the SPRING 2006 issue of the AAW Journal, AMERICAN WOODTURNER.

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10. **Finish cutting outside shape. Starting with clearing cuts**, downhill from left to right to remove bulk then with sharpened tool make final cuts downhill from right to left following interior shape to the thickness you desire. On thinner pieces and light colored woods a light can be used to achieve consistent thickness with less measuring. Blend cuts with shear scrape or negative rake scraper. Sand as you go if you like.
11. **Add any transition detail you might like between vase and the base.** Be aware if the top of the vase is large and/or unusually shaped and out of balance and the transition or detail between the vase portion and the base is small you should bring the tailstock up with a ball or something inside the vase to support it to prevent the vase portion from being spun off balance and broken off.
12. **Reverse / Jamb chuck.** With the previously established center point in the tenon from step #1, reverse and jamb-chuck the vase. I like to use a "Reverse Chucky" made by Rubber Chucky (www.ruberchucky.com) a homemade jamb-chuck can also be used. With a 3/8" spindle gouge I will carefully under-cut or hollow out the inside of the base on green logs. Most of the time this will prevent the base from splitting, but also makes for a much more finished appearing base.