

## The “Southwest” Laminated Bowl

### Introduction

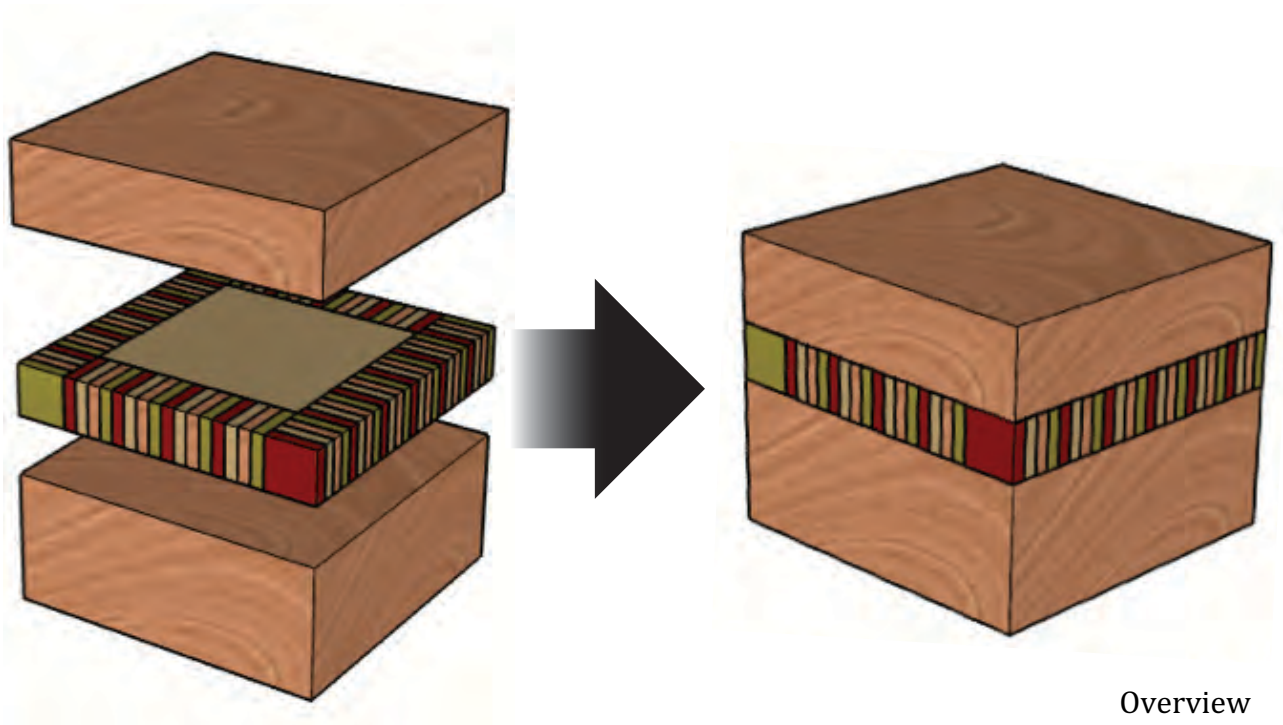
Several years ago, a few members of the Chapel Hill Woodturners began to explore the use of laminations in their turning projects, ranging from candlesticks to lidded boxes, goblets, handles and bowls.

In late 2017, Elizabeth Prioli presented the Lamination Group with an idea: Glue up a bowl blank using a solid top and bottom, and a core made of striped laminations from various wood species. A source of the inspiration came from the pottery of the Acoma Pueblo of the Southwestern U.S.



### Overview

The center section contains a waste core that is used to temporarily hold the laminated outside pieces together and will be turned away as the bowl is hollowed out. This allows the use of exotic woods without excessive waste. There is an infinite combination of wood colors, wood grain, textures and veneers to mix and match to create fascinating designs.

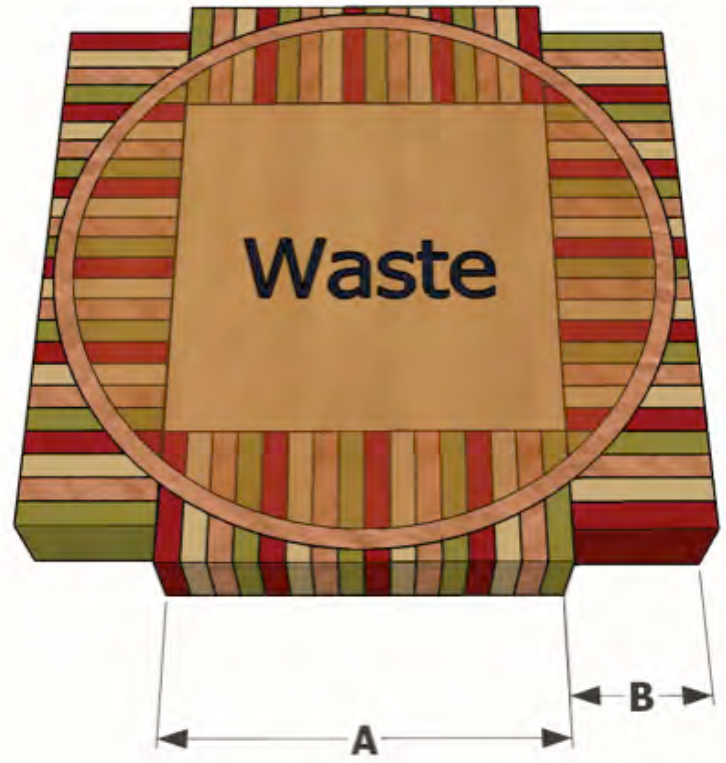


continued

Overview

The vertical thickness of the core section, as well as its position between the top and bottom sections is purely a matter of aesthetics.

But in order to eliminate the waste core when turning, the surrounding laminated strips need to be of sufficient width to allow the finished bowl to remain outside the square waste core.



If you want to avoid the waste core showing in the finished bowl, this chart shows the relationship between the size of the waste core and the width of the laminated strips, based on a bowl wall thickness of  $\frac{1}{4}$ "

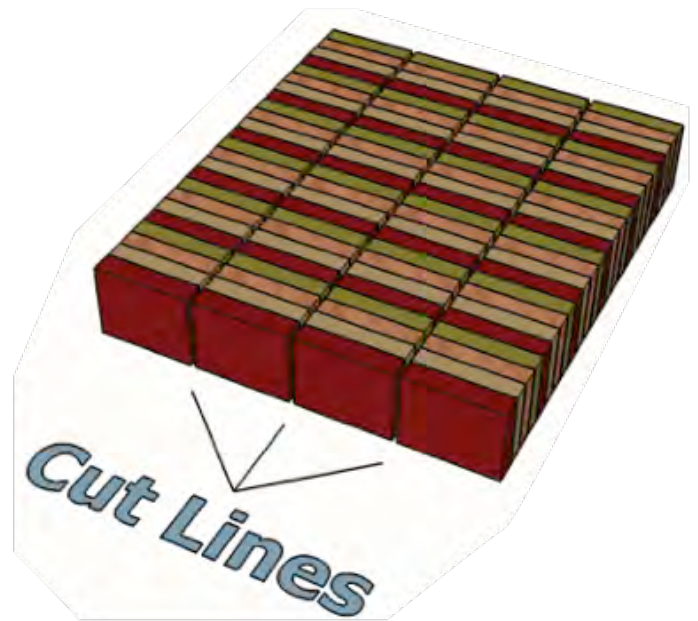
Approximate Finished Bowl Diameter	Waste Core size "A"	Laminated Strip width "B"	Total Length of all Laminated Strips
5	3	1	16
5 1/2	3 1/4	1 1/8	17 3/8
5 3/4	3 1/2	1 1/8	18 5/8
6 1/4	3 3/4	1 1/4	20
6 3/4	4	1 3/8	21 3/8
7	4 1/4	1 3/8	22 5/8
7 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	24
8	4 3/4	1 5/8	25 3/8
8 1/4	5	1 5/8	26 5/8
8 3/4	5 1/4	1 3/4	28
9 1/4	5 1/2	1 7/8	29 3/8
9 1/2	5 3/4	1 7/8	30 5/8
10	6	2	32

## Overview continued

The vertical thickness of the core section, as well as its position between the top and bottom sections is purely a matter of aesthetics. But in order to eliminate the waste core when turning, the surrounding laminated strips need to be of sufficient width to allow the finished bowl to remain outside the square waste core.

### Creating the Lamination Strips

For the bowl size referenced above, you can use the measurements in this example. Start by gluing together thin sections of various wood species as shown.



Then cut the glued-up assembly into 4 equal parts.



## Creating the Lamination Strips continued

You will need 2 strips whose length matches the waste core, and 2 strips whose length reaches almost to the corner of the finished blank (approximately 6 ¾" in this example).

Glue and clamp the shorter strips to the waste core and, when dry, use a table saw or disc sander to trim both sides to produce a perfectly flat, straight edge to accept the longer strips.



Then glue and clamp the longer strips to the flattened sides. When dry, sand the top and bottom surfaces of the finished core to provide a flat surface to accept the top and bottom parts of the blank. After gluing the remaining parts to the finished core, you have a completed bowl blank as shown on Page 1.

For a detailed explanation of the process of laminating wood into various designs, see the References Section at the end of this document.

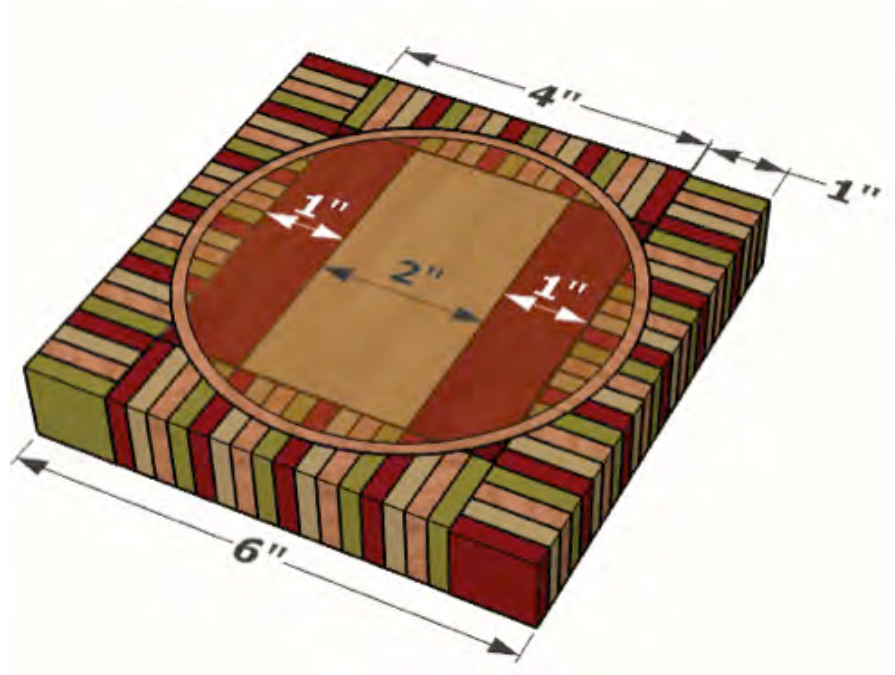


Variations continued

Some folks discovered that if the corners of the waste core were attractive, they could be incorporated into the bowl and accent the laminated strips.

In the example at the left, part of the waste core is replaced with selected woods and allowed to show in the finished product.

Note that the minimum width of the laminated strips as specified in the chart on page 2 is no longer required.



This bowl shows an exposed corner from the waste core. The Purpleheart wood appears as a border between the laminated strips:



Variations continued

Another variation involves changing the orientation of the laminations to reveal layers of alternating wood species when turned. Once again, the corners of the waste core are replaced with exotic woods.



This orientation produces some striking patterns when turned, as in this example. Square Ebony corners of the waste core have become hourglass-shaped frames, and the thin laminated layers are concentric ovals.



#### References

Frank Penta has written excellent tutorials on laminating woods for turning. The following three have been published in More Woodturning magazine.

- Designing and Turning Laminated Wood
- Designing and Turning Laminated Handles
- Turning a Square Laminated Plate

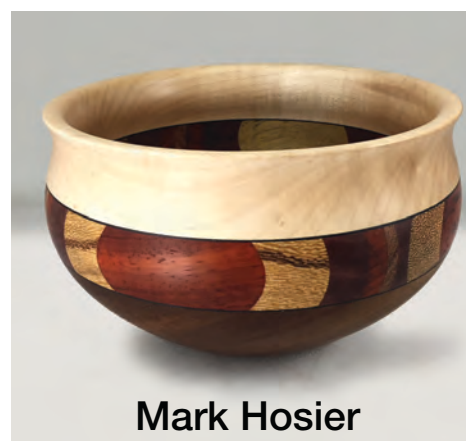
Also see, "Layered Segmented Miniature Bowls", by Earl Martin published in More Woodturning magazine - 09/2017

These articles can be accessed at this URL: <https://goo.gl/8YDXcY>

Or scan this QR code with your smartphone:



Gallery - Laminated bowls turned by members of the Intergalactic Lamination Study Group of the



Chapel Hill Woodturners