

Turning Twisted Goblets

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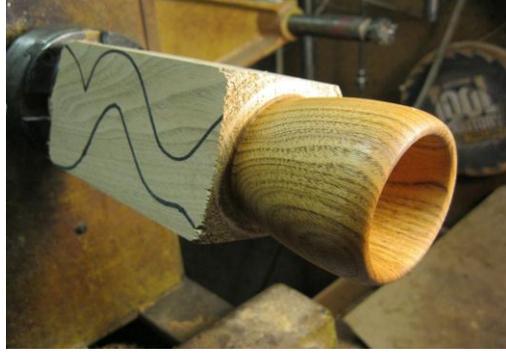
I always tell my students, "here is just one method of making something, try it if it doesn't work for you try another way." Also I always tell everyone, "nothing ever falls up" so be mindful where you place things especially your turned pieces.

Start with a straight grain piece of wood free of cracks and defects and trace the outline on a stiff sheet of cardboard. I use the back of my cereal boxes instead of thin wood because I always make the pattern to fit the piece of wood and not the other way around. Then freehand draw the shape of the goblet you want to turn. Cut the cardboard pattern out and trace it onto two sides of the wood.



Now find the center on both ends of the billet and mount it between centers on your lathe. Turn a spigot to fit your chuck on the headstock side of the wood.

Remove the wood from between centers and remount into your chuck using the spigot you just made. **Important** only turn and finish the bowl of the goblet leaving the stem section square.



Now remove the goblet and take it to the bandsaw and cut out the stem section. Cut one side and tape the cutoff pieces back onto the billet in order to keep the wood square for cutting the other side.



You will end up with a turned bowl and a roughed out stem. Remount the goblet on the lathe and use a tapered live center in the tailstock to hold the goblet steady. You can turn only the base of the goblet with the lathe turned on and the rest must be blended in by hand with the lathe turned off. Now begin to carve the stem to shape using whatever rotary air or electric tool you have plus files sand paper. Make sure the bowl, stem and the base have a smooth and graceful transition.

