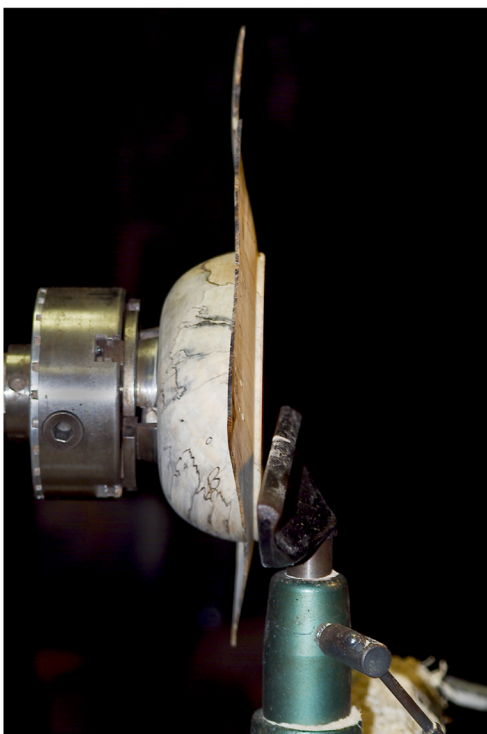




Using your bowl gouge of choice, I use a 5/8" fingernail grind gouge for most work, some times a 5/8" flat ground gouge but for most finish cuts I will go to a 3/8" fingernail grind at 40 degrees. Level off the top of the wing somewhat, then begin to cut the wing to final thickness by cutting in steps as shown in photo at left. Only cut a small step to final thickness at a time, about 1/2 inch. The photo at left shows the first 1/2 inch to a little less than 1/8 inch thick. Then shows the next 1/2 inch step being cut to the same level. The thinner you cut the wing the smaller steps you can take. For 1/16" thin about a 1/4 inch step. The photo at left shows the limb extension being the only part being cut on each rotation. (SPEED is your friend, faster is better).

HINT: Always sharpen your gouge before you make the final cut on each step. It will give a cleaner cut and will take less force to make the cut, thereby putting less pressure on the wing.

HINT: When cutting wing to final thickness it is better to go a little too thick than too thin, it's hard to recover from too thin. You can always sand down the thick areas.



When cutting green wood, the wood (wing) will warp while you are cutting it because of moisture loss. To help prevent this you should mist with water or wipe often with a wet sponge. If the wing warps you will cut one part thinner than another, (not good). Note tape as mentioned earlier, helps you remember where the outer edge of wing is (ask me how I know this too).

The Negative Rake scraper is used to smooth transitions between steps and blend in steps. You can sand as you go while wing is still supported by thicker part of wing. Photo above shows cut farther down wing, at this point I'm about to start cutting into two more corners of the wing. Continue this step by step process to thin wing all the way to what will be the rim of the bowl, being careful to match up the outside of the rim on top with the outside of the bowl underneath the wing, photo at left.