

Thin Stem Natural Edge Goblet

Rudolph Lopez
rudolphlopez.com



- 1 Evaluate limb; Pith must be off-center to the same side of the limb for the entire length of the limb. Pith cannot be in the center or cross through center as this will cause the stem to break. Decide which end you would like as the top of the goblet. This limb was similar in shape at both ends, but I will generally choose the more unusual shaped end for the top.



- 2 Place limb between centers with the end you decided on as the top at the headstock. Center the limb with the drive-center and live-center more or less on the center of the limb, this should position the pith out of the centerline of the goblet stem. Before turning the lathe on **sharpen your gouge**, then set the pulleys or the speed control to a slow speed before starting the lathe.



- 3 With the lathe set to a safe speed to control vibration of the irregular shaped limb begin removing a bit of bulk. I use a 5/8" or 3/8" - fingernail grind bowl gouge. Remember to leave about 3/4" of natural edge bark area at both ends of the limb, (photos at right). Begin with light bevel supported cuts downhill from right to left at the base end (tailstock) and downhill from left to right at the rim end (headstock). Continue to round out the limb to help balance it so the speed can be increased but leave the limb thick for support. Cut a tenon on the base end (tailstock). Note off center pith location in middle photo at right.

