

**G**raham made an interesting three pointed bowl with circular stand from a 5" cube of ash. Must be as close to a cube as possible.

The cube was mounted between small ring centres (Multistar) on opposing corners using the poorest quality corners.

Care should be taken when first turning as there are four corners rotating at speed and in different planes. Make a spigot at the tailstock and from this turn the base roughly. Remount on the spigot and turn a spigot on the other end. Take out some waste from the tailstock end. A piece of card underneath the item will help identify the position of the rotating corners. Finish turning the underneath of the bowl and the base. Optionally you may put a bead at the join but this will make staining difficult.



Sanding - the piece needs a good finish for burning and gilt cream.

Graham then used a small blowtorch to char evenly the base and underneath of the bowl. He sprayed this area with acrylic car paint. This should dry quickly due to the heat on the wood. After the spray-paint has dried, rub in some gilt cream and polish off. Other finishes could include verdigris wax and liming wax.

The bowl was remounted the other way round and, being careful to do a small bit at a time, he removed waste from the top. He hollowed an inch or so and then finished this before hollowing further. Once hollowing was complete Graham used an oil coat to finish the inside of the bowl.



The wall thickness of the bowl is very much down to your level of skill (and bravery) but you should aim to be consistent. A block of wood with sandpaper is used to do the edges and to remove any overspray..

The base is finished by using one of Grahams jigs - a leather covered pad mounted in the chuck which fits in the bowl while the base with support at the tailstock is turned away. Use a concave cut to ensure that the bowl has a good standing. The central pip will be removed with a carving chisel. Sand the bottom and finish with three or four coats of oil.

These bowls are more ornamental than useful but will hold a few sweets or a candle for example. The following pictures show the cube and a completed bowl, and a variation, a reversible bowl



This was an interesting demonstration of something out of the ordinary and during the course of the demonstration Graham threw in a couple of tips:

- A wet pumice stone will clean off a diamond hone and thus extend its life
- There are some useful items on sale through a seller on e-bay. I have checked and found this to be 'boffin53' A general search for boffin53 on Google will take you straight to the items he currently has for sale.
- A soft wire brush such as is used to clean suede shoes will clean the grain after charring.

*Ian Cotgrove*