

## Temple's Turning Tips

# Long, thin-stem Goblets

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The following summary presents one workable process of turning a long, thin-stemmed goblet on the lathe:



- ◆ Begin by mounting the blank to be turned in a self-centering chuck, glue block, or faceplate. For safety and smooth turning, when using a glue-block, consider turning a tenon as part of the glue mounting, when using a faceplate, clearly mark a generous distance showing waste section with embedded screws. Lovely wood and careful turning efforts can be too easily ruined by too little attention to the initial mounting operations.

- ◆ Round the blank to a smooth cylinder with the maximum diameter of the desired goblet.



- ◆ Shape, smooth, and sand the outside of the goblet cup with particular attention to the cup lip. Do not shape to final stem size; rather, leave at least 2/3 of the cylinder diameter to support the hollowing stress. Remove the tailstock.



- ◆ Using a fairly slow lathe speed, drill out the center of the goblet cup taking care not to drill to the final depth.



- ◆ Hollow the cup by removing the first ½ inch of wood to finished wall thickness and detailed attention to the finished inside lip of the cup. Follow with removing the bulk waste with a detail or fingernail gouge to the bottom of the drilled depth. Using the angled side-scraper, turn to finished wall thickness. Using the rounded scraper detail the transition from side-to-bottom and finish the bottom. Sand the inside of the cup smooth. Finish the outside and inside of the goblet cup with an appropriate “food-safe” finish. Friction dry the finish.



- ◆ Loosely pack the cup with soft paper or foam. Reintroduce the tailstock with the live center running in the cup against the paper/foam. This will support the large cup once the goblet stem is thinned. Do not expect to return to work or finish the cup once the stem is thinned.



- ◆ Define the bottom of the base (taking into account size and shape as well as the need to angle the parting tool for the cut-off without hitting mounting screws or chuck fixtures. Mark also the style and visual “weight” of the goblet base to establish pleasing proportions.
- ◆ Working from tailstock-to-headstock (from right to left) progressively thin the stem to the next detail diameter.
- ◆ Detail and complete the stem tapers, beads, jars, and coves from large-to-small and from cup-to-base.



- ◆ Sand and finish the stem and base. Below the cup, use either the same food-safe finish or another.
- ◆ Part off using by reverse-hollowing the underside of the goblet base with a sharp taper. With the live center holding the cup steady and the tapered plug from the headstock, the goblet will stop still restrained between centers when finally cut off the driving waste block.



- ◆ Smooth and apply finish to the bottom before signing. Consider adding a second and third coat of food-safe finish to the inside and outside of the cup. Apply wax or other additional finishes only to the base and stem to avoid an unpleasant “taste” when the goblet is used. If you are satisfied with your design, make another one just like the first!