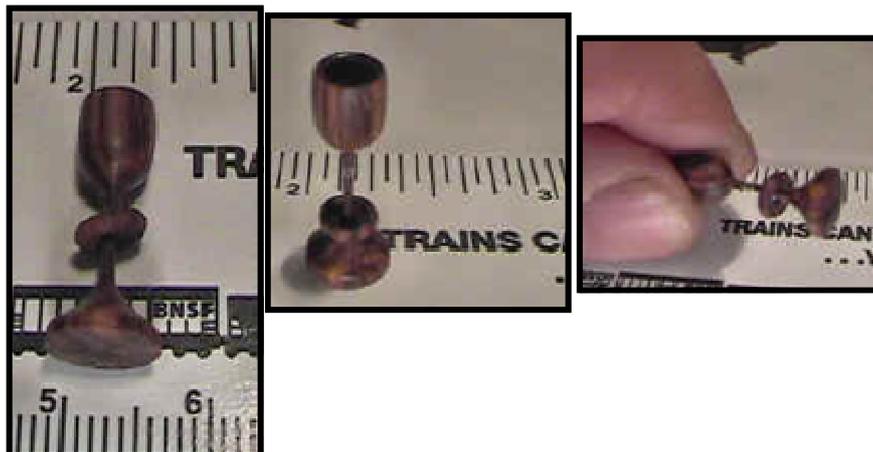


# Turning a Captured Ring

*Andrew Hilton*

Woodturner captured rings are a neat way of dressing up a boring turned piece or just simply showing off your skills. It can also have some (maybe heavily contrived?) emotional meaning in the case of what's called a "Wedding Goblet". Either way, it's a fun turning project and will turn a few heads ... Woodturners or otherwise.

Here's a really basic series of photos of the process when using a non-captured-ring tool. That means I'm not using a tool specifically designed for this. I much prefer making my captured rings using parting tools or skewers and this is how I do it. The ring is all one piece with no splits and joins. Often, however, that is done when making 2 or more rings and then splitting all but one of them to join them all together later so that they are captured within each other. There's another way of doing this that doesn't involve splitting them at all but that's for another article. I left the ring big and fat so that it would be clearer to see in the pictures. I also didn't do anything to the surrounding areas. I just left them blank instead of making, for instance, a goblet out of the rest surrounding the captured ring.

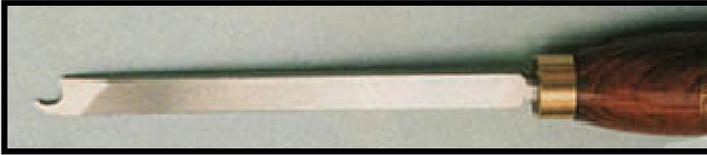


## Captured-Ring Small Goblet

3/4" tall, 1/4" wide cup, 1/32" stem

This ring was done with a skewer.

A basic goblet shape .. Not all that pretty but it was a challenge ... at the time ... I've done MUCH smaller ones since. And there's only so much you can do, stylistically, in such a tiny space of wood.



Here's a specialized tool for making captured rings if you'd like to go that route.

By the way, they are **very** easy to make yourself.



Start off with a smooth cylinder. You'll notice some grooves on the right side. That's just some teaching I had been doing and showing how to do those. That area does give you a reference point for the captured rings though.



Simply make 2 half-coves with your tool of choice on either side of what will become the bead .... or top half of the ring. I used a skew but you can just as well use a shallow-fluted gouge (aka spindle gouge) or another tool.



A look from the other side. Make the bottom of the 2 half-coves deep enough so that you can get enough wiggle room to make the size of ring you want but don't go so far down that you make the spindle wobbly or easily broken for the rest of the project



Round off the edges of the bead.



Sand them at this point. You may not get a chance to easily do it again in case you pop off the ring earlier than you expect.



Continue working down each side with whatever tool you want. Here, I'm using just a small rounded skew.



Close-up of that.



Other side of that



Here's a hook scraper I made for other purposes but it works well here too. You can buy special built tools just for making captured rings and they work well. Personally, I just use the skew most times.



You can really get down in there and form a good rounded area in the middle part of the ring. Take care .... it's easy to go too far too quick.



Here's a very small (1/8" wide) skew (aka parting tool) that can be used as well.



Close-up of that.



And just a 1/2" skewer can be used as well. You have to have enough wiggle room in that half-cove to get the tip up and under there. Careful though ... you can get quite a nasty catch if you're not careful.



Keep working down the sides until it's not quite ready to break free. Sand the sides and bottom of the ring as you go. Once the ring breaks free, you'll have to hand-sand all around and under the ring. That's not fun. Do as little of that as possible by sanding as you go. Cut a little off both sides and sand ... repeat.



And more sanding ..... \*sigh\*



Finally, I worked down the sides and angled it so that each side met (hopefully) at the same place. If you've done it well ... and the wood was cooperating ..... all you have left is just a little ring of un-sanded wood under the freed ring to hand sand. Do it now because a rough surface under there will cause scratches on the rest of the wood under it where it came from.



It's FREEEEEEEE ! "*Set my riiiiinnnnnggggg FREEEEEEEE*". Lord of the Ring maybe? How about just Peasant of the Ring? hmmm Yea yea yea ... I know. Leave the comedy to the professionals.



See? It's really on there. What I didn't take a picture of was the process of working the rest of the wood underneath it. That newly freed (no, I'm not going to sing again!) ring can really get to spinning and flopping around getting in your way. Many times you can just hold it with one hand but other times you need to .....



..... tape it down and out of your way. I had some duct tape handy so I used that. You'll have to move it to the other side in order to work the left side of course. This is, by the way, a good way to hold that ring steady if you need to clean up that bottom (cutting or just sanding it). You know .... if it came loose (I'm FREEEEEE!) too soon and you didn't get it nicely finished underneath. Just tape it to one side .... work it and then tape it to the other side and work that until satisfied.



Tada! That's it folks ... nothing else to see here. Keep it moving!