# Put it on a pedestal

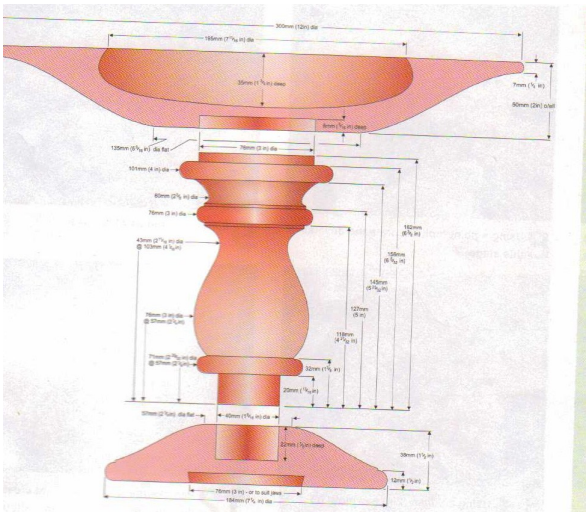
**Nick Arnull** turns a hollow bowel on a pedestal-known as a tazza

For many years, my wife Jane has been requesting a tazza, which is a hollow ornamental bowl usually found on a pedestal. The making of this piece requires two disciplines-faceplate and spindle turning techniques-but surprising few tools are needed to complete it successfully.

The timber does need to match, and I have made my version in a classical form with the only decoration being on the spindle. There is no reason why you cannot develop this design and add decoration to the base or bowl. For this project I chose Tasmanian blackwood (Acacia melanoxylon). Three pieces were required, and were cut from the same board.

## Health and safety

**In this article the usual safety issues apply while turning-protect your eyes and lungs at all times and work at a speed with which you feel comfortable and safe.**



## Tools required

10mm and 6mm square grind bowl gouges

38mm spindle roughing gouge

10mm fingernail spindle gouge

12mm skewchigouge

12mm and 10mm round nose scraper

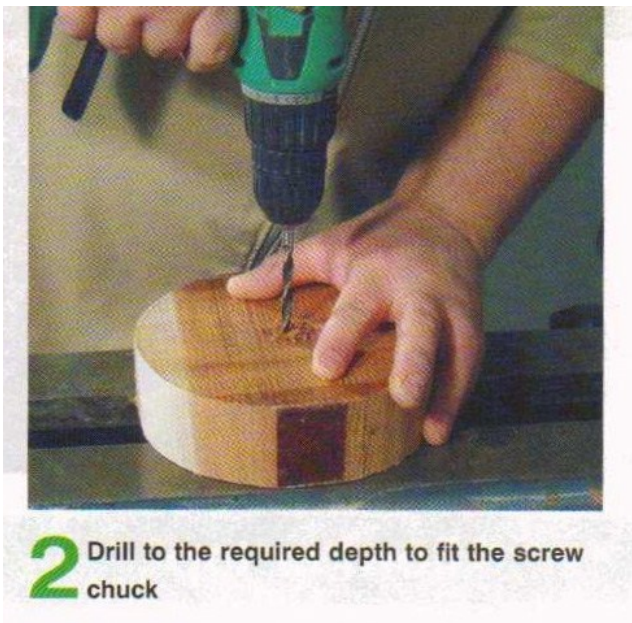
Jacobs chuck and 50mm saw bit

7/10mm Brad point drill bit to match your screw chuck

Various measuring and marking tools.

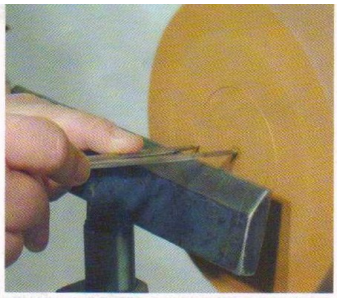
# BASE

1 Centre your blank

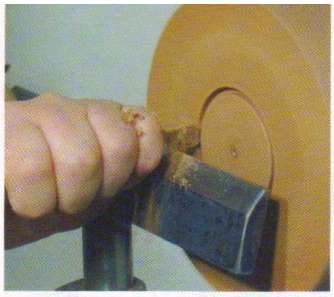


2 Drill to the required depth to fit the screw chuck

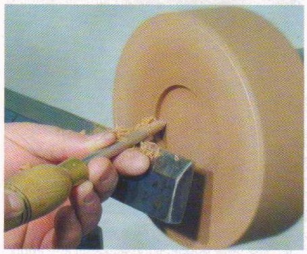
# TECHNIQUE



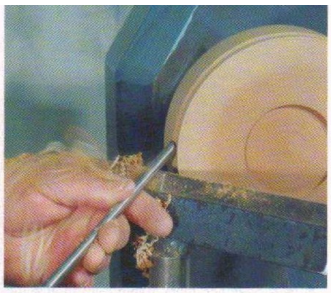
3 True the base and mark the diameter of your dovetail



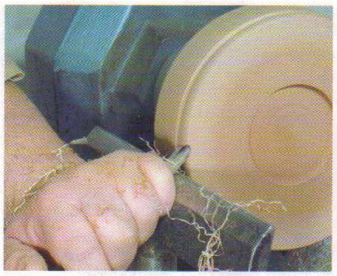
4 Using a 3mm (¼in) parting tool, plunge to 5mm (3/16in) deep



5 Remove the waste wood in the centres. Using a skew chisel create an undercut to form the dovetail to match your chuck jaws

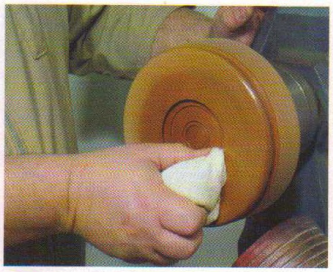


6 True the edge of the blank with 6mm (¼in) bowl gouge

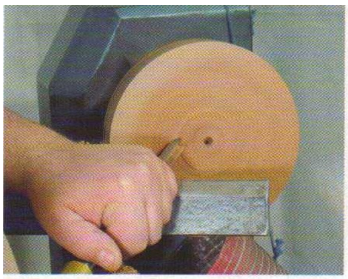


7 Measure 10mm (⅜in) from the base and turn the bead

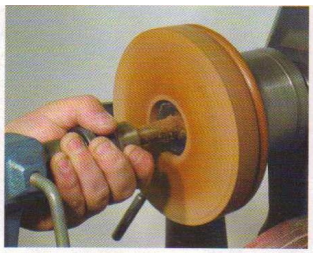
8 Using a point tool, decorate the dovetail at this stage



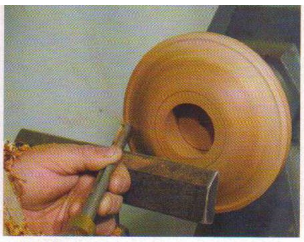
9 Sand, seal and wax the base



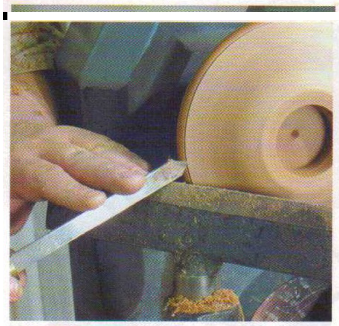
10 Reverse chuck and true the face



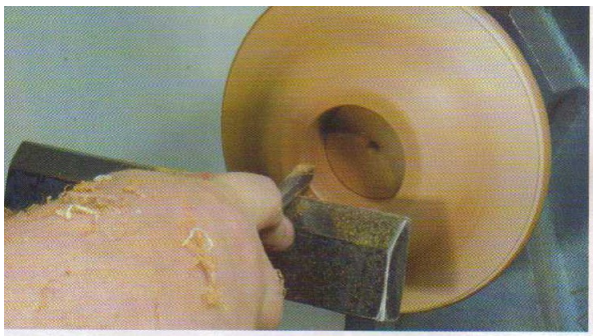
11 Using a 50mm (2in) sawtooth bit mounted in a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock, drill a hole 25mm deep into the top of the base



12 Remove the waste wood and create the required profile leaving a shoulder to sit the spindle upon. Finishing cuts are made with a 10mm (¼in) bowl gouge

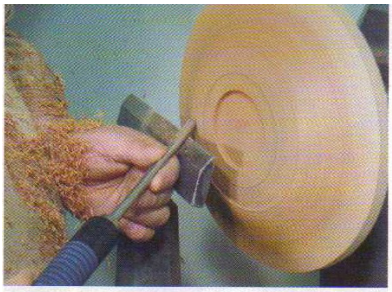


13 Relieve the bead to expose it using a small parting tool

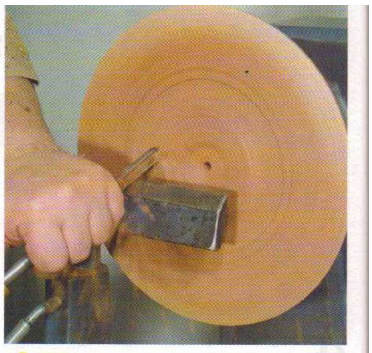


14 Place a small chamfer on the edge of the drill hole to help when fitting the spigot. Sand, seal and polish

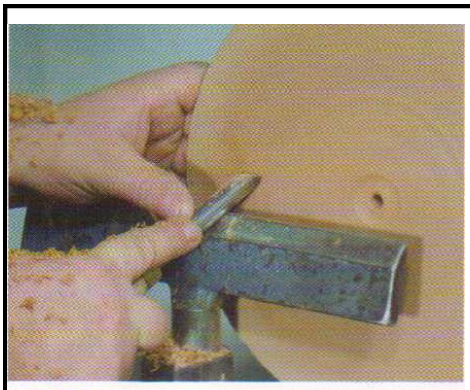
15 As before, create a dovetail on the base and mark 10mm (⅜in) to give th spindle somewhere to sit. Create the outside shape of your bowl using 10mm (⅜in) bowl gouge



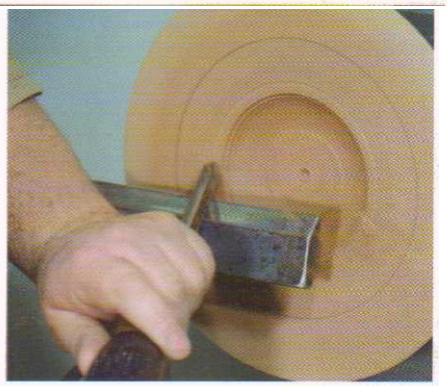
16 Make finishing cuts with a 6mm (¼in) bowl gouge, sand and seal and apply wax and polish. Do not finish into the dovetail area as this will be glued at a later stage



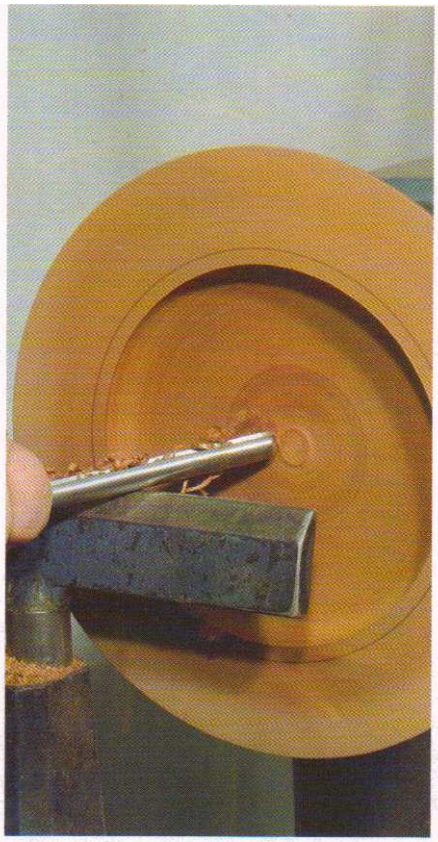
17 Reverse chuck and true the face/rim of the bowl



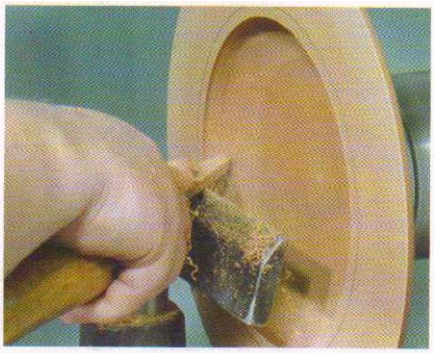
**18** Shear scrape using a round skew chisel



**19** Mark the area to leave as the rim and begin to remove the centre of the bowl



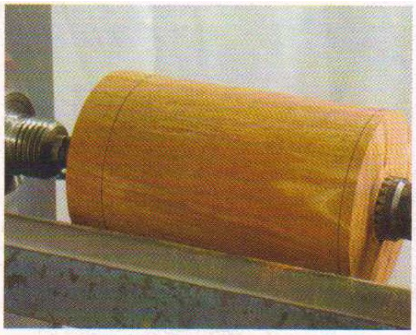
**20** Finish the bowl – notice the undercut at the rim



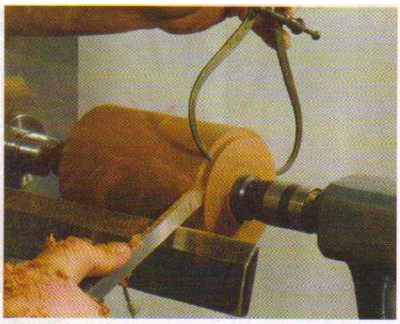
**21** If needed, use a small round nose scraper to gently clean up any bumps at the undercut

**22** Sand and seal and apply a coat of wax and polish

**23** Mark the centre of your blank and drive the centres using a soft-faced mallet

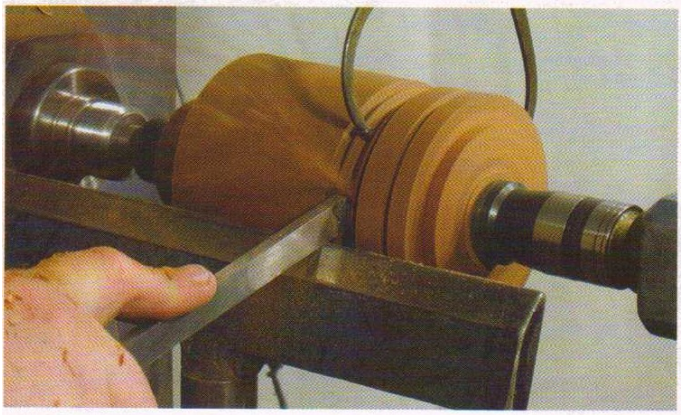


**24** Mount between centres and make round. Mark the spigots as required at either end – 5mm (3/16in) top, 20mm (25/32in) bottom

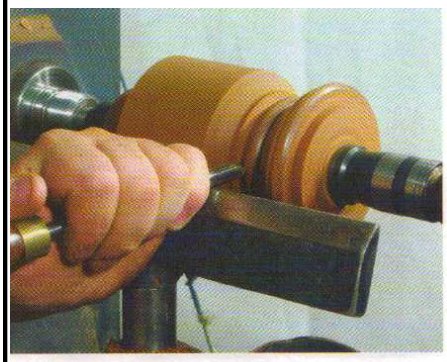


**25** Using a 6mm (1/4in) parting tool, accurately turn down to the required diameter. Do this at both ends – 50mm (2in) bottom, 70mm (2 25/32in) top

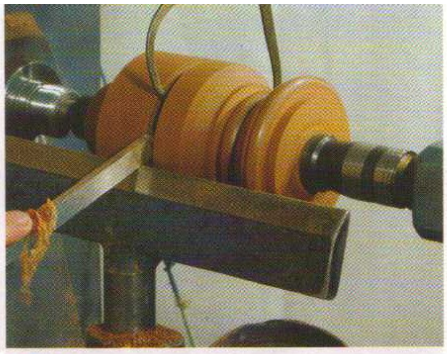
**26** Mark 10mm (3/8in) from the top and part in to define the width of the top bead



**27** Now mark 15mm (9/16in) from the bead to create the cove, then 10mm (3/8in) to create the bottom bead. Part in to the required depths and reduce the diameter to that of the bottom bead

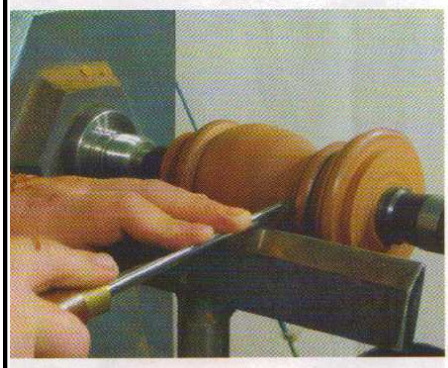


**28** Define the beads using the 10mm (⅜in) spindle gouge

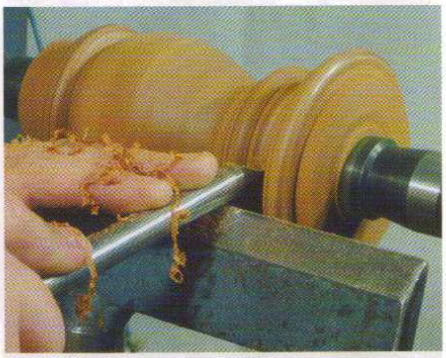


**29** Reduce the main spindle to the final diameter at the widest point

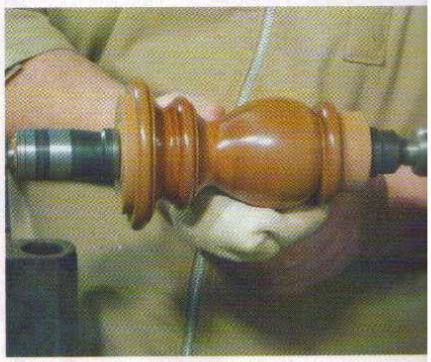
**30** Measure 10mm (⅜in) from the bottom and reduce the diameter to that required, then define the bead



**31** Finally shape the spindle using the 10mm (⅜in) spindle gouge



**32** In hard to reach areas I cheat using a 'skewchigouge'



**33** Sand and seal, wax and then polish

## Final Assembly

**34** All that remains is to glue the pieces together. Remember to match the grain – it is all too easy to hurry this stage and forget that the grain needs to be lined up. Once the glue gets hold the job is ruined, so take your time at this stage

## Alternative size

The bowl could also be made larger to say 350mm (14in), keeping the base at the same diameter, or alternatively the plans could be reduced totally by 10 or 20% to produce a smaller version.

Bowl
300 x 50mm (12 x 2in)

Spindle
100 x 170mm (4 x 6 25/32in)

Base
200 x 50mm (8 x 2in)