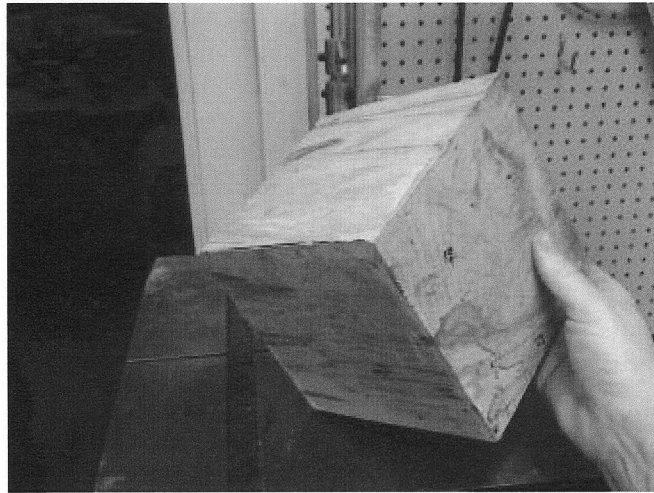
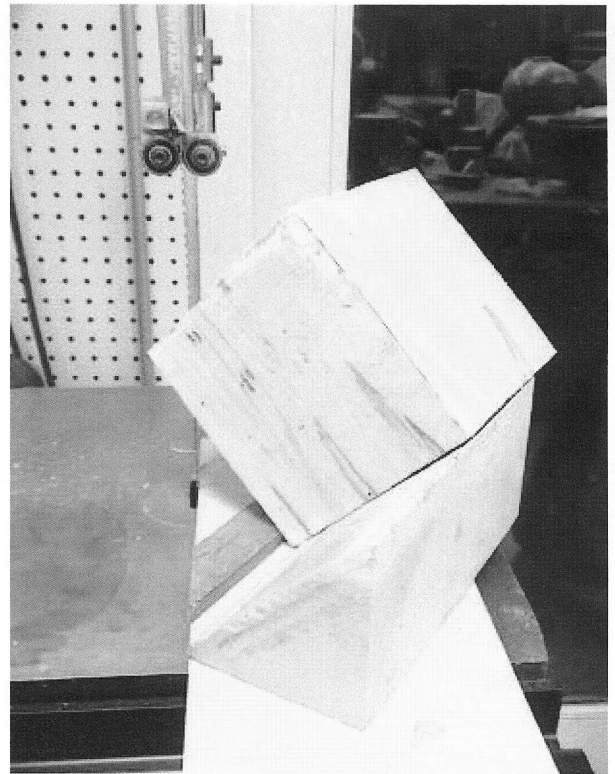
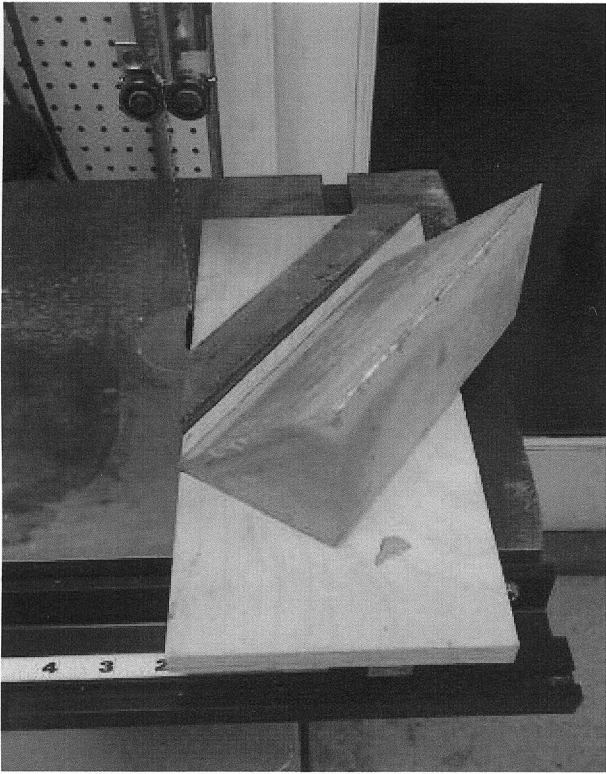


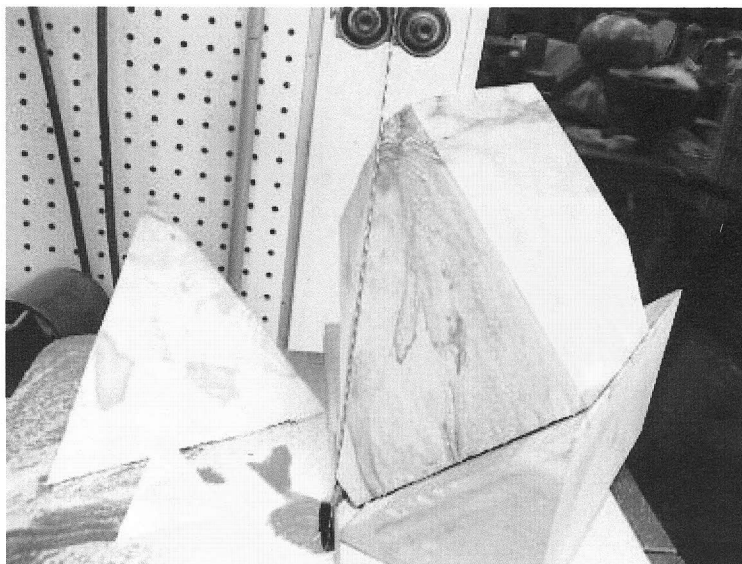
To turn a three cornered bowl, you begin with a cube.

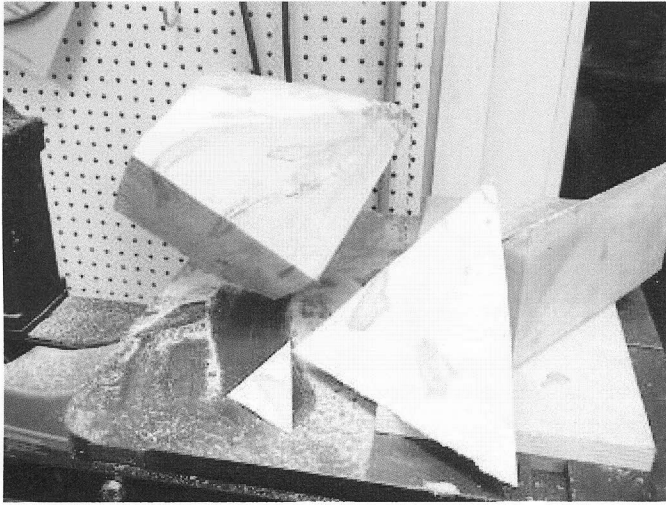


The cube will be turned between two opposite corners. To make it easier to mount between centers a jig can be made for the band saw that allows the two corners to be cut so that they are parallel to each other and leave a flat area where the centers can hold the piece securely.

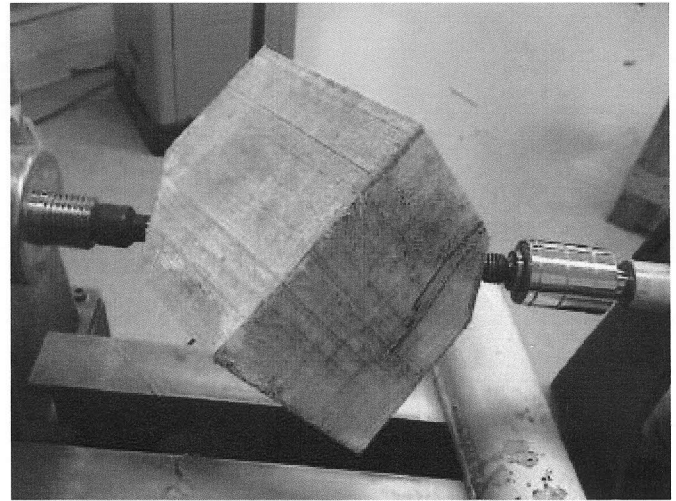


Quite a bit can be cut from the corner that is going to be the top of the bowl. This is material that is going to be cut away anyway, so it saves a lot of time.





The cube is ready to be mounted between centers

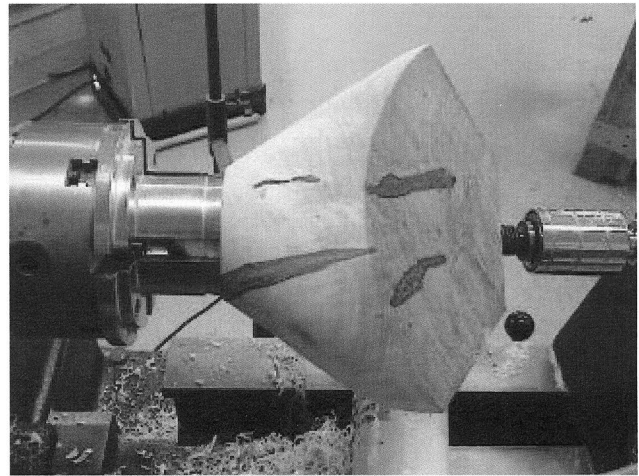
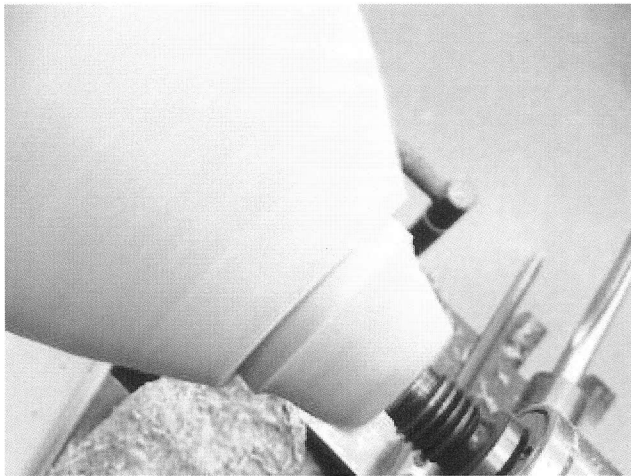


When the cube is spinning you will see two sets of points. The lower set of points (in this case, the ones on the tailstock side) will be turned away to shape the outside of the bowl.

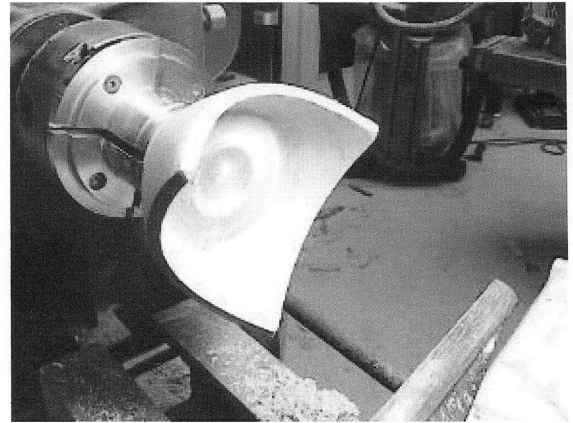
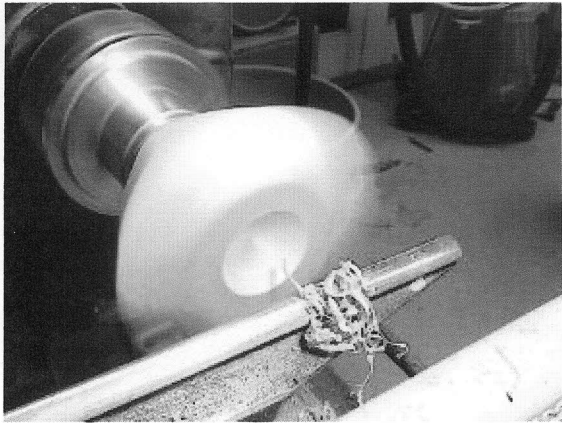
The direction you orient the bowl between centers is your choice but for the purpose of these pictures, the top is toward the headstock. The grain orientation will be crazy. Sometimes you will get a cleaner cut going from bottom to top and other times it cuts better from the top to bottom.

Experiment.

Now the bottom of the bowl will begin to take shape. A tenon must be turned so that the piece can be mounted in a chuck where it will be hollowed. Deep jaws allow more wood to be used at the bottom. This gives you more options when it comes to the final shape and depth of the bowl.



The bowl is hollowed in the same manner as a traditional bowl except that as you cut down to form the three points you will be making an interrupted cut which requires extra care. For a clean cut you must try to apply all pressure on the tool straight down onto the tool rest rather than aggressively pushing in. Resist the temptation to hog out wood as fast as you can. The cut will not be clean and with such a small tenon holding the piece in the chuck, there is a danger of knocking it out of the jaws when too much force is applied.

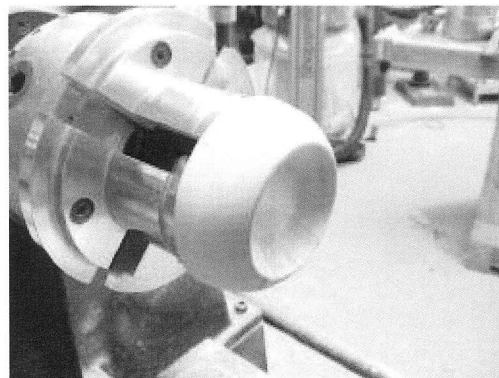
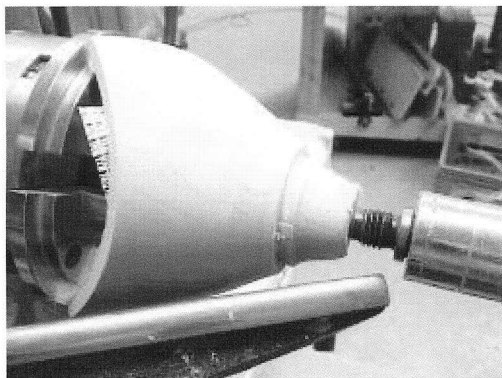


Thin the “wings” to the desired thickness before completely hollowing the center to its final depth. This extra wood adds support and helps eliminate the flex in the corners as they get thin. If you are going to use a scraper to clean this section it must be done now. Once you have finished hollowing, you cannot go back.

Finish hollowing. Even with a fairly small cube, you will be cutting quite a distance off of the tool rest. Use a tool with a long heavy handle for a cleaner cut.



Now you are ready to turn the bowl around and finish the bottom. Turn a jam chuck from a scrap of wood. Place it in the chuck jaws and cover it with a piece of plastic shelf liner to keep it from scratching the inside of your bowl. Use the original center that is still on the bottom to center the piece as you bring up the tailstock to hold it in place.



Shape the bottom of your bowl and taper waste at bottom so that it can be taken off with a carving gouge. Power sanding on the lathe is not recommended because it is likely that you will round over the sharp edges at the top in the process. Good luck and happy shavings!

