

Upgrade to the Teknatool Cole Jaws

by Anthony Napoli, AAW, CMW

When we turn a bowl project, the final turning step involves turning the bottom portion of the bowl. This final step merges the bowl shape into the foot and allows you to incorporate whatever design work you want to bring to the foot itself. This can include creating a series of grooves, a bead, a combination, or even carving. There are many ways to hold a piece depending on the characteristics of the piece itself. The holding options are often dictated by the shape at the top of the bowl, wall thickness, voids in the bowl, etc. As a result, we can choose to use 1) a jam chuck holding the inside or the outside edge of the piece, or 2) hold it in the chuck jaws or a clamping jig that sandwiches the piece between two discs of plywood/MDF, or 3) use a vacuum chuck. You may want to use any of the above methods, but you may not have the necessary equipment or materials. This is where I have found the Teknatool Cole Jaws to be useful

Teknatools has made two similar systems for holding pieces for bottom turning: the Cole Jaws - Mini (#6006) and the larger Cole Jaws Set (#JSCOLE). They come with rubber buns and should be used up to 600 rpm for the larger set and up to 800 rpm for the mini. Figure 1 shows the rubber buns have a height of 1/2" and work well with conventional edge bowls. The Cole Jaws are only designed for re-chucking small, lightweight bowls that are 10" in diameter for the full size Cole and 8" for the mini Cole. For larger, heavier bowls, Teknatool has



Figure 1. This photo shows the rubber buns have a height of 1/2" and work well with conventional edge bowls.

drawings and instructions for MDF jaws extensions that are bolted on to the Cole jaws. So you have two Cole jaw options and an option for increasing the size capacity of either of the jaws. However, what do you do if you have a non-conventional edge that either does not touch the holding plates, or has a curved top edge, or other edge irregularity? For instance, this piece shown (Figure 2) is a triple off-center turned bowl and its edge does not sit on the Cole plates resulting in no edge to grip with the buns. I did not have available a suitable sized piece of wood to make a jam chuck. Vacuum chucking was out because I created the piece with a hole through the center.

With a small investment you can increase the capacity of the Cole Jaws.



Figure 2. This photo shows a triple off-center turned bowl and its edge does not sit on the Cole plates resulting in no edge to grip with the buns.

With a small investment you can increase the capacity of the Cole Jaws from the 1/2" up to 1" height capacity. In Figure 3 are the components needed to upgrade the Cole Jaws capacity. I used 1-3/4" pan head screw (1-1/2" will work), a 1" long steel sleeve, and clear vinyl tubing with 1/2" outside diameter and 3/8" inside diameter. The steel sleeve slides over the screw and the vinyl tubing is cut to 1" length and slid over the steel sleeve. Also when the bowls' edge does not touch the plates, I will use a small washer between the plates and the steel sleeve to create more contact surface.



Figure 3. This photo shows the components needed to upgrade the Cole Jaws capacity.

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Figure 4. Shows the upgrade installed and seems to hold the piece a little more securely than the rubber buns provided with the Cole Jaws.

Too much pressure may leave marks or even crack your piece.

This upgrade works well and seems to hold the piece a little more securely than the rubber buns provided with the Cole Jaws. (See Figure 4.) The steel sleeve, when tightened to the plates, does not flex or give. Depending on the height of the piece you will need to be aware of where the screws are in relationship to your tool and fingers. However, remember not to exceed Teknatool's recommended rpm speed. Also, keep in mind the clamping pressure versus the results it may have on your piece. Too much pressure may leave marks or even crack your piece. As you can see, this upgrade increases the

capacity of the jaws with limited investment of time and expense.



Figure 5. This shows a sample piece being held in the upgraded jaws.

Warning: *As with any chucking system there is still the possibility of a piece dislodging and flying off while turning. Follow all of Teknatool's warnings for the use of the Cole Jaws. Again, these jaws were designed for re-chucking only. This includes but is not limited to, taking aggressive cuts, and/or trying to do major turning work. As always, choose the correct tool, and use it properly.*

Our Trip to Florida in February

by Fred Holder

After attending the Desert Woodturning Roundup in Mesa, Arizona, we flew to Orlando, Florida where I was scheduled to do two demonstrations. One was before the International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS) meeting which was to be held near Eustus, Florida. We arrived in Orlando and then drove North to meet Keith Larrett who guided us to the demonstration location in Orange Park, Florida. The location was Jim and Sandy Schroerer's home and shop. They also hosted us for Saturday and Sunday nights. I did a half day demonstration on Saturday and then a full day hands on event on Sunday.

Monday morning we bid our hosts goodbye and drove south back to the Orlando area to locate the Woodcraft Store where I was to demonstrate on Thursday evening. We needed to locate the store and learn how to get from the Lake Yale Baptist conference Center to there and back in the dark. We took one day of rest on Tuesday before the IWCS event was to begin.

IWCS Winter Woodfest 2009-Florida

The International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS) Winter Woodfest for 2009 was held at the Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center near Eustus, Florida from February 18 through 22, 2009 with Chris Nothnagle serving as host. There was over 140 members in attendance. The event began with registration and set up of exhibits in the auditorium at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18. Actually,