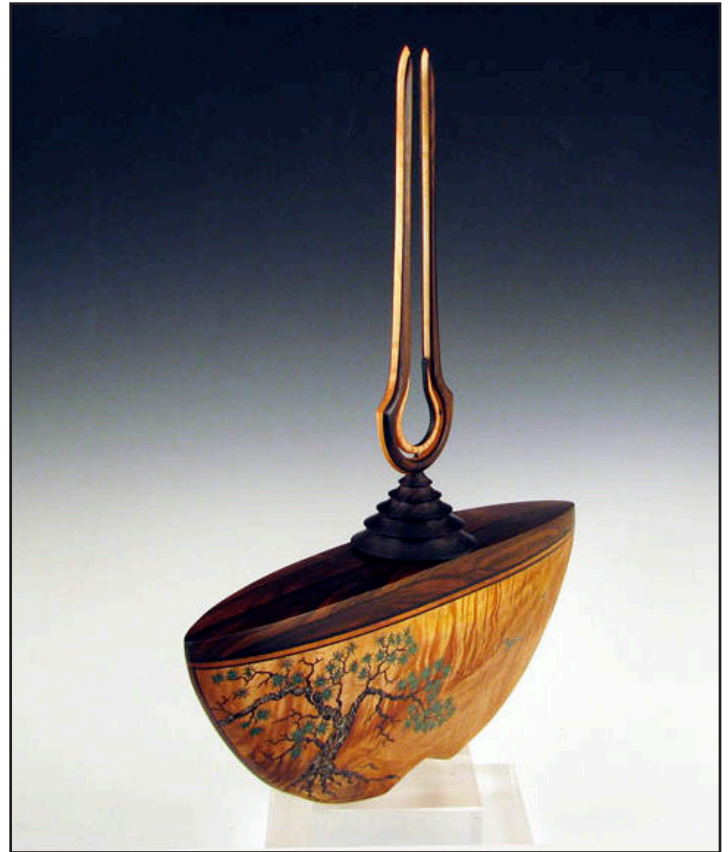


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Half-Moon Form



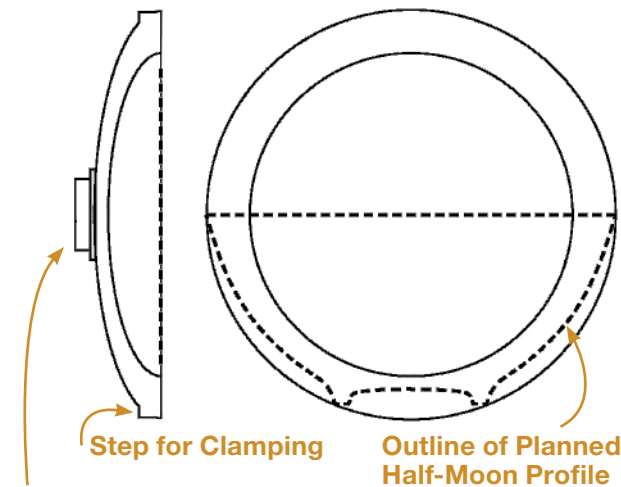
Half-Moon Form

Half-moon forms are made by cutting a bowl in half and reassembling it. Although the turning aspect is easy, making one requires a lot of power carving and power sanding. The two types, open and closed forms, involve planning, cutting, assembling, clamping, carving, adding a rim, and finishing. The use of accent veneers, inlay, and airbrushing are touched on briefly but a 90-minute demo is not enough time to fully cover these aspects.

As mentioned above, these techniques use power carving tools and sanders. Beware – power carvers are powerful tools and can catch on the wood. Be sure to secure the work and be sure you have control of the tool. Wear eye, ear, and lung protection. Consider wearing a Kevlar carving glove on the hand nearest the cutting tool or when sanding.

The approximate proportions for turning a half-moon vessel are illustrated in two diagrams. Use a ruler to scale to your project size and adjust to your preferences. The important thing is to plan the profile so the feet and sides can be carved without making the walls too thin. You must have a berm around the outside that will support some type of clamps.

After rough turning, allow the wood to dry and then turn to the shape shown in the illustration.



Tenon - will be removed later

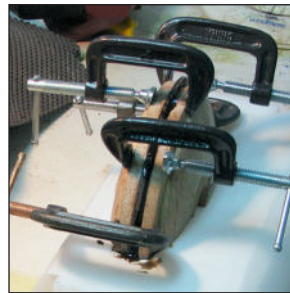
Sand the interior.



Use a suitable sander with 220 grit to make sure the faces have flat glue faces. Cut the “bowl” in half through the tenon. The grain tends to line up, but give thought to the figure, too.



Glue the two halves together with Titebond 1 and secure using clamps on the step. Be sure the interior is aligned. Allow to dry overnight. Rough cut the sides and feet on a bandsaw. Use a wedge to keep the piece stable.



Using power and/or hand carving, rough shape the feet and profile. Measure the thickness often to ensure the wall integrity. Mount a drum sander in a drill press with 80 grit to shape and smooth all surfaces.



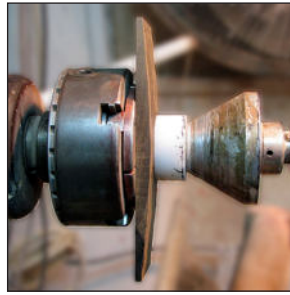
Using a suitable sander with 220 grit, make sure the top opening has a flat glue face.



Add a rim using segmented techniques. Here pieces from an ebony guitar fingerboard are fit together and held in place with rubber bands and clamps. Use a 23" to 5" disc sander in a drill press to complete a smooth shape. Continue up to 400 grit at least, and finish as you prefer.

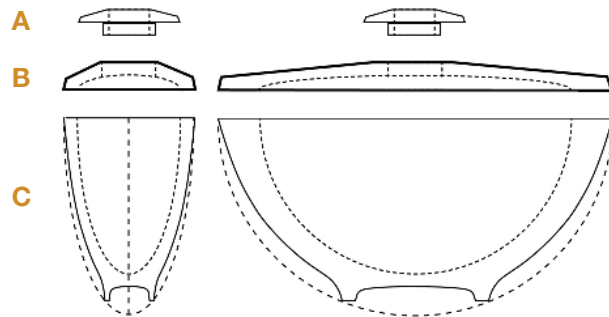


Mount the board and turn the top profile. Carve the excess material away from the interior portion of the lid. Sand smooth.



CLOSING THE HALF-MOON FORM

Refer to the diagram to visualize the addition of a top on the open form of the half-moon vessel.



- A - rim (optional lid & finial not shown)**
- B - top piece turned from a board**
- C - vessel body (solid line is finished form)**

Rough cut a board of complementary species to slightly larger than the dimensions of the top of the open vessel. Drill a hole in the center of this board to allow a small expanding chuck to fit. Sand the glue side flat.



Glue the body and top together with G/Flex epoxy and secure using larger rubber band clamps (rockler.com). Be sure the top hole is centered. Allow to cure overnight.



Further trim the top and body to rough in the desired shape. Smooth the junction between the top and vessel body carefully, starting with 60 to 80 grit. Mount a firm sanding pad onto a drill press to make this quick and easy. Finish up to 400+ grit.



Add a rim using G/Flex adhesive and optionally a lid plus finial.