



Florida Woodturning Symposium Feb 20th – 22nd, 2026

Brian Rosencrantz, Demonstrator

Using the lost and found wood process to incorporate handles and spouts into your vessel forms.

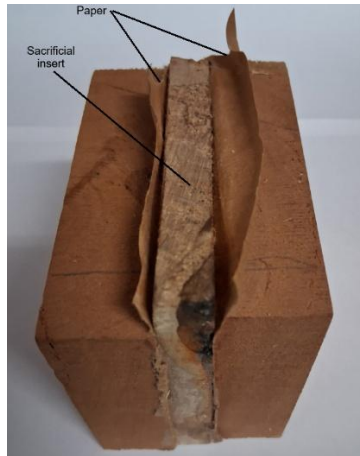
“Lost and Found Wood” is the name I have given to the process I use for adding features into my vessel forms. It is based in the process Art Liestman has named the “Lost Wood Process”. In the lost wood process, Art adds a piece of sacrificial wood into the blank workpiece before turning it. He then separates the piece at the joints between the layers of wood and removes the sacrificial insert before re-gluing the original outside pieces back together. This results in a more ovoid shape for the final product.

“Lost and Found Wood” is the same process but with the addition of inserting another piece of material where the sacrificial part was removed. This gives additional opportunities to add form to the original vessel.

Very little in the way of special materials is required for this process. You need your workpiece, a sacrificial piece of wood to insert for the primary turning, some good wood glue, and some heavy paper. The sacrificial piece should be about the same hardness and grain direction as the rest of the wood you use. I use Titebond original for the glue and brown paper bags from the grocery store for my paper.

I. Preparing the blank

The process begins by preparing the blank. If you plan to have matching wood and grain when you finish you need to cut your raw blank into three pieces. Two large pieces for the sides of your turning and a narrow piece for the insert. I recommend using a bandsaw with a narrow kerf so that there is less discontinuity in the grain of your final product. If your insert will be contrasting you don't need to be so careful. You also need to cut your sacrificial insert. It needs to be the same size as your final insert if you want your vessel to be round when you finish. You need to clean up the glue surfaces so you get proper adhesion after gluing and the smallest possible line at the glue joint.



II. Gluing

Cut two pieces of brown paper slightly larger than your workpiece. Put a generous amount of wood glue on the glue face of one of your side pieces and on one face of the sacrificial insert. Put the two faces together and move them around to thoroughly spread the glue over both faces. Separate the two. Sandwich one of your brown paper pieces between them. Repeat the process with the other side piece and the ones you just assembled. Clamp. You can't use too many clamps. Note that when you clamp the pieces will move. Use clamps across the work to control the movement as well as clamping the pieces together.

III. Turning

Locate the center of the sacrificial piece. It is important to center the turning on the centerline of the sacrificial piece or your final insert will be off-center too. Put the piece on the lathe between centers and turn a tenon. As always make sure you make a good tenon. Clamping the piece in the chuck will help to keep the workpiece from coming apart at the glue joint during turning. Mount the workpiece in the chuck and turn the outside and the inside. After turning the outside, it's a good idea to wrap the top of the vessel with tape to prevent the glue joint from separating due to vibration and heat, especially if you make a very thin turning. You want your turning to be reasonably thin. If it is really thick the paper/glue joint will be very hard to separate.



IV. Separation

Once your shape is complete it's time to remove the sacrificial piece. Remove the work from the chuck. Using a utility knife carefully insert the blade into the glue joint. Work carefully and keep pressing the blade down the length of the joint. After you get a start, move to the other side of the workpiece and start at the glue joint there. Work alternately down the joint until it pops apart. It will separate right in the middle of the paper. With a piece of fine sandpaper on a flat surface carefully remove the paper.



V. Preparing the insert

Lay the sidepiece on your insert. Align the grain if you want it to match. Use a pencil to trace around the outside of the vessel. If you can trace the inside that's good too but not necessary. Draw in your handle and spout. Cut around the shape you have drawn of the outside of the vessel including your handle and spout. Leave a little material all around the drawing. Roughly carve the inside of your handle. Inside the vessel shape remove most of the material inside the vessel but leave a "bridge" across the top. We'll use that to put the vessel back between centers. Glue the sides onto the center part, carefully aligning them so they match. Clamp with rubber bands. Use a bunch.

VI. Final turning and finish

Mount the workpiece between centers. Adjust it until it is centered and recut the tenon. Turn out the inside and sand. turn the outside where it does not interfere with the handle and spout. Remove from the

chuck and carve / sand the handle and spout and the remainder of the outside of the vessel. Remount in the lathe and remove the tenon. Finish with the finish of your choice.