

1. Select your log - about 6 - 8 inches long and about 2 - 3 inches diameter. Make sure the pith is off centre and doesn't cross the centre line between the ends, otherwise it's bound to cross the stem and your goblet will break. I don't know what this wood was but it has some interesting colour and a worrying crack across the middle!
2. Here's the piece mounted between centres.
3. It's a little out of balance so start the lathe at between 500 and 1000 rpm.
4. I use a spindle roughing gouge to take the edges off and get it mainly in balance. Sometimes I use a half inch bowl gouge to take off the edges.
5. Having taken off the edges I start to roughly shape the bowl part of the goblet. Leave about 6 - 8 mm of the natural edge showing so you have enough of the edge left to refine the edge of the bowl in the next stage.
6. Now's the time put a chucking point on the headstock end of the log. I have a supernova chuck and the jaw profile is straight with a small dovetail right at the end. (Yes, it made quite a bang when I caught the chuck jaw!- it was some time ago though!!)
7. I've finished the initial shaping of the bowl part. Leave the bulk of the log in place for now as this will reduce the tendency for the log to vibrate as you hollow out the bowl of the goblet.
8. Ready to go on the inside of the bowl.
9. Using a 3/8" spindle gouge i bored a hole down the timber to the required depth - about 1.5 to 2 inches.
10. Using a spindle gouge, or a 1/4" bowl gouge I use a pull cut from the centre towards the edge. I find that although this cut is with the grain it tends to leave some tear out especially on timber like this which was a little soft.
11. To improve the finish I use a 1/4" bowl gouge with the wings ground back and make a finishing cut from the edge to the middle. The best way to do this is to get the bevel rubbing somewhere about an inch from the edge but without a cut. Move the tool outwards until it just clears the edge. Raise th handle slightly and work your way back in. This will take a small cut and the bevel will rub and you won't get a catch - takes a steady hand a bit of practise - but it gives a great cut.
12. Here you can make out the better finish on the outside edge compared to the inside having used the "downhill" cut.

13. Sanding down through the grits and the application of melamine lacquer results in a good finish. That crack was still there by the way and I filled it with superglue before I sanded and it did the trick.

14. I have made a small wooden end for my revolving centre as this gives better support to the goblet when I finish the end piece. I put some kitchen towel between the wood and the centre and this prevents any marking.

15. Now it's a simple matter of shaping the outside to match the inside. Keep an eye on the thickness or you'll have a pretty, but useless, funnel! You can see here the presentation of the tool to start the cut. (white balance all wrong - sorry!)

16. When you get to this stage sand and finish the bowl. You can't do it later as the stem will flex and it will break.

17. Now work your way from the base of the bowl towards the base, finishing as you go. Remove the wood in sections so that you retain the maximum level of support.

18. Here I'm using my skew chisel on the stem. Note how I support the stem with my forefinger under the rest. The skew is one of my favourite tools for this job and as long as it's sharp it works well and behaves itself!

19. All done now - just got to undercut the base and part it off. Get ready to catch it!

20. Here's the base - needs a bit of sanding yet.

21. All done. I finished the edge with a pyrograph tool to give it a bit of texture as the bark came off. I created an ogee shape on the base which I wasn't very happy with - but I sold it recently at a club demo so it just goes to show some people like what we don't. Having said that I think a cove shape on the foot looks best.

Just goes to show what you can make from a piece of firewood.

22. Here's another couple of examples done in Yew - the one on the left is a bit thick. Again I've textured and burnt the edge.