

# Turning in the Age of Corona

## Episode 32: More Segmentation

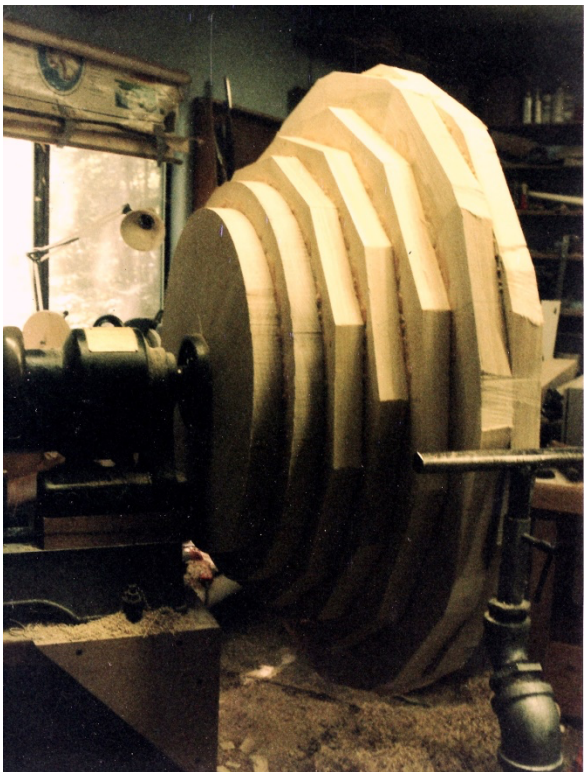
Santa Cruz Woodturners

May 17, 2021

Our club was treated a few days ago to a remote demonstration of segmented turning by Bay Area Master Turner, Jim Rodgers. ([www.JLRodgers.com](http://www.JLRodgers.com)) .

Beyond the practical geometry, jigs, and “tricks” to assure perfect fit without gaps and goeey glue lines, this technique offers a glorious way to take a single board and make a complex, turned vessel with practically no waste. Beyond that, segmentation offers a clever way to incorporate some of those myriad small scraps of lovely wood that otherwise would never make it to a show-and-tell.

**John Wells** has added another dimension to the virtues and versatility of segmented turning...*size!* You won't often find a chunk of solid wood from which you can turn a 42 inch diameter ceremonial bowl on a 4 foot stand! Segmentation does the trick.



Segmented Maple, diameter 42 inches...but there's more to this assembly...see page 2!



Finished commission!

There are other ways to segment—  
longitudinal staves rather than horizontal  
rings.

Note the scale here—that's the doorway  
to John's shop.

These pillars wound up in the lobby of a  
well-known Las Vegas casino.

Of course, winemakers are also big fans  
of staved structures...



(Alas, not my winery...)



**Maarten Meerman**, to nobody's great surprise, immediately tested one of Jim Rodgers' "hacks." Jim cleverly created a crack-free assembly by band-clamping two half moon assemblies against dowels, then sanding the open ends simultaneously (carefully) on opposite sides of a disc sander. Maarten verified that it works...shortly after lunch.



While we're talking about using smaller boards to create a larger turned object...there's always the simplicity of a laminated platter—call it a cutting board turned into a vessel.



*Walnut, maple, & cherry. WS, back in the winter*

**Dwain Christensen** has been playing with segmentation, too. He fashioned this decorative rim out of a re-purposed skateboard deck back in March.



**Tim Johnson** made this multi-wood segmented bowl in February...and he asked a *lot* of questions during Jim Rodgers' presentation. We'll see what comes of that!

No segmented story would be complete without some of **Larry Dubia's** creations! We've seen these before, and pretty soon, we'll probably see some more. Imagine the hours these occupied!





Now we turners can make some fine patterns using steel cutters and deft manual dexterity, and we're getting steadily more creative. Every now and then, though, we need to pause and admire the woodwork of critters which use only their mandibles. I call this pattern "dueling spiders," and I suspect the little one is going to come up short. It's a fine touch, not by spiders, but by burrowing insect larvae on the cambium-bark interface of a now dry Monterey Cypress log.



And how about this dancing figure Rorschach of pigmented extractives in a Coast Live Oak crosscut?



Well, Turners, that's it for Episode #32. Remember that the trees are looking out for us, so treat them with respect.



Be Happy!

Wells Shoemaker  
President, Santa Cruz Woodturners 2020-2021

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