

Swirl effect pewter/leather/walnut bowl



This is a variant of a design I put up here in 2019 where a spiral/swirl effect is achieved by inserting flat sheets into the kerfs of part-through bandsaw cuts, with the spiral effect coming from the skewed planes intersecting with the curve of the bowl.

In this case the sheets are 1.2mm pewter (1mm is rather loose and 1.5mm too tight). The base ring is cast-in-place pewter, re-finished so as to make it the bowl bottom. There are also circular leather insets top and bottom.

Notes:-

The leather was from a local saddler about 2mm thick, re-finished to an accurate circle sandwiched between wood with a sharp tool. Obvious perhaps but works remarkably well!



The unhollowed bowl is mounted in a jig (as in 2019) and part-through cuts made with a sharp bandsaw.

The 12 positions for the inserts were marked on the lathe using the indexing system, the pencil marks then being used on the jig.



The pewter plates are then roughened with sandpaper and inserted into the cut kerfs and glued with epoxy. The picture shows a template for cutting the plates made from 1mm pewter. Plates are cut with shears and hammered flat on a bench.

After refinishing the outside the chucking groove is re-opened. Note that the chuck jaws clamp on the inside of the ring groove but both inside and outside are dovetailed to aid retention of the base cast pewter ring, which is cast into the chucking groove (& finished) after the bowl has been hollowed, with the bowl edge held in a rubber-jawed chuck. The pewter ring and surrounding woods are finished to leave the ring as the base with both wood and leather inset.

Lastly the two leather circles are glued in with Titebond.

In practice the cast ring base does seem to fuse onto the ends of the plates, though I was not sure this would work, and it may not be essential.



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