

# Woodturning Workshop Class in Carl Ford's Studio (10 Days)

Last Update: 05/11/2021

## Class Web Info (Fall 2021)

"**Tuesday's or Thursday's** Woodturning Workshop" class in Carl Ford's [Studio](#) in Poughkeepsie NY.

Create functional and artistic lathe turned objects in this 10 session class.

Students of every level are free to explore their own interests. Or I can suggest a path for students based on their interest in bowls, hollow forms, spindle turning, etc. Or we can do any mix of things.

I personally specialize in natural edge bowls, hollow forms and surface decorations. But, I have experience in and can teach, cut edge bowls, plates, platters, spindles, boxes, toys, lamps, etc. The only thing I don't do is segmenting.

Topics include wood selection and preparation, tool choice, tool sharpening, tool use and control, spindle turning, bowl and vessel turning, hollow turning, finishing, etc.

Level: All Skill Levels (Novice, Intermediate or Expert). Ages 16 and over.

Dates: Any 10 out of 12 **Tuesday's** between September 14th and December 7th, 2021. Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 30 Dec 7. (No Class on Nov 23th, Thanksgiving Week)

### OR

Any 10 out of 12 **Thursday's** between September 16th and December 9th, 2021. Sept 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11 18, Dec 2, 9. (No class on Nov 25th, Thanksgiving Day)

Time: 9am – 4pm (6 hrs with 1 hr break for lunch)

Number of Students: 3 max (Small class setting!)

Tuition \$725.00, Plus a \$25 Materials Fee for paint and sand paper. (\$750 / 10 days = \$75 per day / 6 hrs per day = \$12.50 per hour, A really good deal!)

Location: At Carl Ford's Studio in Poughkeepsie NY.

My studio is a bright and cheery environment. [Click here](#) for more studio info, pictures and directions.

See below for additional Class Information, Suggested Projects for Beginners and the Fine Print.

Email Carl Ford ([carl@carlford.us](mailto:carl@carlford.us)) if you want to be added to the waiting list for this class.



## Additional Class Info

There are no set (fixed) projects for my class. **Students are free to work on their own projects.** Thus we need to have a little more discussion here about projects, wood, etc.

1. Each student needs to contact me **BEFORE** the start of the class. So, we can discuss projects, wood and tools. I ONLY do email. Please, NO PHONE calls.

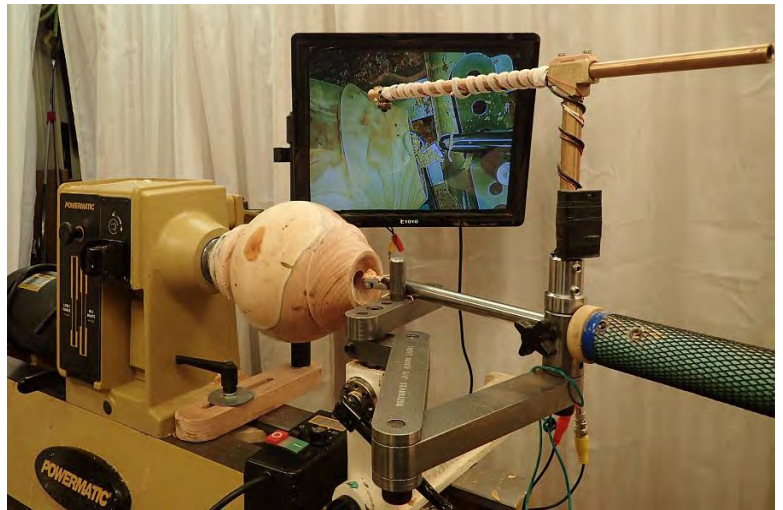
Email [carl@carlford.us](mailto:carl@carlford.us)

If you are seriously thinking about taking the class. Please feel free to contact me by email before you sign up.

2. I specialize in turning hollow forms. I would like to see everyone turn ONE small (6" diameter, 8" tall) hollow form. Experienced students can go larger.

I have two \$1300.00 Trent Bosch TV Hollowing Systems (Bosch Hollowing Stabilizer, Bosch Visualizer, Rolly Munro Hollower 2) that students can use. They make hollowing as easy as pie. Anyone can turn a hollow form with one of these systems.

Turning a hollow form is NOT required. Students are free to work on their own projects.



Note: I also have several other hollowing tools and systems students can use. Compare and contrast. Munro, Ellsworth Style (Ellsworth, Jordan, Bosch), Captured Rest (Derry, Jamieson), etc.

3. I have endless Power Carving tools, Wood Burner & Vaporizer, Acrylic Paints, Milk Paint, Sorby Spiraling Tools, and other decorating stuff students can try.
4. Some people like natural wood with a simple clear finish. That is OK with me!
5. I **DO NOT** recommend purchasing any tools before the class. I **STRONGLY** recommend taking a class to try the tools before purchasing!

However, students don't always follow this advice. My suggested "Modern Tool Set" is documented on my web site here:

<http://carlford.info/blog/2015/02/modern-tool-set/>

6. Students are free to work on their own projects. However, they some times need some help getting started.
  - a) For inspiration I like Mark Baker's project books. They have a good range of projects that look great. Are not to easy and not to difficult.

I like Mark's *"Weekend Woodturning Projects: 25 Simple Projects for the Home"* book and his *"Woodturning Projects: A Workshop Guide to Shapes"* book. The 2 books cover a wide range of projects!

b) For advanced students I recommend *"Bert Marsh Woodturner"* book by Bert Marsh and *"Woodturning Forms and Materials"* book by John Hunnex.

c) **I have several copies of the above books that Students can use in class.** Or purchase your own USED copies on Amazon.

d) I am not thrilled by small pictures on peoples phones. They often lack detail and thus waste a lot of valuable class time while we reinvent the wheel.

A better approach is to find something similar in one of Mark's books. This will give us a drawing with dimensions to get the ball rolling.

e) For more book info see my blog. "Essential Books & Dvds For Students" at

<http://carlford.info/blog/2015/03/essential-books-dvds-for-students/>

f) **Remember, students are free to work on their own projects!** Even if it is not in one of the above books!

7. I have found that beginners often need a little more rigor to help them get started.

I suggest beginners proceed thru the following set of projects that build up skills as you go. You can do them all, or pick and choose, or do none of them! **Students are free to work on their own projects!**

a) Day 1: Modern Candlestick

Page 54 in Mark Baker's *"Weekend Woodturning Projects: 25 Simple Projects for the Home"* book.

The multi colored candlestick in class photos. Students can leave their candlesticks natural or color them.

Spindle turning skills. Cutting a tenon, 4 jaw chuck in compression mode, spindle roughing gouge, parting tool, spindle gouge, drilling on the lathe.

b) Day 2: Carl Ford's Antique Candlestick.

Handout at <http://carlford.info/blog/2014/02/antique-candlestick-demo/>

The blue candlestick in class photos.

Builds on and reinforces the skills we learned on Day 1. Plus, screw chuck in 4 jaw chuck.

c) Day 3: A Plate

Page 104 in Mark Baker's *"Woodturning Projects: A Workshop*





*Guide to Shapes"* book.

No sanding and face plate turning skills. Screw chuck, cutting a recess for chuck, 4 jaw chuck in expansion mode, 1/2" bowl gouge, Al Stirt style shear scrapping.

The plate can be left natural or decorated with carving, milk paint, etc. a la Carl Ford.

d) Day 4 & 5: Carl Ford's Modern Lamp

Turning bowls, candle sticks, etc is fun. However, sooner or later they will end up in the back of a closet and then ... If you make a lamp it is something that can be passed down to future generations, long after you are gone.

A lamp is really just a couple of candlesticks stacked up to create the lamp shaft. The lamp base is really just an up side down plate. Thus this project reinforces skills you have already learned while creating something truly useful. Students also learn to turn to spec (sizes +/- 1/8").

Students often change their minds about the value of this project after receiving positive feed back from their family.

*Note: The lamp takes 1.5 days. So there will be a little extra time on Day 5 to do something else of interest to the student.*

**Remember, all projects are optional. Students are always free to skip and choose what they want to do!**

e) Day 6: A Plate Bowl

I call a plate with a small bowl in the center a "Plate Bowl". I like to start out with small bowls and then progress each day to larger bowls.

The fancy red spiral and black plate bowls in class photos. Students can leave their plate bowls natural or decorate them.

Face plate turning skills, etc. Same as a plate. We just add a small bowl. Students learn to swing the 1/2" bowl gouge in an arc to create a bowl.

f) Day 7: A Simple Bowl

Page 88 in Mark Baker's *"Weekend Woodturning Projects: 25 Simple Projects for the Home"* book.

With or with out the beads in Mark's book. Dry wood or wet green wood.

g) Day 8 to 10: Bowls, Bowls and more Bowls

By Day 8 or so, students are usually ready to go off on there own. They have developed their own sense of what they want to do. Great!

Frequently it is a bowls in there many different shapes and forms. With or with out surface decoration. A Natural Edge (bark on the edge) Bowl, etc.

We explore what ever the student wants to do. We use my huge show room of bowls, plates, and hollow forms in my house for inspiration and/or Mark Bakers's Project Books. Or what



the other students in the class have done.

#### h) Day X: Small Vase Hollow Form

We insert this day some day after Day 3. It may be day 4, 5, 6, etc. When the student is ready and one of my hollowing rigs is available.

I specialize in turning hollow forms. I like to see everyone turn a small (6" diameter, 8" tall) hollow form.

Something like the natural edge (bark on) cherry hollow form in class photos. However, we will start with a cut edge hollow form. I turn the outside shape, then the student hollows it out. This way we know the shape can be successfully hollowed. If time permits then students can turn a second hollow form completely on their own.

With my Trent Bosch hollowing rings anyone can turn a hollow form! I have helped total beginners turn a beautiful hollow form.

Or students can skip the vase and make more bowls, etc. **All projects are optional!**



## The Fine Print

This class is not like other classes at Craft Schools where the instructor can supply all the wood, tools, etc. because the instructor knows what the project is in advance.

I have taught the same class format at Purchase College, the Brookfield Craft Center and in my Studio for 2 years. Thus, this class format works. I just need to cover a few points here before class. Then we can have lots of fun in class.

Please read the following carefully.

1. There may or may NOT be a demo at the start of each class.

This class is not going to be like most classes where the instructor demos "a project" then all the students go off and do the same project.

Each student in this class is free to do their own thing. With multiple students in the class there obviously is not time for me to demo each student's project.

At the start of each class we have a 15 minute meeting. Where students discuss what they are interested in doing.

If multiple students want to do something similar then I will demo it, if wanted.

Otherwise, I will work with each student individually. This is easier when students don't mind me doing a little of the work on their project.

If you want to do 100% of the work yourself. No problem. Just let know. You will have to be satisfied with more hand waving and drawing on the board. I have had students, who like to do things 100% on their own. They have been very happy with my instruction.

2. I am NOT interested in BIG!

Peters Valley Craft School has Oneway 1224 lathes. This limits the size of projects. Nothing bigger than 12" in diameter. No spindles longer than 24". The practical limit to bowls and hollow forms is around 10" tall.

I don't see this as a problem. Bowls around 10" in diameter or less are best for learning

purposes. You will learn more by doing 2 to 3 small bowls then you will learn from one big bowl.

I have big lathes in my studio but I am DEFINITELY not interested in doing big things!

In my studio, I limit finished dimensions to roughly the same dimensions. Nothing bigger than 12" in diameter. No spindles longer than 24". The practical limit to bowls and hollow forms is around 10" tall.

If you want to do BIG then please go some where else! You can put them out of business when you kill yourself and blow their insurance.

### 3. You must supply your own wood for this class!

Each student is free to do their own thing. Thus I can't supply the wood, because I don't know what the projects will be in advance.

a) You can bring raw logs, flat boards from hardwood lumber dealer, etc. Or purchase wood from me. Purchasing from me is often best for beginners.

**If you are going to bring logs, please discuss with me in advance! I can not easily (cheaply) dispose of cutoffs or extra logs. Thus you may need to take home any excess or cutoffs.**

b) In the past, often one or more students brings in some logs they found on the side of the road, etc. Then they share with everyone. But, I can NOT guarantee this will happen.

c) I have 2", 3" and 4" thick wood for sale. Popular, Cherry, and Maple wood. You pay me by the linear inch.

My price is what I pay for the wood at Condon Lumber. I tell people Condon is the most expensive place on the face of earth to purchase lumber. And I stand by that! I go to Condon, because they have lots of stuff thicker than 2" inches.

So here is how it works. If, I pay \$200 with tax for 12 feet of 2" x 12" cherry. You pay \$200 / (12 ft \* 12 inches) = \$1.39 per inch. Round the final price off to a dollar. Then pay me in CASH only.

You take any scrap home with you. i.e. all cuts are the full width of the raw board. So if a board is 12" wide you can purchase 1" long by 12" wide or 2" long by 12" wide, etc. NO 1" long by 6" wide, because the raw board is 12" wide!

Selling wood is DEFINITELY not a profit center for me! I often lose money when people purchase wood from me. Because, I don't charge for going to the lumber yard, etc.

d) If you don't like my price then no problem. Bring your own wood.

e) My wood will be big enough for many of the projects in the project books, I recommend above. Thus beginners can easily get away with just purchasing wood from me.

### 4. Face shields MUST be worn! They are not optional. No exceptions!

Safety glasses, goggles, etc are not good enough. I will explain why at the first class.

Bring your own face shield or use the face shields supplied by my studio.

There is really nothing unique here. All of the craft schools (Arrowmont, Anderson Ranch, etc) have the same rule.

### 5. Now it's time for the "fine print" when it comes to wood.

a) I reserve the right to REJECT any cracked wood!

There are some people who reject any thing the minute they see even the faintest hairline crack. I am NOT one of these people.

Any cracks at the end of a raw log you bring in, must be cut away on the bandsaw or chainsaw, before you start turning.

If some minor cracks appear after you start turning we will discuss them. If not a safety issue, then I am willing to give it a try, if you want to proceed.

I REALLY want the rejection of any wood due to cracks to be a FRIENDLY JOIN DECISION.

But, If I have to, I will put my foot down. I have to consider the safety of everyone in the room. There is ABSOLUTELY no way I want to live with anyone getting seriously injured for the rest of my life. I don't want to have to think about it, every time I walk into a class room or my own studio!

b) No exotic wood!

I like to stick with turning domestic US hardwoods. Popular, Cherry, Ash, Maple, Walnut.

Other US woods like Beech, Birch, Elm, etc are OK. But, really are not worth the effort to turn in my not so humble opinion. Well, Black Birch is OK.

Most people are not allergic to these. I must consider the safety of everyone in the room. Not just you.

**I will NOT allow you to turn exotic hardwoods.** Especially the African ones. Like Bibinga, Cocobolo, Rosewood, etc.

To many people are allergic to these woods. They often, don't find this out, until they have a really serious horrific incident. Trouble breathing, time in the hospital, etc.

**So if you have some fancy turning blanks you got from Woodcraft, etc. and they are exotic woods, I am NOT GOING TO LET YOU TURN THESE!**

Western Red cedar and spalted woods are on the edge. I may allow them if others in the class are OK with them.

A little bit of African Black Wood or Ebony for a finial is OK.

There is really nothing new here! All of the craft schools (Arrowmont, Anderson Ranch, etc) have the same rules. Exotics have always been banned at most craft schools.

## 6. Covid Policy

a) My studio is in my HOUSE. Thus it is my rules!

b) All students MUST be Vaccinated! NO EXCEPTIONS!

c) I believe in science. Students MUST follow CDC Covid guidelines and New York State Covid guidelines!

d) If New York State requires a mask then I require a mask!

## 7. Snow Day Policy

I DO NOT expect anyone to drive to my house in Poughkeepsie on any day they don't feel safe!

I watch the weather forecast in Poughkeepsie, New York City and Albany. If snow is likely to cause driving problems then I will send out an email canceling class. I try to cancel class a few days in advance. Last minute cancellations are no good! I try hard to avoid them. If a student does not respond to my email canceling a class then I will phone them.

If I cancel a class, then I will schedule a snow make up day after discussing with students. Students who come on Tuesdays, often can only come on Tuesdays. Etc. Thus, in most cases I add a "snow make up day" to the end of the class schedule.

If I don't cancel a class and a student does not come due to snow. Then I try to work with them, to find a way we can make up the class or refund their money. I refund \$75 per day for snow days.  $\$750 / 10 \text{ days} = \$75 \text{ per day}$ .

#### 8. Deposit & Refund Policy

I like to have a friendly relationship with my students. Thus, what follows is somewhat flexible. I try to work with people. However, I grew up in a rough neighborhood. I am not a push over!

New students should contact me by email to schedule a class. I will ask new students to send a \$100 deposit check or PayPal **AFTER** we agree to a class.

If a new student cancels after we have exchanged several emails then I am probably going to keep your \$100 deposit. No refund. But, I may refund your \$100 if there is a really good reason.

I generally do not ask for a deposit from students who have taken a class with me in the past.

**All students MUST pay me the full amount (less any deposit) on the first day of class!** I strongly prefer CASH! The good old fashion green stuff! I will take a personal check or Paypal. But, I prefer CASH! A personal check is NOT cash!

**Wow!** That's a lot. Hopefully, you are going to see all the negative things above; as things you really don't want to see other people in the room doing. I really hope I have not turned you off. Most people would tell you, I am really fairly easy going.

Students --> DO NOT <-- need to purchase any books or tools before the class!!! You can use my books and tools.

Carl Ford  
Studio Woodturner

[carl@carlford.us](mailto:carl@carlford.us)  
[www.carlford.us](http://www.carlford.us)