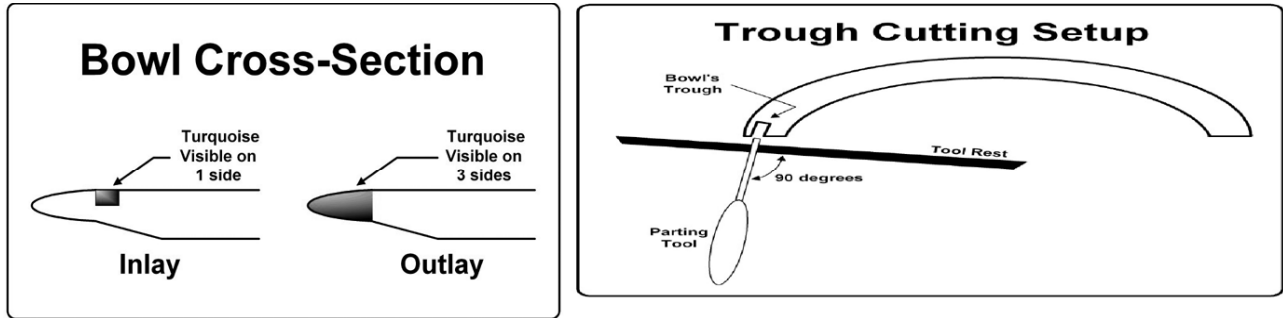


Creating Outlays from Inlays

Outlaying is the process of putting a substrate on the top edge or outer edge of a vessel. One of the distinct advantages of outlaying over inlaying is that it shows off more of the beauty of the substrate because three sides are exposed rather than just one.



Bowl Preparation:

Turn the bowl down to about an inch thick and mount the bowl in your chuck. Mark your chuck and bowl with a pencil so that you can mount and remount the bowl in exactly the same place on the chuck. Now true up the outside edge and top edge of the bowl so that there is no wobble.

Next cut a groove or trough about $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep by $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide in the top edge of the bowl with an $\frac{1}{8}$ " or so parting tool. To cut this trough, align your tool rest perpendicular to the outside edge of the bowl then cut with the parting tool at 90 degrees to the tool rest starting $\frac{1}{16}$ " or more away from the outside edge of the bowl. Cut down $\frac{1}{4}$ " and continue to the right until you have a $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide trough. Be sure the bottom of your trough is square. Above is an illustration of your setup and trough.

Filling the trough with substrate:

Once you have cut your trough you are ready to un-mount the bowl and fill it with the substrate. My favorite is turquoise but other materials like man-made stone, metal flakes, inlaid or opaque dyes work as well. I prepare my turquoise by crushing it into various sizes from powder to $\frac{3}{16}$ " chips. The powder will give a background color and the various size chips will give a visual depth to the outlay.

On a piece of paper make a two inch or so puddle of two part, five minute epoxy. Cover the puddle totally with powder and mix thoroughly. Next cover the puddle again with the various size rocks and re-mix. Use a metal spatula to scoop up the puddle of mixed epoxy and, somewhat quickly, put it in the trough. Pack the mixture down with your spatula to force out any air bubbles. Repeat this process until you have filled the whole trough. Each time you mix up a new batch it will melt into the previous batch and will not show a seam where you started or finished. Let cure at least two hours.

Sanding the outlay:

With your bowl gouge, cut down to the outer edge of the outlay on both sides and about 2" to 3" below the outlay. Sand the outlay with aluminum oxide sandpaper starting with 80 grit until all of the outlay is exposed. Continue sanding thru the various grits up to at least 400. Now you should have an extremely smooth outlay that sits $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the edge of the wood and has no feel to the seam between the turquoise and the wood. Finish the rest of the bowl as you normally would.

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