

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN FOR WOODTURNERS

JIM CHRISTIANSEN
208-301-0634
jimchristiansen43@gmail.com

OVERVIEW:

Good design may seem like an easy thing to achieve. It is not. Given that the turner has the opportunity to determine such things as size, shape, material finish, etc., there are almost an infinite number of variations that can be produced. Choosing a great design from among all the possibilities, is often a challenge. The following eight elements are presented as a guide to assist you to develop a personal philosophy of design.

8 ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

1. There are no hard and fast rules of design.
2. Turnings should have an appropriate/pleasing form.
3. Good lines are essential.
4. The size of the parts/features should be useful/appropriate.
5. Turnings should have thematic consistency.
6. The selection of the wood should be appropriate for the design.
7. Surface treatment should support your design goals.
8. Craftsmanship should be without fault.

THE PROCESS OF DESIGN

1. Have a clear intent. "How do I want people to feel when they see this piece?"
 2. Refer to a sketch or picture.
 3. Proceed slowly when the work is nearing completion. Get someone else to look at it.
 4. After the work is completed, try to identify and list some changes you might make on the next piece.
 5. Finally, make multiples if you can and keep a sketch book including photos of your own work.
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