Turner Challenge

Project 2: Platter by Frans Brown

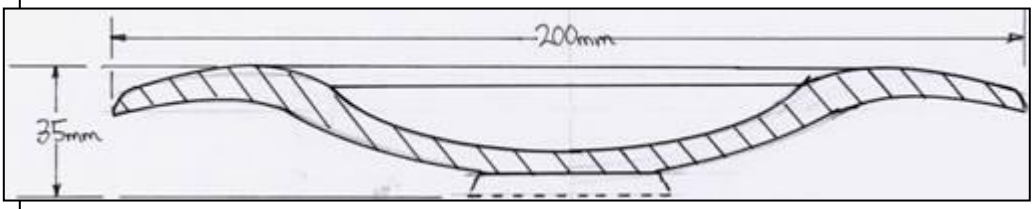
Suggested tools: 4 jaw chuck, drive centre or face plate, 3/8" bowl gauge, 3/8" spindle gauge.
Wood: any timber, side grain (bowl blank) 8" or 200mm diameter.

Stage 1:
Find the centre of the blank and mark on both sides. Starting at a low speed. Using the bowl gauge, lightly cut across the tailstock side of the blank ensuring the bottom or centre section that will be used as a chuck spigot is completely flat. With a spindle gauge form the chucking spigot to suit your chuck jaws. Using gentle cuts with the bowl gauge form what will be the underside of the platter.
Tip: . Do not be afraid to reposition the blank if it "wobbles," as repositioning is far easier than having to turn more wood away!

Stage 2:
Once the under side is shaped, sand down to at least 320 grit before mounting the spigot in the chuck. Once mounted in the chuck jaws the piece is much more stable enabling the edge and dish area to be carefully shaped with confidence.
Tip: always keep the final shape in mind, each progressively deeper cut should mimic the final shape.

Stage 3:
Shape the top profile with the bowl gauge. Making a separate bowl/dished area. Once complete it can be sanded to at least 320 grit and finished as desired.

Stage 4:
Mount a similarly shaped dolly in the chuck to drive the platter using the dished area. Bring up the tailstock to support the base and carefully turn away the mounting spigot leaving a small stub of around 8-10mm.
Tip: Router mat makes a great friction drive cover.



Stage 5:
Remove from the lathe. Cut off the stub with a knife or chisel. Sand and finish this area to match the rest of the platter.
Tip: Always when possible leave a small pip and not a dip as this is far easier to sand flat.

To add interest the wide rim can be "dressed" as you like. By adding colour, texture or inserts as you wish.
Thanks for taking part. I hope you have enjoyed this project.

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