

Totally Turning 2026, Saratoga Springs, NY
March 28-29, 2026
Donna Zils Banfield: Demonstrator
130 Fordway Extension
Derry, NH 03038
(978) 618-7192 Studio/Cell
www.livealifelessordinary.com
donnabanfieldturns@gmail.com
IG @new_england-wood_artist

Instructional Hand-Out for **Creating Patterns and Texture on your Turned Work**

This demonstration will show attendees how to choose an image that will tell their story. I will briefly discuss topics or ideas that tell a story. After preparing the wood surface, using images created by me, I will show attendees how to lay out an image or pattern on the turned form. Use a woodburning tip to carve onto the wood, and how to create low relief using a variety of woodburning tips and/or rotary powered carving burs and how to pierce or create negative space.

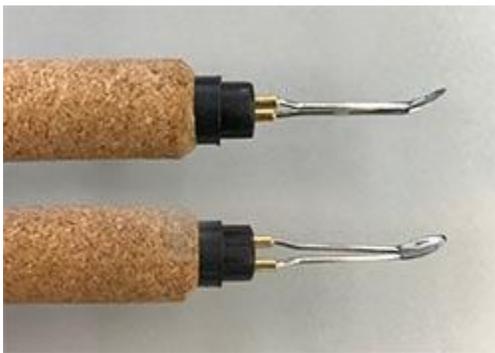
1. Prepare the surface for drawing the pattern. Sand to 400 or 600 grit. If the wood was turned green to final thinness, allow the wood to dry (usually in a couple days), and sand.
2. Remove the turned form from the chuck. Use a pencil to mark out or quarter the blank at the top or rim and foot. This will give you a visual balance, for planning your pattern.
3. I like to use a soft HB #2 pencil. With a light touch, sketch your pattern being mindful on where it falls within your quartered sections.
4. When I use my leaf pattern, I try to create them so that they adjoin and complement their adjacent leaf patterns, so I work methodically on all four planes. If you are not pleased with a pattern, erase and redraw.
5. I tend to have better control using the woodburning tip than with the pencil. The pencil gives me a rough idea of the direction of the leaves. I always allow some freedom of design when using the woodburning tip to make the pattern permanent.
6. At this point, I'm going to wear an over-the-head magnifier. I didn't know what I couldn't see until I finally saw what I couldn't see!

I like to use a sharpened and honed radius skew woodburning tip to make the outline of the pattern permanent. If there is any shading that I'm doing, I like to use either a spoon shader or a round/spade shader.

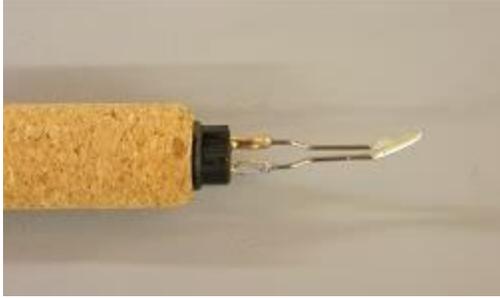
Radius SkewTip



Spoon shader



Round shader



7. Keep the heat temperature on your woodburning unit low. Always test the heat temperature on a scrap piece of wood, ideally the same species of wood that you are working on. Use a small fan or better, a small air purifier with a charcoal filter to draw smoke away from you. Protect your eyes and lungs. I also like to use devices to support the piece I'm working on. Either a bowl Stabilizer, or a small leather sandbag.

Jewelers Sandbag



Bowl Stabilizer



8. Don't give up if you make a mistake woodburning your line too shallow or short. Using the texturing features, you may be able remove and cover any mistake you made when burning the pattern.
9. Keep in mind the principle, 'Less is Enough'. You don't always need to cover an entire surface.
10. When satisfied with the outline of your pattern, use a woodburning tip, or a small burr in a powered carver or dental drill to create texture inside the leaf pattern.