

April 2008

I have never met or even seen Richard Raffin, the well known Australian woodturner. But I have two of his books and a DVD. His personality comes out on his writing and demonstrations. He is a lot like us in that he is practical and likes to get things done. In his book on bowl design, he talks about developing your own personal style. He cautions not to try too hard, but just do what you enjoy and create what you think looks good and your style will emerge.

He writes: "Your personal style will develop unless rigorously contained. Even in a world where everything seems to have been done before, it's easy to stand out from the crowd. To create an object that is easily identifiable as yours, you have no need to resort to the contrived "creativity" so highly regarded in the art circles. Your own sense of balance and proportion, along with your quirky little ways of doing things, will come through in your work."

Study the previous work of other turners and fine tune the form to your liking. The fine tuning comes with repetitive practice. Your own style will emerge. Mr. Raffin also writes: "Forget about catering to a market or impressing your critics. Create for yourself and, as your freed spirit emerges, your bowls are bound to benefit."

This newsletter contains a lot of information about our symposium, so I will only mention two things. The first suggestion is remember to ask questions, but do not expect the demonstrator to spend a disproportionate amount of time helping only you during the hands-on sessions. The second item is to bring a dust mask and use it when dust is in the air.

Speaking of dust, Rockler recently ran a special on the large tapered dust hoods along with free shipping. At least one person asked me where I purchased mine and said they would like to get one. I have an extra one. The cost is \$14.99 total, no shipping and no sales tax. The regular price is \$19.99. The opening is about 12 inches by 16 inches, and they are about 15 inches deep. The hose connection is 4 inches. Just call me if you want it.

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