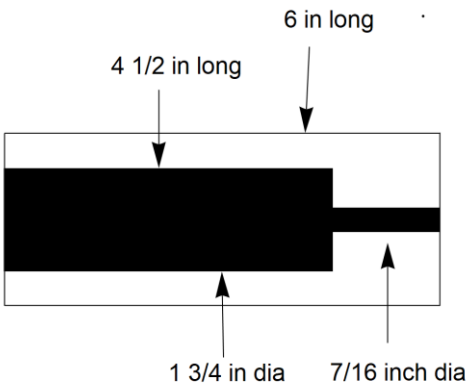
Spoon Turning Material List
Neal Brand

Wood blanks: Two 1” x 3” x 12” I prefer hard maple.

Hollowing chuck:

- 1 ¾” diameter 8” Lathe Buffing Extender (Available at Woodcraft, Grizzly, and other suppliers.)
- 1 ¾” x 3” x 6” drilled blank (Any wood, I used two 2 by 4s glued together.)
- 2 - 3” x 5” U bolts (Available online at boltdepot.com and other suppliers. I only found 6 inch, so I cut off 1 inch.)
- 2” long 3/8” bolt (16 tpi)
- Washer to fit bolt



1 3/4 in x 3 in x 6 in block

Safety shield 3” x 3” thin square (plastic or wood). Corners drilled for small screws. Center drilled for 1 ¾” hollowing entrance.

Live center attachment. Make to fit threads of your live center. Two slots 1/8 or 3/16 inch wide, one with one edge at center, the other centered at ½” off center of attachment.

Inflatable Round Dome Sander is very helpful. (Available online at Amazon, Rockler, Woodcraft and other vendors of woodturning supplies.) Or make your own round dome sander.

Belt or disk sander. Can use lathe to make a disk sander.

Standard spindle turning and hollowing tools.

Directions for Turning Spoons
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- Attach two 1” X 3” X 12” blanks on opposite sides of the hollowing chuck with an overhang of 4.5 inches. Use small screws to attach the safety shield centered on the overhanging ends of the two boards. Hollow the scoop part of the two spoons through the safety shield.
- Remove the safety shield and mark the edge of the hollow.
- Turn the outside of the scoop part of the spoon, staying 1/4 inch or so from the marked edge. Stay further than ¼ inch from line when you are near where the handle meets the scoop part of the spoon.
- Remove blanks from hollowing chuck and use a bandsaw to cut as shown below.

Safety Shield

- Mount one spoon on the lathe using a small steb or spur drive and the live center attachment in the slot further from the center of the attachment. Make sure you mount the blank so that it is centered with respect to the hollow. Check by hand turning the spindle and check that both sides just touch a fixed finger. The hollow should face the center of the attachment.

Center Attachment

- Turn closer to the marked edge, keeping at least 1/16 inch from the mark. Try to make the distance uniform along 2/3 of the scoop away from the handle. In the other 1/3 you can cut

closer but be sure to check the spoon bottom and try to minimize the ridge between the two cuts without cutting too close to the edge mark.

- Keeping the blank in the spur drive, move the scoop end to the center slot. One edge of the slot is centered on the live center attachment. The centered edge should be against the bottom of the spoon blank while the non-centered edge should be against the top or flat part of the spoon blank. As before, make sure the blank is centered.
- Touch up the edge of the hollow to make the distance of the cut to the marked edge uniform except where the blank connects to the live center and near the transition from the scoop to the handle.
- At the transition, pay attention to the ridges on the back of the spoon and try to minimize them, while keeping away from the marked edge of the hollow. Typically, there is a ridge that needs some sanding to be done later.
- Turn the handle. Put whatever decorations you want on the handle, such as burnt lines, beads, blood stains, and so on.
- Sand the handle and part the spoon from the lathe. I sand to 400 or 600 grit.
- Sand both ends to shape. It helps to use a belt or disk sander.
- Sand the scoop area of the spoon either by hand or using a 1 ¾ inch round dome sander. (Dome sanders are commercially available or you can make your own. Hand sand or use the round dome sander, a belt sander, or a disk sander to smooth the back of the spoon.
- I do not apply a finish since the finish will come off anyway after a little use and who wants finish in their soup!