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Product Reviews

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The Elbo Hollowing Tool

Product by Tim Yoder

Review by Bill Blasic

The Elbo Tool is an articulated hollowing system that attaches to the quill of the lathe tailstock as an anchoring point. It was originally designed and manufactured by Stan Townsend and now it is produced by Tim Yoder. This is about the easiest system to set up that I am aware of and I have used most of them. It is a substantial, well made hollowing system at a price point that cannot be beat.



Figure 1

Attaching the clamp to the quill is the first step in use and I found two quick ways to make it foolproof. After attaching the clamp snugly, I used a level or a Digital Angle Gauge (the digital gauge is first zeroed on the lathe bed) sitting on the first section of the tool. This ensures that the system is parallel to the lathe bed, which in any system is of utmost importance. Once that is done, the clasp is closed and the tool is secure.

Now the tool bar with cutter is attached by inserting it into the 3/4" receiver hole and tightening the two grub screws. The 3/4" bar and cutter comes with the system. Available are inserts that allow the use of 5/8", 1/2" and 3/8" shanked tools such as Kelton or John Jordan Hollowers. Any similar type tools will also work. There is also a laser system available and a round finishing cutter that are very reasonably priced.



Figure 2

Before I started cutting, I checked the height of the tool in front of the work piece. It measured 8" from the cutting edge to the bed. Then I then moved the tool along the outside of the piece and measured where the bottom of the piece would be. It was also 8" there. This meant I had perfect alignment between the hollowing tool and the bed of the lathe. This alignment should not leave a cone in the bottom of the piece. It cut very nicely with the different tools I put in it and used.



Figure 3

This hollowing tool will fit most every long bed lathe without a problem. If you have a midi-lathe, there is a bed extension available that replaces the tailstock so that you can use this system. This is a very versatile system that will do all the hollowing that you expect it to do.

The basic system as pictured at the top of the page is priced right at \$250.

(If you already have a 3/4" hollowing bar, you can get the naked system for \$225).