

Notes on Dizzy Bowls

by Carl Durance

March 2018

My first exposure to a Dizzy Bowl was in June 2011 at the 25th Anniversary AAW Symposium in St Paul, Minnesota, at which Hal Metlitzky showed one of his pieces (see figure 1) in a special exhibition. Needless to say, I was inspired by that exposure. Again, in June 2013, I saw his piece at the Tampa AAW Symposium. I think that his Dizzy Bowl pieces remain unchallenged by the competition.

Years after the first exposure, June of 2015, I attempted my first Dizzy Bowl (see figure 2 and 3) as a special present to my significant other, Kaili, on her birthday.

Dizzy Bowls are also called Vortex bowls, Twister bowls, and Tornado bowls. A Dizzy Bowl is just a Bowl-From-A-Board created from a complex laminated board.

The best YouTube video that I have seen is by Tom Lohman, a very well-known segmented woodturner.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8guS6VSGBg>

A popular video is by Dennis Edwards, which is okay. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ1IV-UhkB4>

Another is by Steven Mellott, a much longer video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wF8BfDEC0IY>

A more recent video is by Justin Fiaschetti. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Worr1VTgAQg>

Steven Mellott wrote an article on Dizzy Bowls, "Stir Up a Vortex Bowl," in the October 2016 issue of American Woodturner magazine, volume 31, Number 5.

The article "Pen Blank Segmented Bowls" by Malcolm Tibbetts published in Woodturning Design, Winter 2008, is really a rudimentary Dizzy Bowl. The article can also be found as a chapter in the book "The Art of Segmented Wood Turning" by Malcolm Tibbetts, the best book on segmented woodturning. The article reprint can be found at <http://tahoeturner.com/instructions/pdf/penblankbowl.pdf>.

The book "The Fundamentals of Segmented Wood Turning" by James Rodgers has some information on Dizzy Bowls in Chapter 6, "Bowl from a Board."

And, finally, to see the work of probably the best-known maker of Dizzy Bowls, Hal Metlitzky, check out <http://www.halmetlitzky.com/>, definitely inspirational.

Hopefully, this list will provide lots of information.

The last two pictures (figure 4 and 5) show the bowl I assembled at the TWG demo, ready to receive a finish.



1 - Hal Metlitzky bowl



2 Bowl for Kaili – Top view



3 Bowl for Kaili – Side view



4 TWG demo bowl - side view



5 TWG demo bowl - top view