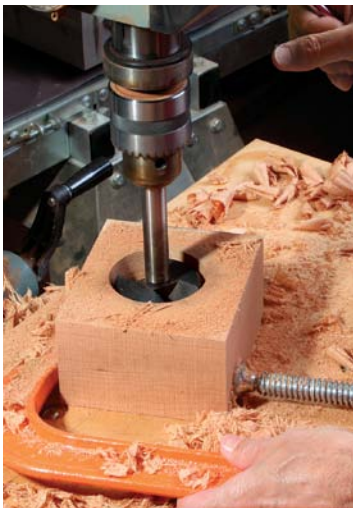
Making a splash

BY JONATHAN BINZEN

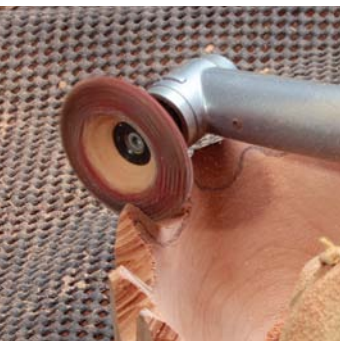
Danny Kamerath began making vessels and small sculptures because, in his work as a furniture maker, he was generating so many cutoffs that were too big and too interesting to throw away. He makes his droplet vessels primarily with power grinding, carving, and sanding tools (available from katools.com), and resorts to handwork with files and sandpaper only toward the end. The vessels range in size from 6 in. dia. down to just an inch. Early in the carving he can sometimes clamp the workpiece, but for most of the process his left hand is his vise. Two tools essential to this sort of work: a heavy leather glove and a good dust mask.



EXCAVATE THE INTERIOR

Quick cavity. *Kamerath drills out the block with a large Forstner bit. After bandsawing it to an oval, he shapes the interior with a Proxxon mini grinder fitted with a needle-toothed carbide carving wheel.*

Speedy sanding. *Using a Guinevere flex-shaft sanding system with inflatable attachments that conform to the workpiece, Kamerath can smooth any surface quickly.*



Slots between the drops. *Following pencil lines, Kamerath uses the Proxxon grinder to cut notches between the droplets.*

SHAPE AND SMOOTH THE OUTSIDE

The block becomes a bowl. *An angle grinder fitted with an aggressive Holey Galahad carbide sanding disk shapes the outside. A scrap block inside the bowl keeps the droplets above the workbench.*

Smoothing time. *Using the mini grinder, Kamerath fairs the roughly rounded exterior left by the angle grinder. He follows this step by smoothing the surfaces with the Guinevere sander.*

Carving water from wood. *He refines the droplets using a Wecheer rotary tool and various bits, then finishes them with round files and sandpaper. All other surfaces are hand-sanded as well.*

Photos: Asa Christiana