

WBAW Woodturning Competition Judging Criteria
Issues that May Cause Reduction in Score

Judging Criteria	Skill Levels	
	Level 1: Beginner	Level 2: Intermediate
Purpose of Feedback	Beginner items should be an initial attempt at creating something on a lathe. A critique at this level is focused on helping the turner better execute basic turning skills so they become "rote".	Intermediate items should be reasonably-executed pieces that receive no criticism on Level 1 checklist items. A critique at this level is focused on helping the turner become a craftsman, building on the pure execution skills to bring more creativity and artistry to the turning.
Function (Usability)	Too thick (form does not relate to function). Too light (piece is not usable or too fragile to be practical).	Function shouldn't be an issue for turners at this level.
Form (Shape, Movement, Center of Interest, Balance, Rhythm, Harmony, Contrast)	Inside lines are inconsistent (inside and outside shapes are inconsistent). Flats or high spots (lines that do not flow smoothly or transition smoothly). Balance (object is too top heavy or bottom heavy to be pleasing).	Shape does not achieve potential for form: certain shapes can be deemed more effective for pieces in a given style. Curves do not complement each other Minor areas where lines do not flow (unintended discontinuities: minor curve issues characterized by subtle bulging or straightening). Form is not of consistent quality when viewed from all angles. Some elements appear to be over-sanded.
Fit (Scale, Proportion, Consistency of Design Elements)	Lack of consistency (style elements do not fit together). Wrong size (style elements not sized correctly to be aesthetically pleasing or practical for use). Proportions are not balanced or visually pleasing.	Inconsistent style elements (features clash with the artistic style or intent). Overall design below potential. Piece would be better with different materials used for construction, different selection/execution of design elements, or changes to color/finish. For laminated/glued items, grain does not match or glue lines are not tight. Sizes of some elements do not add to the work's quality.
Finish (Sanding, Color, Texture, Type of Finish)	Torn surface (wood fiber broken rather than sliced cleanly). "Bruised" surface (dark area in finish indicating damage beneath the surface of the piece). Sanding marks (visible scratches or lines). Tool marks (ripples, break in line continuity, gouge, spirals, or chatter marks).	Finish is not consistent (may vary in thickness, gloss, color). Finish gloss/smoothness not appropriate for piece (finish impractical or not consistent with style). Texture (if used) is not appropriate, or detracts from form. Minor flaws in surface (small places where surface flaw detracts from overall quality). Base of piece is not finished consistent with the rest of the piece.

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Judging Criteria	Skill Levels	
	Level 3: Advanced	Level 4: Professional
Purpose of Feedback	Advanced items should generally be well-executed pieces that receive no criticism on Level 1 and Level 2 checklist items. A critique at this level is more focused on helping the craftsman take a great piece of work and make it even better.	Professional items should generally be flawlessly-executed pieces that receive no criticism on Level 1 through Level 3 checklist items. A critique at this level is more focused on helping the craftsman use it as a springboard for new directions. Therefore, this level has different criteria.
Function (Usability)	Function shouldn't be an issue for turners at this level.	Originality Lacking evidence of originality in shape, use of materials, or post-turning enhancements. Item does not demonstrate sufficient artistry and creativity.
Form (Shape, Movement, Center of Interest, Balance, Rhythm, Harmony, Contrast)	Some changes/additions/deletions of elements would increase the impact of the work. Increased simplicity is needed to improve the piece. Increased complexity is needed to improve the piece.	Technical difficulty Piece does not demonstrate degree of difficulty appropriate for a professional turner (overly simplified).
Fit (Scale, Proportion, Consistency of Design Elements)	A change in size would improve the impact of the work (scaling up or down would help).	Aesthetics Piece is not pleasing to the eye or to the touch. Piece does not execute all of the design principles well: center of interest, balance, harmony, rhythm, contrast.
Finish (Sanding, Color, Texture, Type of Finish)	A different surface treatment would likely add appeal. A different surface would add to or enhance the piece. Color/stain would help. Color warrants change.	Craftmanship Transitions in shape are not smooth when required (for example, ogee curves). Transitions in shape are not crisp when required (for example, curve of bowl into foot of bowl).