

Author Ernie Conover's recommended tools for faceplate and spindle turning

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Spindle Turning

| Size | Tool | Author Comments |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1/2" | Spindle (or Detail) Gouge | Mastery of this tool is mastery of all others. Although billed as a spindle tool, it can also be used in faceplate work by experienced hands working in a knowledgeable way. |
| 1" to 1¼" | Skew Chisel | (Sometimes called a long corner chisel) You will have a very hard time learning with a skew narrower than 1". An oval skew is much easier to use and the best starting chisel. |
| 3/4" to 1¼" | Spindle Roughing Out Gouge | Get the widest you can afford. Quickly brings square to round and turns accurate cylinders. Will leave nearly as good a finish as a skew, with none of the hazards. Never use for faceplate work. |
| 1/16" to 3/16" | Parting (Cutoff) Tool* | This member of the chisel family does just what the name implies — cut a spindle in half. It can also be used in faceplate work. A diamond shaped one is far better than a square example. |
| 3/8" | Beading and Parting Tool | I use this member of the chisel family for quickly sizing tenons. I also use it with calipers for establishing diameters. |
| 1/2" | V Scraper* | Invaluable for facing ends of a spindle, facing glue blocks, creating incised lines and making chucks. |

* Overlap with other set

Faceplate (Bowl) Turning

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| 1/4" and 1/2" last | Bowl Gouge | Buy the 1/2" size first, but the 1/4" size is great for detail work. Where spindle tools for years, bowl gouges are quickly ground away. I go through about one per year. |
| 1" to 1¼" | Round Nose Scraper | Buy one that is at least 1/4" thick. This is the perfect tool for fairing both the inside and outside of bowls once the bulk of the material has been removed with a bowl gouge. |
| 1/2" | V Scraper* | The tool for leveling glue blocks and creating recesses and tenons for chucking. |
| 1/16" to 3/16" | Parting (Cutoff) Tool* | Used mostly for parting a finished bowl from a glue block. |

* Overlap with other set