

GETTING STARTED USING HOLLOW-PRO TOOLS

The tools that I use the most are the straight tools, and my favorite is the 1/2" straight tool, but for bigger pieces, you might need the 5/8". (I use the 1/2" tools for pieces up to about 10" in diameter, and the 5/8" tools for bigger pieces.)

I like to use either the Hosaluk (steel) or Oneway handles in the LARGE (18") size (don't use the shorter ones for hollowing)

The 1/2" tools have a square shaft and will slide in and out of the 5/8" opening on one side of the handle, and the 5/8" tools have a round end that also fits in that opening. I use the 3/8" "Rocket" tools in the 1/2" opening, with the screws on the TOP of the tools, so you know how the tool is oriented inside the hollow form.

** If you have one of these handles, it will work for all 6 of the Hollow-Pro tools.*

The tip I use the most is the #1 STANDARD swivel tip with the carbide cutter. I also like to use the #2 NEGATIVE swivel tip on all the 1/2" and 5/8" tools. It takes lighter, finer cuts and gives a good finish cut on green wood, where I often use it instead of a scraper. It works very well with the bent tools, as it is less aggressive.

** The #2 STANDARD is a very aggressive tip for removing wood quickly and I only use it with the 5/8" straight tool. It's my choice if I am hollowing out a big, natural edge open bowl with that tool.*

The powdered M-4 scrapers fit the 1/2" and 5/8" tools and you do want to get at least one of them (most people like to have an extra, sharpened and ready to go, so they don't have to stop). I use them to get the final wall thickness cuts inside hollow forms, since it is the least aggressive and removes wood slowly. It is ALWAYS my choice, on a straight tool, to cut the bottom of a hollow form clean, and to get that nub.

The Extended version of the scraper is about twice as long, and is for situations when you need a little extra reach, and it can be very important to have when you need it.

** I sharpen the scrapers with a coarse, diamond CC hone, and that way, they last a long time.*

Make sure you get one of the T-25 T-handled wrenches to move the swivel tips around. There is one that comes with the tool, but this one is better, and will keep you from stripping the screw. You only need one for all 4 of the 1/2" and 5/8" tools.

The Rocket Tools are a separate, smaller, 3/8" set, with a straight tool and a bent tool. They only require a handle. (I use the 1/2" opening on the Hosaluk and Oneway handles) I use them to make hollow forms from about 3" diameter, up to about 5-6", with a small opening. They are round, so they require a little practice, and I often roll them over to make shear cuts.

The CALIPERS are something I strongly recommend, especially for measuring the bottom thickness, when you reverse-chuck the piece at the end of the process. Also great for measuring the bottom of open bowls!

Once you have the swivel tips, scraper, wrench, and calipers, if you want to get the other tools down the road, you will already have all the tips you need, and will only have to purchase the tools themselves.

** If you don't have much experience with hollowing, I do recommend that you start with the 1/2" straight tool, with the #1 swivel tip and scraper, and get comfortable with it before trying the other tools.*

As a good review of everything I do in a demo or class (and it shows how I sharpen the scrapers), you might want to get the DVD set. Disc 1 goes from cutting up the wood, and goes to the point where I'm ready to hollow it, and disc 2 is hollowing, sanding, and finishing the piece.