An 8-inch peace-sign bowl

Solid maple bowl + a flush maple-and-walnut medallion. Decorative use.



Finished targets

Bowl: 8" diameter x 1-3/4" high

Interior depth: about 1"

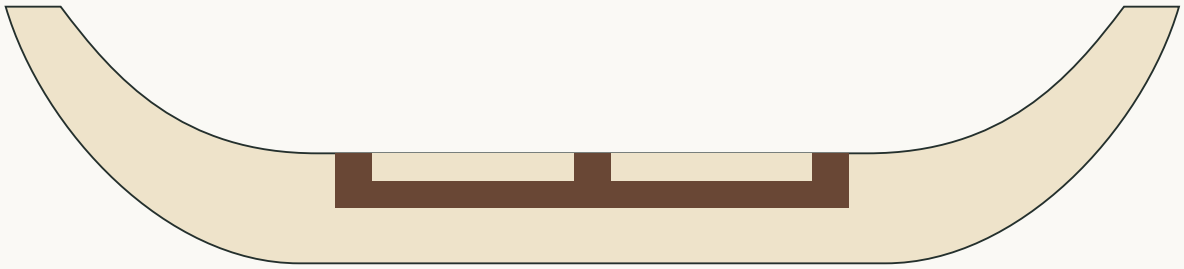
Wall: about 3/8"; smooth transitions

Medallion: 3-1/2" diameter x 3/8" thick

Patterned center: 3" diameter

Walnut lines and outer ring: 1/4" wide

How the insert sits in the bowl



3/16" patterned center

3/16" walnut backing beneath center

3/8" minimum solid bowl wood remains below the entire recess.

Stock to set aside

Bowl body	Maple	8-1/2" x 8-1/2" x 2-1/2"
Maple pattern pieces	Maple	4-1/2" x 4-1/2" x 1/2"
Three sign bars	Walnut	4" x 6" x 1/2"
Carrier / dark outer ring	Walnut	4-1/2" x 4-1/2" x 3/4"
Mounting blocks / cauls	Sound scrap	Sized to your faceplate / clamps

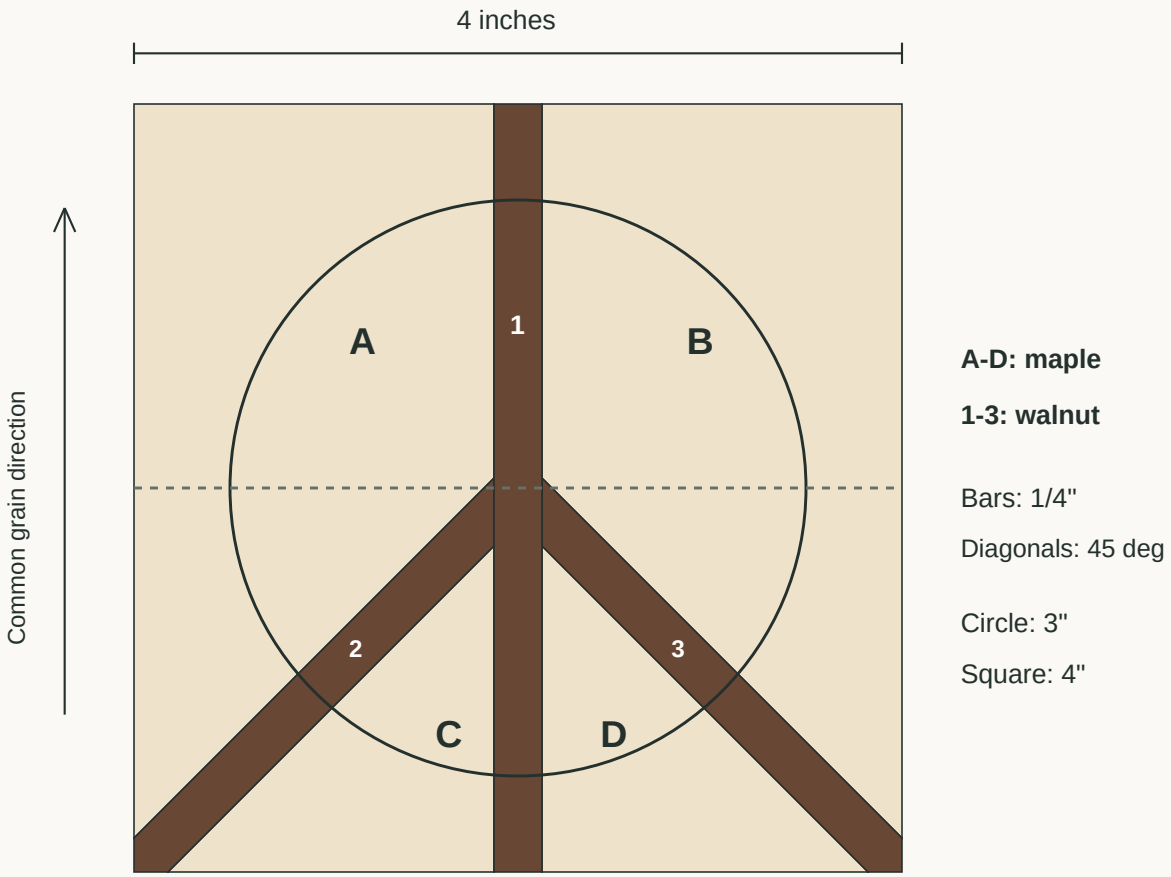
Stock sizes are starting allowances, not finished parts. Use dry, acclimated, sound wood; match the grain direction throughout the insert and with the bowl. Leave mounting and cleanup allowance until the holding method is settled.

Before mounting: bandsaw the bowl blank to an approximately 8-1/2" circle. An 8-1/2" square measures about 12" across its corners and will not clear a 10" swing. Hand-rotate the mounted blank to check bed, banjo and tool-rest clearance.

Full-size insert layout

Print this page at 100% / Actual size. Do not use Fit or Shrink to page.

This is a layout for the **patterned center only**. The separate walnut carrier supplies the outer circle. The square is a 4" assembly allowance; the circle is the nominal 3" finished center.



Fit to the lines: the printed boundaries are finished glue joints, not blade centerlines. Cut on the waste side and true each mating edge. The bars are 1/4" wide measured perpendicular to their length. Trim diagonal inner ends to butt against the straight center bar.

Glue order: A + 2 + C form the left half; B + 3 + D form the right half. After curing, true their center edges and join the halves with bar 1. Use the master pattern to keep the two arms centered and mirrored. Keep all seven grain directions parallel, including the diagonal bars.

2" x 1/2" scale check

Measure this box before using the template. Screen zoom does not establish print scale. Make a paper or scrap-wood trial first.

Build sequence

Make the complete medallion first; fit the bowl recess to the actual finished insert.

1. Lay out and fit the center

Use page 2 to make four maple fillers and three walnut bars from 1/2" stock. Keep faces flat and thickness consistent. Use a bandsaw or fine hand saw for the small shapes, then true the glue faces on a flat sanding block or shooting board. Do not freehand tiny pieces on the table saw.

2. Glue the patterned panel

Dry-fit without gaps. Glue the two halves, then join them with the center bar, using flat cauls protected from glue. Use a suitable PVA wood glue and allow at least 24 hours before stressing or machining each glue-up, longer if required by its label or shop conditions.

3. Turn the patterned center

On a fully bonded sacrificial glue block, turn the panel into a nominal 3" disc. Remove the assembly from the lathe before handsawing through waste material, then flatten the back. Keep the disc about 1/4" thick for fitting; it will finish near 3/16". Never grip a thin disc by an improvised edge hold.

4. Make the walnut carrier

Support the walnut stock on a separate secure glue block. Turn a shallow, flat-bottomed circular pocket 3/16" deep, fitted to the actual center disc. Glue the disc in with its back fully seated, leaving its face proud. After cure, skim the proud center level with the carrier; true the outside to about 3-1/2".

5. Finish the complete medallion

Remove it from its waste block off the lathe and flatten the back to a nominal total thickness of 3/8". Keep about 3/16" of walnut below the patterned center. The outer ring remains connected to this backing. Make it flat; check for gaps or loose joints before fitting it to the bowl.

6. Shape and hollow the bowl

Round the 8-1/2" blank on the bandsaw before mounting. Use your established bowl-mounting method; keep fasteners within sacrificial wood. Turn toward the page 1 profile, leaving a flat central floor at least 3-3/4" across and about 3/4" total bottom thickness before cutting the insert recess.

7. Recess and install

Cut a flat-bottomed recess fitted to the complete medallion, about 3/8" deep. Aim for an easy, close slip fit, not a press fit. Leave at least 3/8" of solid bowl wood below it, excluding any temporary tenon. Align the grain, glue across the supported base, and clamp with a flat caul; keep the insert only slightly proud.

8. Blend and finish

After full cure, lightly scrape or sand the medallion flush while keeping the central floor flat; do not hollow through the pattern. Remove the mounting allowance while preserving the bottom thickness. Sand and apply the decorative finish you prefer, following its directions.

Holding and speed: use sound, full-face glue blocks with fully cured joints; keep faceplate screws out of the thin insert. Confirm the actual lathe's low-speed setting and clearance. Stop if it vibrates. Wear a full face shield and no gloves; use bowl-appropriate turning tools.

References and scope

AAW lathe safety basics
Titebond: clamping / drying guidance
Your lathe video, around 0:42

Original design proposal, not a tested commercial plan. Exact model plate and workholding are not confirmed from the video. Nominal sizes must be transferred from the actual parts; test the insert assembly on scrap before committing the bowl.