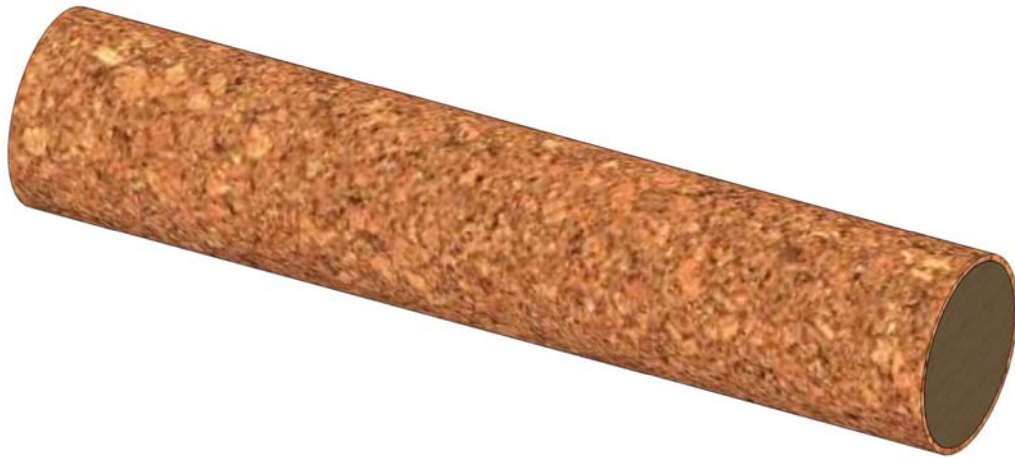


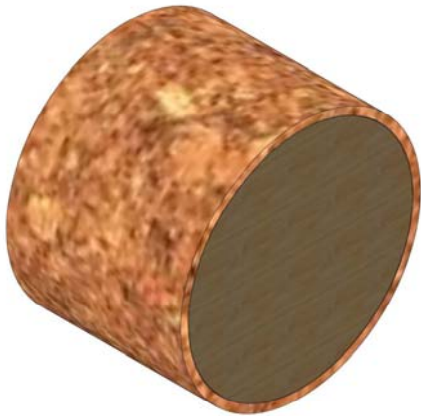
HOW TO SAW LOGS FOR LONG TERM STORAGE OF BOWL BLANKS.

Your log is going to dictate how big a blank you will get. This method produces rectangular blocks from the log. If you want to produce natural edge bowls you will stop early in this process. For storing turning blocks for the purpose of drying them, with a minimal loss from splits and cracks follow this method all the way thru.

In the example we are working with a log 19" in diameter.



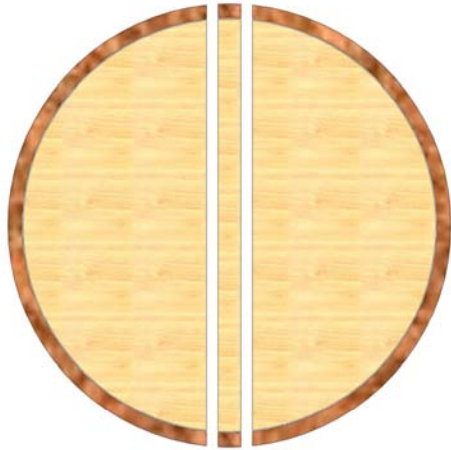
First, have your log so you can access all sides of it. If possible, elevate one end off the ground so you won't damage your saw blade.



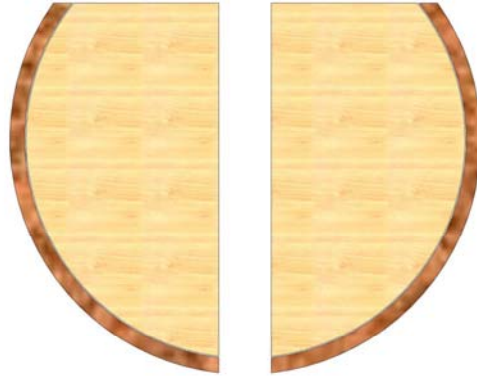
Since the log is 19" in diameter, the largest block you can get will be a few inches less than the diameter. This is about 60% of the diameter, or 11". This scenario will give you blocks 5.5" thick.

You will need an extra inch on both end grain sides. The end grain is the dark circle you see. So add $11" + 2" = 13"$. Now add one more inch for safety in case the ends crack or check.

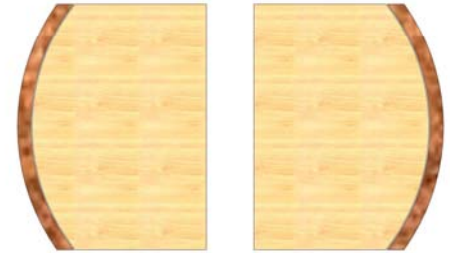
Cut a piece off the log 14" long.



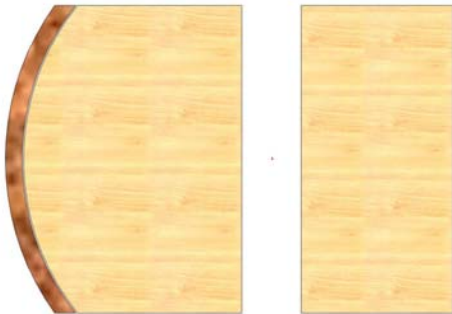
Looking at the end of your 14" stump, remove at least an inch of the "pith" from the center of the stump. This must be done or your blanks will crack open and split.



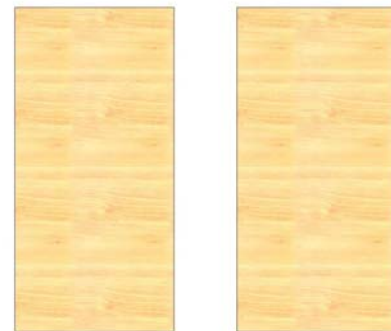
Now cut the top away as shown above. If you want to make a natural edge bowl you stop at this point.



Next cut the bottom away as shown above.

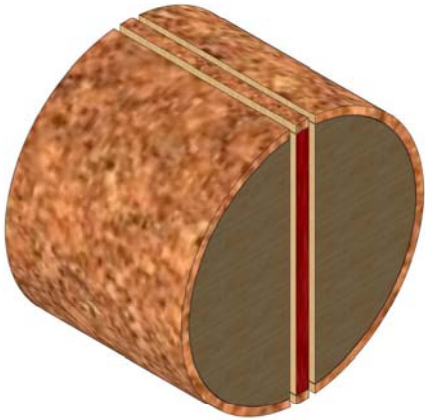


Next cut the right side away as shown above.

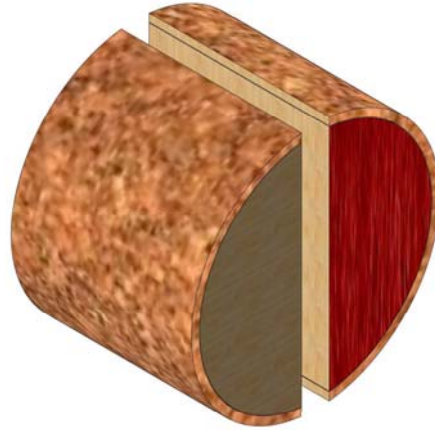


Last, cut the left side away as shown above.

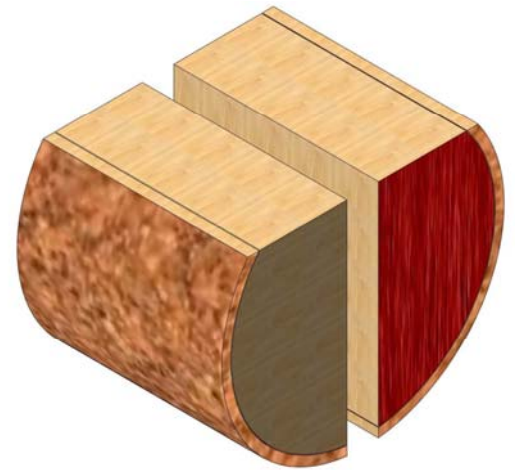
Let's run thru it in 3D...



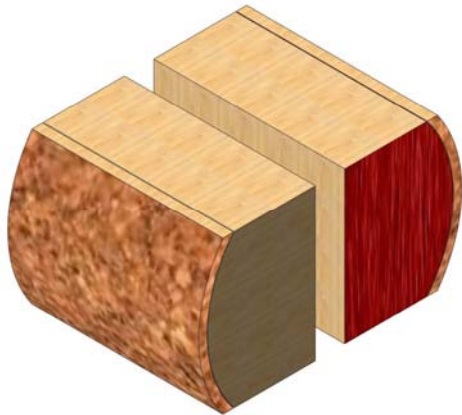
Cut 1 and 2, remove the pith.



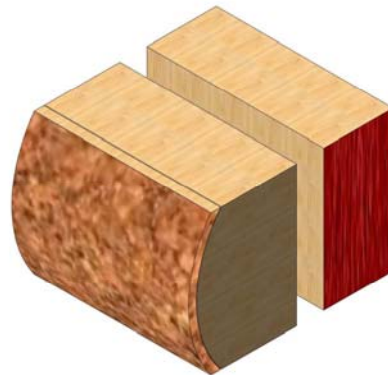
You can keep the pith but be aware it will crack and distort. Stop here for natural edge bowls.



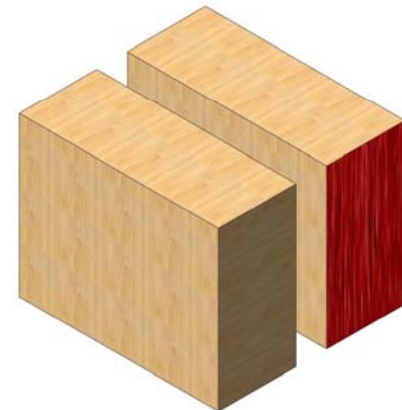
Cut 3 and 4, remove the top sapwood and bark.



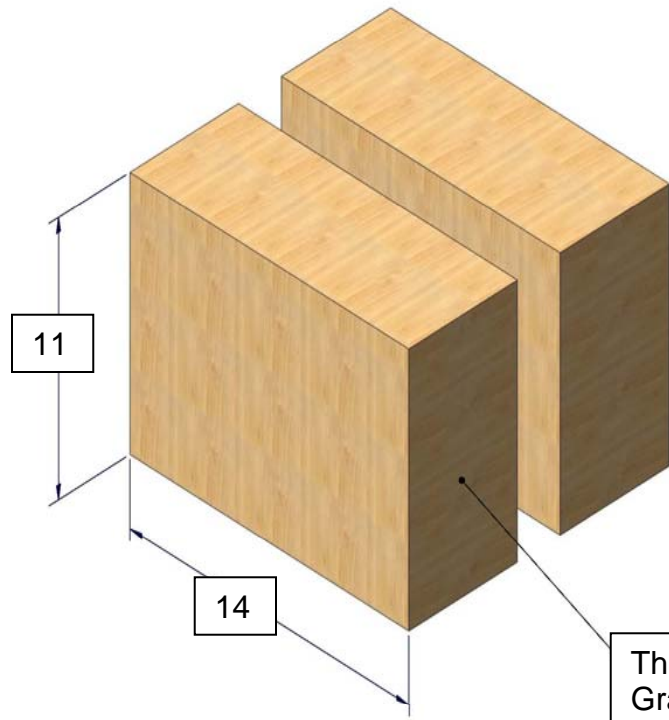
Cut 5 and 6, remove the bottom sapwood and bark.



Cut 7, right hand sapwood and bark.

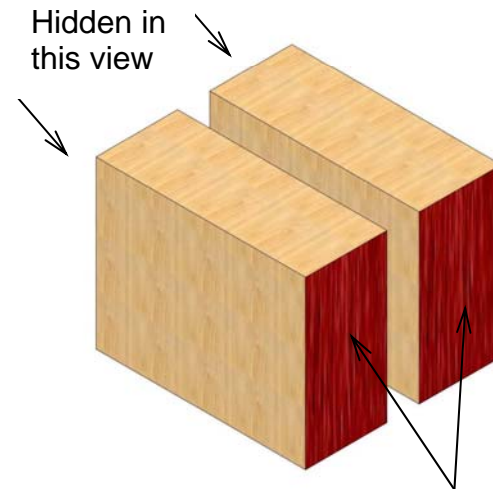


Cut 8, left hand sapwood and bark.



This your resultant blocks. 2 blocks measuring 14" x 11" x 5.5" thick.

This is the "End Grain" the face opposite this one is also the end grain.

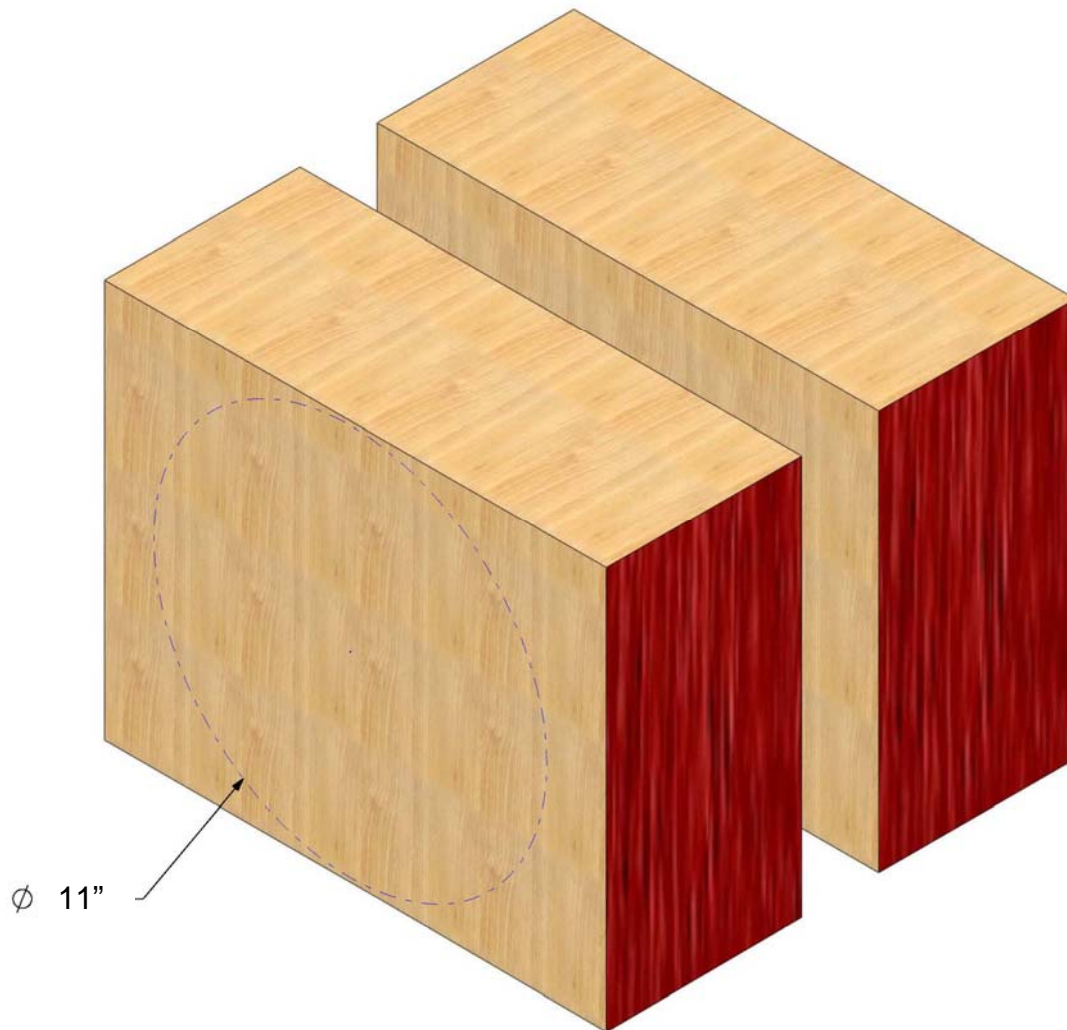


It is critical that you wax the ends as soon as possible after you cut the log. The more the end grain dries out, the more probable the ends will crack and check, ruining your block as it dries.

Some people wax all surfaces, but I prefer to leave non end grain surfaces open to hasten drying time. "Anchorseal" is the product I use.

The dashed circle represents the maximum bowl diameter possible from this scenario. Using these principles and calculating before you start cutting can significantly increase your yield from a single log. Forethought and preparation are always a smart idea.

The next time you are fortunate enough to come upon a whole log or tree, take some time to do the math, and get as much as possible out of what mother earth has been kind enough to provide us. I take frequent drives around my county on Sunday afternoons just looking for yard trees that have come down especially after a bad storm. I have stayed in wood for a year now doing this. Plus it recycles what is already lost, possibly saving a perfectly sound tree from destruction somewhere else.



The pith portion, and bark sides can be salvaged if you cut away the cracks, checks and bark once it has dried.

Those pieces make good lids for your bowls, and bases for them.

The heart section, once you split or cut it down the middle, will be excellent material for smaller projects.

If you cut the pith section at least 2 inches thick it will make a matching lid for the bowl blank underneath it. Keep these pieces together when you put them up to dry.

I am James "cad" Holland, and I feature a wide variety of bowls, urns and vessels at my website. Take a visit some time to see my work at:

<http://handturnedbowls.biz>

cad