



## Bronze Bowls & the Shop Press with David Orth

Sept. 21-22, 2019

Welcome! There is something about bowl making that has always intrigued me: wooden bowls on a lathe, bowls of delicious ramen, Tibetan singing bowls, bowls hammered out of metal sheet, and now bronze bowls pressed out on a shop press. The shop press is just about the last thing on a woodworker's mind. It's a tool that comes to us from the grimy dark corners of body shops (auto & airplane), machine rooms, and jewelry studios. Nevertheless, it enables such an unusual, varied set of effects that we can't help appreciating its use for us and how it stretches the imagination. It doesn't hurt that there are now very decent 20-ton presses for under \$200. We'll make some lovely bowls this weekend and in the process learn a lot about the shop press - and a few other low-tech approaches to cutting and forming metal.

### What to bring:

- Safety glasses
- Ear protection
- Light leather gloves
- Center punch
- dividers or compass – for drawing circles – 6” with two sharp metal points ideal
- 6 pennies - pre-1982, when they were still solid copper all the way through
- A pair of pliers for handling hot metal – just about anything will do
- A Magnum Sharpie marker

**What to wear:** Long sleeves, long pants recommended. Sandals not so much.

**What to study:** There is a ton of DIY, YouTube stuff on shop presses and you'll enjoy seeing what the fuss is all about there. Machinists & service stations seem happy to press bearings all day long. It is jewelers and body shops that have more imagination. Follow your nose.

I look forward to working with you. Let me know if you have any questions. I am easiest to reach by email.

- David Orth