

# MEMBERS' GALLERY

## Jerry Kermodé, California

I don't remember when it started—maybe when I was young and carved hearts from abalone shell on Huntington Beach. Later in life, I began making hearts of wood each year as a Valentine's Day gift for the woman I love. I've given Deborah a wood heart every year for fifty years now, and if I'm lucky, I'll make her many more before I'm done. Soon after I started turning, I began finding ways to make the hearts on the lathe. I'd like to offer one technique here, so you, too, can share your heart on Valentine's Day.



Deborah and Jerry Kermodé on their wedding day, 1967.



Some of Deborah's collection of wood hearts.

## Turned disk—cut and reassembled



This method involves turning a disk to a half-heart profile, then cutting the disk in half and gluing it back together. The result is a half-circle whose cross-section is heart-shaped. The prettier the wood, the prettier the heart. This concept is the same as what I learned in the fourth grade: If you fold a piece of paper in half, cut out half a profile of a heart, and then unfold the paper, you'll have a full heart shape.



**Step 1: Mount and turn a disk** to half a profile of a heart. A blank 1½" (38mm) thick and 8" (20cm) in diameter will produce a heart about 3" (8cm) wide and 4" (10cm) tall. Ensure the back of the blank is perfectly flat for later gluing.



**Step 2: Cut the disk in half.** Decide which direction you want the grain to run, knowing that when the two halves are glued back together, you will have two book-matched ends. Long grain, crossgrain, or something in between—you get to decide.



**Step 3: Carefully glue the halves back to back.**



**Step 4: Cut cross-sections** from the glued-up half circle. Decide how many Valentines you have and cut that many sections. I have found that a section a little smaller than a quarter of a circle shows nicely. Sand and finish the ends, and give it to that special someone.