

# Mario Rodriguez 3-1 Gouge from Ashley Iles

by Fred Holder

The Mario Rodriguez 3-1 tool from Ashley Iles tool is made according to the Mario Rodriguez's specifications. Apparently, Mario likes to switch tools as little as possible, so a versatile tool is essential. The 3-in-1 combines the basic functions of three turning tools: a roughing gouge, a skew, and a general, fairly large, spindle gouge.

This tool is forged out of 3/8" HSS bar stock, so its massively heavy and solid in use. This makes it ideal for the occasional turner. The sides of the tool are ground (9 degrees from vertical) so that you can cut into a sharp corner like a skew chisel (and from both directions too). It can shape beautiful curves and get into tight corners for clean detail work. The handle is kept short for control and nimbleness. The sheer size and weight of the tool makes it a bit expensive, but the heft makes it easy to control. I should note however that like a skew chisel it is capable of some massive catches if you apply the tool incorrectly to the wood, which I did one time during the test. It is a production tool for the occasional turner. The tool is 1-1/4" wide and approximately 3/8" thick. This is one massive spindle gouge that I was pleased to run through its paces.

My first use of the gouge was to rough shape the handle that I made for the one inch Ashley Iles bowl gouge. It performed very well there and did a nice job of planing like a skew chisel over the length of tool handle. For actually testing of this tool, I used a chunk of redwood which finally wound up as a little box. While I was getting started on the test, Mildred was working on a box made from highly figured Maple. She couldn't get the surface of the box smooth and ask me for advice. I brought over the gouge under test and made a few cuts with it to smooth the surface. Her opinion was that the tool belonged in her tool rack instead of mine. I can only attribute the mass of the tool to the performance on that highly figured wood.



Using the tool for roughing to round.

For the test, I was using a softer wood which is often the wood of choice for spindle turning. The block of redwood was somewhat misshapen and a



Side view of the Mario Rodriguez 3-1 Spindle Gouge, 1-1/4" wide. The Bevel Angle is 30 degrees a good angle for spindle work.



Flute view of the Mario Rodriguez 3-1 Spindle gouge. This tool can perform roughing, smoothing, and detail work with its design.



This view shows the actual bevel of the Mario Rodriguez 3-1 Spindle Gouge.

bit out of round. Normally, I would have used a roughing gouge to make it round. In this case I used the tool under test. It performed the task very well. Admittedly, a roughing gouge would have done this part very well, however, I did not have to lay the tool aside to smooth the surface a task normally done with a skew.



Here I am making the final smoothing cuts on the surface.



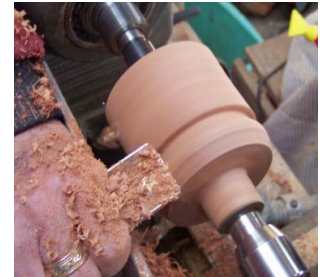
Since both ends of this wood were not true, the next operation was to true the ends.



Next operation was to clean up a corner with the very edge of the tool.



Next operation to perform was try turning a bead with the tool. This was tricky but doable.



On with the bead.



Cuts large coves very well.

The only advantage of this tool is that it can perform a number of tasks without reaching for another tool. Good for production work, especially for the part time turner.

### Contact Information for these Tools

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