WIN RECORD POWER TURNING EQUIPMENT WORTH £709 THE WORLD'S LEADING MAGAZINE FOR WOODTURNERS Michael Blankenship on why he taught himself to turn after losing his sight **Bob Chapman** explores turning with yew and Stuart King on turning makes boxes a cottage-style money box Colwin Way discusses **Andy Coates** options for cleaning up creates a coloured the bottom of work contemporary ogee bowl **Kurt Hertzog** looks at post-turning alterations

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Autumn-Winter



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Turning always forms a major part of my life and it is so much fun



et me start by wishing you all a Happy New
Year. This is typically a time for setting goals and personal challenges. For some it can be a springboard for change.

In 2014 I set myself the challenge of turning 365 finished items during the year, you can read more about that on my blog posted on www.woodworkersinstitute.com on 23 December 2014.

This personal challenge attracted a lot of attention and many people enquired as to my progress and set their own turning challenges for the year. I didn't really set one for 2015, other than getting more family time, although that didn't work as well as I had hoped.

This year I have pondered what to do and have been looking at what is scheduled for 2016 and have decided not to tackle anything of the magnitude of the 2014 challenge. My decision this year is to spend more time with the family

and, no doubt much to the relief of my wife, catch up on all the jobs around the house. I know that time at home is precious and my working away from home and also being away at demos and shows bites into family time. Before any rumours start, I am not cutting down on shows and demos, but, my 'spare time' will be better, or should I say, more rigorously monitored so as not to let the extraneous stuff get in the way. The items that are the worst offenders are the "... we just need, can you do, will you be free for this..?" type of thing.

I know I can fit everything in so it just needs me to be more diligent and prioritise a bit better. My wife reads the magazine so no doubt she will chuckle and think time will tell if this resolution comes about. I guess the ball is in my court.

Everyone has to work out what their priorities are and how best to manage everything. It isn't easy. Having said all of the above I need also to make sure that I get enough workshop time, which is something

that many struggle to find time to do. I know it is frustrating, but in order to improve or develop work, one has to put in the time. I have designs I want to work with and see where they end up. So I will get workshop time, but the redecoration of the dining room, repair of my workshop door frame, the repainting of the garage door, the new patio door and whatever else has built up on the to do list must be done and that is my challenge for now. I also have a book to revise and a new one is being planned too. If I am good and get these done I might also be able to go fishing!

Let me know what resolutions and challenges you have set for this year. And remember to try to have lots of fun turning!

Best wishes,

Mark

markb@thegmcgroup.com





Woodworkers Institute website (www.woodworkersinstitute.com) is thriving. It would be great if you took a look and participated in the various discussions and competitions in our community, or see us on Facebook & Twitter.

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NEWS, LATEST PRODUCTS, MAGAZINE UPLOADS & EVENTS

can all be found on www.woodworkersinstitute.com. These all appear on the magazine homepage and you can see a bigger selection by scrolling down the page and clicking on the individual stories. We also have an extensive online archive for you to browse

Subscribers!

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Woodturning is an inherently dangerous pursuit. Readers should not attempt the procedures described herein without seeking training and information on the safe use of tools and machines. All readers should observe current safety legislation.

Conversion chart

2mm (5/64in) 3mm (1/8in) 4mm (5/32in) 6mm (1/4in) 7mm (⁹/₃₂in) 8mm (5/16in) 9mm (11/32in) 10mm (3/8in) 11mm (7/16in) 12mm (1/2in) 13mm (1/2in) 14mm (9/16in) 15mm (9/16in) 16mm (5/8in) 17mm (11/16in) 18mm (²³/₃₂in) 19mm (3/4in) 20mm (3/4in) 21mm (13/16in) 22mm (7/8in) 23mm (29/32in) 24mm (15/16in) 25mm (1in) 30mm (11/8in) 32mm (11/4in) 35mm (13/8in) 38mm (11/2in) 40mm (15/8in) 45mm (13/4in) 50mm (2in) 55mm (21/8-21/4in) 60mm (23/8in) 63mm (2½in) 65mm (25/8in) 70mm (23/4in) 75mm (3in) 80mm (31/sin) 85mm (31/4in) 90mm (3¹/₂in) 93mm (3²/₃in) 95mm (33/4in) 100mm (4in) 105mm (41/8in) 110mm (4¹/₄-4³/₈in) 115mm (4½in) 120mm (4³/₄in) 125mm (5in) 130mm (5¹/sin) 135mm (51/4in) 140mm (5¹/₂in) 145mm (53/4in) 150mm (6in) 155mm (61/sin) 160mm (6¹/₄in) 165mm (6¹/₂in) 170mm (63/4in) 178mm (67/8in) 180mm (7in) 185mm (71/4in) 190mm (7½in) 195mm (73/4in) 200mm (8in) 305mm (12in) 405mm (16in) 510mm (20in)

610mm (24in) 710mm (28in)

815mm (32in) 915mm (36in)

1015mm (40in) 1120mm (44in)

1220mm (48in)

1320mm (52in)

1420mm (56in) 1525mm (60in)



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Victorian Twist Pen Kit Capture the formal opulence of the Victorian Era with this extravagant and elaborately designed pen.

4 Victorian Pen Kit Starter Package

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Dragon Twist Pen Kit This dramatic and beautifully sculpted pen makes the perfect gift for any Dragon lover. Features a mighty dragon on the clip, a dragon claw grasping the center band and armored scales on the tip and end.

3 Dragon Pen Kit Starter Package

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Steampunk Bolt Action Pen Kit Here's a pen kit straight out of Victorian science fiction. The kit combines rivets, flat head screws, replica Gatling gun barrels, our patented Bolt Action mechanism along with a mixture of industrialized Antique copper, pewter and brass finishes.

3 Steampunk Pen Kit Starter Package

You get 1 in Antique Brass & Copper (shown above), 1 Antique Pewter & Copper, and 1 in Antique Copper & Brass plus the bushings and drill hit

Item #PKSPSS SAVE \$14 Only \$89.95 USD

Celtic Twist Pen Kit

Honor the heritage, pride, courage and values of people with Celtic descent with a pen featuring intricate Celtic Knot scrollwork on the tip, clip and end as well as an emerald color cabochon on the end.

4 Celtic Pen Kit Starter Package You get 2 Celtic pen kits in Antique Brass and 2 in Antique Pewter (shown above) plus the drill bit and 2 piece Bushing Set.

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Note: Pen blanks not included in starter sets

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Round & about

We bring you the latest news from the world of woodturning as well as letters from the Woodworkers Institute forum and important dates for your diary from the woodturning community

Ten Turners Turning back at Nuneaton for second event

ollowing the success of
Ten Turners Turning at
Nuneaton in March 2014,
Axminster Tools & Machinery
plans to hold a second event in
March 2016.

During this two-day event, the professional turners will demonstrate their skills and unique styles of woodturning; explain any useful tips, techniques and easier ways of achieving the desired result; and produce their own trademark turned pieces.

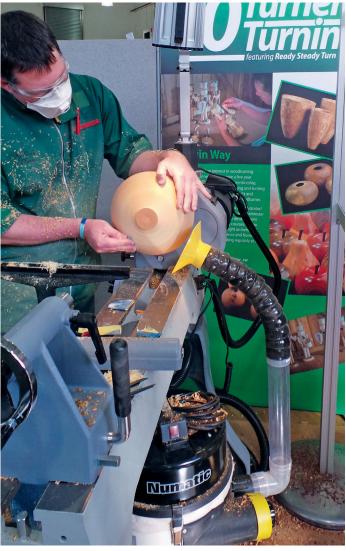
"We're really looking forward to hosting once again a major woodturning event in our store,' said Nuneaton store manager John Flavell. "It really will be an exciting couple of days for both customers and staff alike."

Both Friday and Saturday afternoons will see the pro-turners competing against each other and the clock in the Ready Steady Turn competition. Anyone who visited Axminster's main Tools & Machinery Exhibition many years ago may remember the Ready Steady Turn woodturning competition. The name has been resurrected and the Nuneaton version will be run along similar lines.

The line-up for this event is impressive: Andrew Hall, Andy Rounthwaite, Joe Laird, Mark Sanger, Phil Irons, Richard Findley, Steve Heeley, Tracey Owen and Axminster's own Colwin Way and Jason Breach.

There will be a wide range of Jet and Axminster lathes on display, including the Jet 4224B and Axminster's Hobby and Trade ranges. This event will also provide a good opportunity to see many different lathes in action.

When: 11–12 March, 2016 Where: Axminster Tools & Machinery, Bermuda Trade Park, Nuneaton, CV10 7RA Web: axminster.co.uk/stores/ nuneaton



Colwin Way at the 2014 event

Ise & Nene Valley Turners club opens its doors

new woodturning club, the Ise & Nene Valley Turners formed recently at the Counties Community Centre, Hertford Road, Kettering in Northamptonshire.

The aim of the club, which meets every third Thursday of the month from 7-9.45pm, is to promote woodturning in the local community. It also hopes to bring together like-minded people who wish to develop their turning skills in a supportive environment.

The club is affiliated to the AWGB and intends its meetings to be enjoyable, sociable evenings and, most importantly, great fun.

The meeting on 19 November saw a visit from Martin Wright who turned a segmented bowl. "Martin's instructions were clear and his demonstration was really inspiring," said the club's Facebook page.

A large section of pre-used tools were also available for sale at the meeting along with a number of wooden pieces.

Contact: Peter Bond **Where:** Hertford Road Community Centre, Kettering, NN15 6LG

Email: peterjamesbond@tiscali.co.uk



The Ise & Nene Valley Turners

Learn. Create. Connect. AAW's 30th Annual International Symposiu

AAW's 30th Annual International Symposium

he American Association of Woodturners – AAW – is the world's leading resource for woodturning information, inspiration and instruction. AAW's annual international symposium complements its expansive collection of woodturning educational publications and services. Each year, it offers woodturners an opportunity to learn new techniques, glean inspiration and connect with others who share their passion. AAW's 30th annual international symposium will be held at the Atlanta Convention Center at AmericasMart in Atlanta, Georgia, from 9-12 June, 2016.

Here are 10 reasons why you'll want to join the AAW and your woodturning colleagues in Atlanta...



The AAW has played a crucial role in the development of contemporary woodturning and wood art since 1986. We've led to a dramatic transformation of the craft over the past three decades. Together at the AAW symposium, we'll be able to celebrate this 30-year milestone and the dedicated people who got us started.

World-class demonstrations

For those who appreciate exceptional woodturning displays AAW offers three-anda-half days of classroom-type demonstrations and panel discussions led by internationally known woodturners and veteran instructors. No other event offers as many opportunities to learn from the world's best turners. North American demonstrators include Sally Ault, Robin Costelle, Cynthia Carden Gibson, Michael Hosaluk, Beth Ireland, John Jordan, Dale Larson, David Marks, Jason Schneider, Mark Sfirri and Curt Theobald.

All skill levels welcome

Whether you're a beginner or a veteran woodturner, the AAW symposium



Avelino Samuel, Virgin Islands, and Neil Turner, Australia, conduct an intimate critique session at the 2015 AAW symposium



Christian Burchard demonstrates green wood hollow forms with madrone burl at the 2015 AAW symposium

has something for everyone. You'll be able to select from the broad range of demonstrations and panel discussions to focus on sessions that will enhance your experience wherever you are on your woodturning journey. You'll also take away knowledge, tips and techniques that will last a lifetime.

Broad topic area appeal

For turners interested in special topic areas



Barbara Dill demonstrates multi-axis turning at the 2015 AAW symposium

and in connecting with affinity groups the AAW has a wide assortment of learning areas including classic bowl turning, surface carving and embellishment, segmented turning and hollow vessels to name a few. Plus, its growing number of affinity groups offers huge diversity with segmented turners, ornamental turners, pen turners, multi-axis turners, women turners, disabled turners, and youth turners.

Excellent value

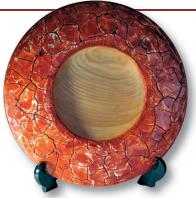
AAW's symposium packs in more high-quality learning opportunities for woodturners than any other event in the world. You can sign up early for discounted registration and special group rates at selected hotels. You'll receive a full-colour 150+ page handout book loaded with information, techniques and insights from demonstrators. Plus, the AAW's symposium Guidebook app for mobile devices will be available again this year so you can have the rotations, demonstrators, floor plans and messaging at your fingertips.

Huge woodturning trade show

Anyone who likes to see the latest and greatest woodturning products up close and in action should head to the AAW's



'Large Dish' by SUSIE, made from sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) burr at 415mm diameter



'Ooops, They Cracked' by georg



'Spalted Beech' by Dunkhooper, at 230 x 100mm

enormous trade show. It will be jam-packed with the newest woodturning products, tool and lathe manufacturers and supplies. You'll be able to observe a range of ongoing demonstrations, hold tools in your own hands, see tricks and techniques, and kick some tires. Bring an extra suitcase...

Lifelong connections

AAW's symposium is a chance to step out of your workshop and tap into the greater woodturning community. With a culture of co-operation, camaraderie and sharing, you'll be able to gain knowledge and find friendships that will last a lifetime, establish and renew connections and schmooze a bit!

World's largest display of turned-wood items

Whatever your skill level, you can bring up to three pieces of your work to display in our huge 'Instant Gallery' and participate in the largest show of turned-wood objects under one roof. Our themed exhibits, Turning 30 and Patterns, will draw collectors and galleries from around the country. You'll be inspired by the selection of exhibition work and have an opportunity for your own work to get noticed.

Give back to others

Passionate woodturners are often equally as concerned with 'paying it forward' and AAW's symposium offers many opportunities to support charitable causes, including Empty Bowls, Beads of Courage and AAW's own Tool Bank, education and outreach programmes. Donate or purchase a turned item to benefit a charitable cause. Bid high in our auctions to support woodturning education and outreach programmes. It's good karma.

Affordable family activities

Turners will find that their families and friends receive a warm welcome. AAW's Youth Program offers free instructor-led, hands-on woodturning instruction for kids aged 10 to 18 – free with a paid adult, pre-registration required. You'll be able to sow the seeds for a lifelong love of woodturning that

will leave lasting memories for a child or grandchild. Your registered non-turner spouse, partner, or adult guest is invited to participate in a variety of creative activities and tours while you attend woodturning rotations through AAW's Companion Program in addition to browsing our exhibitions, galleries and tradeshow.

Of course, visitors can also explore Atlanta – birthplace of *Gone with the Wind*, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coca-Cola. The city and its surrounding area is beautiful and surprisingly lush with trees – magnolias, dogwoods, southern pines, magnificent oaks and the peach tree. It is also famous for its Southern charm and offers inexpensive fun for families, older adults and everyone in between.

Learn more about AAW's 30th Annual Symposium at tiny.cc/AAW2016Atlanta

TERRY MARTIN, a woodturner who hails from Australia, says: "For me, the AAW is a wonderful extension of my woodturning family. Each year as I travel to the US for the annual gathering I know I am going to compress an outrageous amount of social value into the few days I am there. I will meet amazing new turners and refresh distance-strained old friendships. In the Instant Gallery, I will see wonderful pieces of both turned art and traditional turning in what remains the largest single exhibition of woodturning in the world..."

When asked what it's like for a non-American attending an AAW symposium, Terry explains: "The overwhelming impression is of good will and generous welcomes, in a well-run environment. Americans are invariably kind to visiting turners and it is this, more than anything else that always makes it a good experience. For me, the most important thing is the networking. I've learned that if you sit in one place long enough, every person you know or have ever wanted to know, will probably pass by... For foreigners from a more modest scene this symposium can be a mix of the Oscars and Disneyland. A journey to the symposium can be a trip of a lifetime and something to tell stories about ... "



In memory of Miguel López



A wonderful teacher

It is with deep sadness we report that Miguel López, owner of Tornyfusta in Palma de Mallorca, passed away in November. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Miguel was a man with a passion for turning and he did all he could to encourage and help people to turn. His video clips on the internet are widely viewed and he always enjoyed meeting new people and sharing ideas. Miguel always had a smile on his face when I met him at events. The turning world has lost a wonderful teacher and advocate for all things turning.

Mark Baker, Editor, Woodturning

Popular face

It was very sad news indeed to learn of the passing of our good friend Miguel.

He was such a big voice in Spanish woodturning and his efforts in translating and making videos to expand the knowledge on the subject will take some beating.

Miguel's business, Tornyfusta, runs from a small but well-stocked unit in Palma, and over the years he took the company to many cities in Spain with his son Xavi. I first met Miguel at an Axminster show in the UK but demonstrated with him at several other events, as did many other British turners including Phil Irons, Colwin Way and Mick Hanbury. He was a popular face on the woodturning cruise and loved by anyone who met him. RIP Miguel. We will all miss you.

Nick Agar, woodturning artist, Devon

Loyal and generous

Miguel was a loyal and pleasant man who we really enjoyed working with. Over the past 10 years his business has grown with us as well as our friendship. A generous host and pleasant person; we will miss him. Our condolences to all his family and friends.

Jim Preston and all the BriMarc team

All hands on the pump!

he Forest of Dean woodturning club was formed in September 2003 following the Loughborough Seminar that year. Dick Webb took the initiative to place an ad in the local press and see if there was sufficient local interest to enable a club to be formed. The first meeting was held in the upstairs sales floor of Toolite in Mitcheldean and was attended by around eight potential members. A committee was formed and, as they say, the rest is history. With currently around 25 members the club is thriving and has a full and active programme, having welcomed demonstrators from Hampshire and as far afield as New Zealand.

Beer pump handles for Hillside brewery

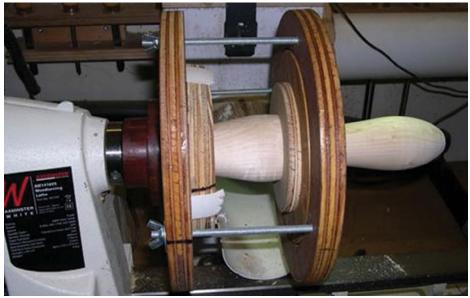
The club attended a Fire and Wood summer event in May at their local Dean Heritage Centre and Jeff Stanford got talking to the Director of a local brewery. The brewery thought it would be a good idea if the woodturning club could make some beer pump handles, so this was introduced as a project and several members took up the challenge. Having got the full specifications, handles were produced and a date arranged for a social evening and competition judging at the brewery.

A number of members attended the event at the brewery with a total of 11 handles entered into the competition. Prizes of a case of 12 half-litre bottles of beer were awarded to the three winners and every other handle was given six bottles. The brewery now has all the handles and will use them in its own bar and supply them to its customers' bars to support their local ales. First prize was taken by John Birkett – who accepted the case of beer graciously!









Woodworking Shows 2016

Ten Turners Turning

When: 11–12 March, 2016
Where: Axminster Tools and Machinery
Bermuda Trade Park, Nuneaton,
Warwickshire, UK
Web: www.axminster.co.uk

Turnfest

When: 18–20 March, 2016 Where: Seaworld Resort and Water Park, Australia Web: www.turnfest.com.au

The Midlands Woodworking and Power Tool Show

When: 18–19 March, 2016 Where: Newark Showground, Nottingham, UK Web: www.nelton.co.uk

Yandles Woodworking Show

When: 8–9 April, 2016 Where: Hurst Works, Hurst, Martock, Somerset, UK Web: www.yandles.co.uk

Utah Woodturning Symposium

When: 12–14 May, 2016 Where: UCCU Events Center, Orem, Utah, USA Web: www.utahwoodturning.com

American Association of Woodturners Symposium

When: 9–12 June, 2016 Where: Atlanta Convention Center at AmericasMart, Atlanta, Georgia, USA Web: www.woodturner.org

UK & Ireland Woodturning Symposium

When: 18–19 June, 2016 Where: Hilton Hotel in Coventry, UK Web: www.ukiws.co.uk

West's Woodfair

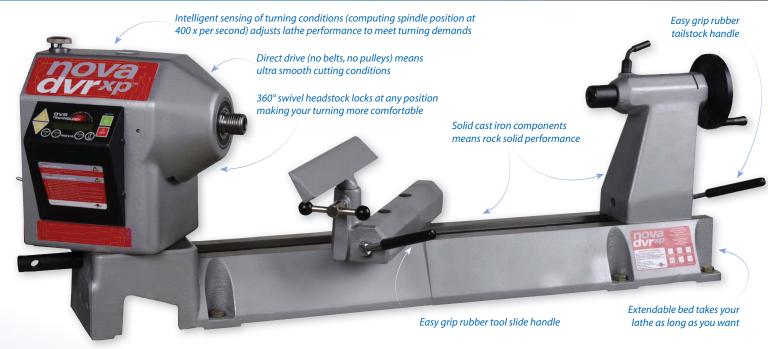
When: 25–26 June, 2016 Where: East Dean Near Chichester, West Sussex, UK Web: www.westswoodfair.co.uk

Wizardry in Wood

When: 12–15 October, 2016
Where: Carpenters' Hall,
Throgmorton Avenue,
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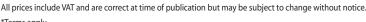
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To celebrate 25 years of Woodturning magazine, a string of the industry's top names are giving away items from their product ranges. This month, Record Power is offering one reader the chance of a full turning package

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Competition rules

The competition is open to resident of the UK & Eire only. Only completed entries received by the closing date will be eligible. No entries received after that date will be considered. No cash alternatives will be offered. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into. The winner will be expected to be in possession of a copy of this issue of Woodturning magazine. Only one entry per household. Employees of GMC Publications, their associated companies and families are not eligible to enter. By entering the competition, winners agree to their names being used in future marketing by GMC Publications, unless you mark your entry otherwise.

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To clean or not to clean?

Colwin Way tackles the questions raised by reversing mounting work to clean up bases

COLWIN WAY



Colwin started turning aged 13 and has since gone on to teach the craft and wishes to continue to give people confidence to try the wonderful hobby for themselves. Colwin was

born and grew up in Lyme Regis, a small seaside town in the southwest of England, and is still living in the area with his wife Vicki and two sons, Finley and Charlie.

colwinway@btinternet.com www.axminsterskillcentre.co.uk

eversing turning work to better deal with the recesses or spigots/tenons used initially to hold the piece poses more than a few questions. Do you need to? How would you do it? And what's the safest method? The answers will vary depending on your ability, the type of bowl you're trying to make, and your equipment. Here, I'm going to suggest some of the cheaper - and in some cases free - options available to reversing mounting work. As always, these are just a few types I commonly use and ones that work the best for me. There are numerous other methods of reversing, for example vacuum chucking, but these can be a little on the pricey side, especially for a beginner.

EQUIPMENT USED

6mm bowl gouge
10mm bowl gouge
20mm skew
3mm parting tool
Birch plywood
Steel rule
Square dividers
1 x roll of router matting
Bradawl
Faceplate ring
50mm sanding power pad
Contact adhesive
Shallow carving gouge
Pull saw

■ Button jaws

Button jaws or Cole jaws are an easy and convenient way of holding the rim of a finished bowl to remove the foot or holding method. They comprise eight dovetailed rubber buttons that can be moved to different positions of the jaws to accommodate different sizes of bowl. To demonstrate the button jaws I've turned up a small bowl measuring 180 x 75mm out of Indian Laurel (*Terminalia alata*). I've left a sacrificial foot on the bowl measuring 65mm diameter x 4mm deep which now needs to be taken off. Here's how to do it...

Set up the button jaws in the chuck ready to accept the bowl – with the jaws already set to the correct position. To make the job of opening and closing the jaws in the chuck easier I recommend a long chuck key as this will stop the key and chuck fouling each other

The bowl is now attached to the button jaws and ready for the foot to be turned off

Turning the foot off with a 6mm bowl gouge, be careful to keep the bevel rubbing which will help prevent the gouge from catching

After sanding and polishing I've left a small radiused foot on the bowl to finish the piece off









Woodplate jaws

Woodplate jaws work in a similar way to button jaws, but require some work before they can be used. They can be made to a size and shape to suit your project and have a much greater surface contact area than Button jaws. This is by far my favourite jaw for reversing bowls. The best material for your jaws would be a goodquality plywood, I use birch (*Betula pendula*) ply as I find this has no voids unlike some cheaper alternatives. Most of my wood jaws comprise two layers of 25mm plywood enabling me to create lots of hold points. Here's how to do it...

Take your good-quality plywood and a set of plate jaws. I'm making a set of 360mm jaws and have already cut the plywood to a circle

Divide the disc into quadrants. First, mark the centre and draw a straight line through it. Using this line and a square, draw another line 90° to this one dividing the disc into four

After marking the disc into quadrants, cut through the line. For this I'm using a bandsaw

Now that we have four pieces we need to number the jaws in the order they were cut. These numbers will then be matched up with the numbers on both the plate jaws and accessory mounting jaws in order to keep everything running concentrically

























5 Attach the accessory mounting jaws to the plate jaws. Making sure to match the numbers all around, position the jaws over the ply quadrants and bradawl mark the screw positions before attaching with screws

Now that everything has been cut and screwed together we can attach the jaws to the chuck. As you can see here, using a long chuck key is a must

To turn the first recess in your plate jaw you first need to make sure the jaw is firm; this means holding something in the jaws. I hold a small piece of 10mm dowel which gives me a small gap between the jaws at the perfect circle as this allows greater room for error when sizing a bowl to fit. This step is also essential for safety reasons – you don't want to be turning the ply face with the jaw loose in the chuck

I'm going to cut a recess in the plate jaws to take this cherry (*Prunus avium*) bowl, which measures 270mm in diameter

I can now transfer this measurement onto the wood plate jaws with my dividers by taking half the bowl diameter and marking from the centre of the jaws as you can see here

Now that the jaws have been marked out you are free to cut the groove in the ply using a 3mm parting tool to a depth of 5mm.

After making this cut you will have to open the groove with another cut with your parting tool or with a bowl gouge. Once the opening is big enough cut the edge of the groove to a dovetail using a skew chisel flat on the toolrest

1 Using a long chuck key you can offer up your bowl and test fit for the first time. If it has gone to plan, you can then tighten up the chuck. It's a good idea to tap slightly as you tighten to check the security

12 The bowl is now ready for a finishing cut which is best achieved with a 6mm bowl gouge using the push cut method. When you have the shape you require, you are ready to sand and seal

HANDY HINTS

- **1.** Learn how to rub the bevel and you'll never look back
- When sanding, try to mix hand sanding with rotary sanding as this will speed up the sanding process
- 3. If you're new to bowl turning start small!
- 4. Small 25mm or 50mm power-sanding pads can be used in your cordless drill to finish the bottom of your bowl
- Long chuck keys are a must when using button or woodplate jaws



■ Flat plate drive

A flat plate drive is a method of turning a bowl to a finish between centres and involves the bowl face being pressed against a plywood or timber disc by the tailstock. To soften the contact area we are going to glue on a layer of router matting which will create a good contact pad that will protect the surface of your bowl and provide a good non-slip surface for the drive plate at the same time. Again, I prefer to use a good-quality birch plywood and 25mm is a must; much thinner and the ply will have too much bend in it.

As well as a flat plate there is nothing stopping you turning a slightly radius plate drive from a bowl blank and placing some router matting between this and the bowl before turning. It's important that you add some type of cushioning between the bowl and drive to avoid damage to the bowl. It's also worth spending a bit of time making these plates as they will give you many years of reliable service. Here's how to do it...

To start making a flat plate drive you will need to decide on the size of plate you want. This will depend on the size of bowls that you most commonly make. Here, I'm making a 360mm plate which will do a wide variety of bowls and platters. I'm mounting a face plate ring onto the disc which will mean I can easily and quickly mount the plate onto my chuck after taking the bowl off

20n the other side of the plate I'm using a contact adhesive to stick on a sheet of router matting. This router matting will prevent damage to the bowl when reversing. It's a great surface and has excellent adhesion as well as a nice soft texture

Once the glue has dried you can cut away any waste matting keeping any offcuts for other holding jobs

Now everything is ready to connect to the chuck using the faceplate ring

As you can see here I'm finishing a sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) platter. Bring the tailstock up, centre the bowl and add gentle pressure, turning the bowl by hand to eyeball for concentricity. Ensure all of your locking handles have been tightened up on your tailstock and start the lathe at its lowest speed then gently turning the lathe up to a workable one

Everything is now in position and you are ready to turn off the remaining foot to leave the design that you want. You will have to leave a small spigot where the tailstock centre lies but this can be carefully nipped off with a carving chisel. Then using a small 50mm sanding discheld in the chuck or cordless drill sand the bottom to a finish •













MORE QUICK WAYS TO REVERSE AWKWARD SHAPES



In the picture above I'm reversing a poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) natural edge bowl onto a wooden dome drive turned from a piece of scrap timber. Make sure you soften the surface with a piece of tissue or rag to avoid damaging the surface



Again, in this picture, I am finishing off a small walnut (Juglans nigra) hollow form using a similar drive leaving a small spigot where the tailstock is which can be cleaned up later with a carving knife and small sanding disc

Cleaned to perfection

I made five different projects to explore some of the techniques that are involved in reversing mounting work: a conventional bowl, two platters, a natural edge bowl and a hollow form...



Here are the finished bowls viewed from the top...



... and their respective cleaned-up bases



Here are some of the holding devices that could be used

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Making pens from scratch — part 2

In the second part of his pen series,

Walter Hall makes the body and
cap of a fountain pen

n the previous part of this article I made the section or core of a fountain pen. In this second part I shall show how I made the body and cap. In many ways this project bears comparison with an earlier article about making closed-end pens – see *Woodturning* 281 – and many of the techniques and mandrels used could be applied and used when making pens from scratch. The greatest differences are in the absence of brass tubes or any other kit components and the need to cut both internal and external threads to fit the components to the section and to one another.

Choice of materials is important, not all acrylics are suitable as I found when making the section, and while the body and cap components are not as small and delicate as the section ones, materials that are too brittle will not stand up to the drilling and thread cutting processes. Some close grained

hardwoods will take threads fine enough for pen bodies especially if strengthened with cyanoacrylate but for the purposes of this article I chose to use a True Blood Kirinite blank from GPS Agencies having found in my tests for *Woodturning* 284 that this material would hold a fine thread.

Some turners may prefer to make a drawing before beginning work on their pen, but for this project I just had a simple design in my head and built up the shape as I went along. If you choose to work in this way do be aware that you may have to make changes and re-work components. For example, when initially shaping the grip of the section I made it too large a diameter and had to go back and reduce the size in order for the cap section to fit over it. Drawings and plans would preclude this sort of problem, but for me learning by my mistakes is part of the creative process.



1

I began by lining up the blank against the section and ink converter and marking off the approximate length of the cap and body components. I will not be fitting a clip to this pen, but if you decide to do so then you may need to leave extra length on the cap to make a finial piece to retain the clip. I will look at fitting clips in a future article or project

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS USED

Beading & parting tool Parting tool **Bandsaw** Scroll chuck Digital calipers 6.5mm drill bit Jacobs chuck Spindle gouge Digital Vernier caliper Threaded mandrel Razor saw 'True Blood' Kirinite blank Medium cyanoacrylate Imitation ebony rod Abranet and Micro-Mesh abrasives Farecla polishing compounds

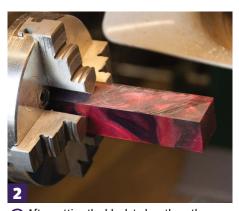
WALTER HALL



Walter Hall is a woodturner who has specialised in making pens and pencils for more than 20 years. Based on the beautiful Northumberland coast in

the UK, Walter sells his bespoke pens and pencils through local craft centres and via his website.

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After cutting the blank to length on the bandsaw I mounted the longer piece that will form the barrel of the pen into a scroll chuck fitted with a set of engineers' jaws. Pin jaws would also work for this or any small jaws capable of gripping the blank true to the axis of the lathe



The blank must first be bored out to give clearance for the ink converter and then to the correct size for the 8.5mm tap. Getting the length correct is vital; too short and the components will not fit together, too long and you risk breaking through when parting off the

end of the barrel

The diameter of the bore is important too. Enough clearance is required to prevent the ink converter from binding in the barrel, but the smaller the bore, the greater will be the strength of the acrylic body. Remember there is no brass tube to provide additional strength. I measured the converter at various positions with digital calipers and drilled out in stages to maximise the thickness of the body material

As always when drilling acrylic materials my advice is slow speeds, sharp drill bits and frequent withdrawal of the bit to clear swarf. When drilling deep holes where the depth of the bore exceeds the length of the drill bit flutes withdrawal is particularly important and is required for every few millimetres of drilling as the swarf will quickly build up and block the flutes. Excessive heat build-up from blocked flutes can cause the blank to melt irretrievably to the drill bit as I know from my early experiences with acrylic materials

I set the initial 6.5mm drill bit into the chuck so that full depth would be reached when the chuck jaws just touched the end face of the blank, but for subsequent bits the appropriate depth for each was measured and marked with masking tape. You could measure the distance moved by the tailstock quill for each turn of the handwheel and calibrate the depth in this way if you choose. The final drill bit should be the correct size for the tap that you intend to use. Check with tapping drill charts or against the manufacturer's specification

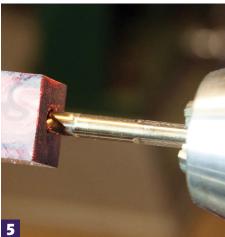
Once drilled to size for the internal thread I initially mounted the tap in a keyless chuck and began to create the threads by turning the headstock handwheel whilst maintaining light pressure on the tailstock with my other hand then reversing the handwheel to clear the swarf and thus gradually cutting the thread little by little. I found this to be a little troublesome as when reversing the tap it tended to come loose so I changed over to a keyed Jacobs chuck which worked much better as would a collet chuck or similar. Remember that you are working with a much more delicate material than the aluminium used for the section so gently does it

O I blew out all the swarf with an airline and then trial fitted the section and ink converter to make sure that everything was a good fit

The exposed part of the blank can now be turned down in preparation for cutting the spigot where the threads will be formed on the

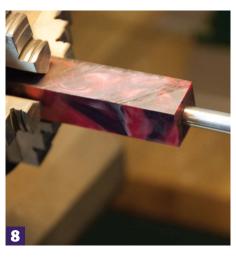




























end of the barrel to accept the cap. Don't worry too much at this stage about shaping just turn down until the end where the spigot will be is cylindrical

Now turn the spigot to the exact size required for the die that you will use to cut the thread. Once again check with the specification of the die to get the correct dimensions. I used a combination of a spindle gouge and beading and parting tool to make the cuts and a digital Vernier caliper to carefully measure the size

1 In order for the cap to screw up fully clearance is required behind the threads. Using a thin parting tool I cut a narrow groove to the same depth as the thread – i.e. the difference between the major and minor diameters of the thread. Care is needed not to cut too deep or you will at best weaken the structure of the component at at worst part it off altogether

12 The thread is cut using a die mounted in a die holder in exactly the same way as for the cutting of the threads for the section in last month's article. A chamfer on the end of the spigot will help to start the die. The die I used was an adjustable split die so I was able to cut the thread in stages to reduce the stress on the material and allow a fine final cut to give a good clean thread, but whatever sort of die you use, care is required so slow gentle progress is the way to go

13 The blank was now removed from the chuck and a mandrel created to fit its internal thread. I made this one from ebonite using the same die used to create the threads on the section

14 The blank can now be reversed and remounted on the mandrel and supported by a revolving centre in the tailstock in order for the body to be shaped

15 All of the shaping and finishing of the barrel can be done while mounted on this mandrel except for the end which is finished by hand after parting off. Parting off is best done by cutting almost through with a parting tool and then removing from the lathe and making the final cut with a razor saw or sharp craft knife

16 After a final polish on the buffing wheel the barrel is complete, the section can be fitted and we can move on to making the cap

17 I decided the cap should have a centre band to delineate the joint with the barrel. This will also take the cap to barrel threads. To make it, a short length of GPS Agencies imitation ebony rod was mounted in the engineers' jaws drilled and tapped to match the barrel threads

A 13mm spigot was then turned on the end and a 13mm hole drilled in the end of the cap blank to the depth of the spigot

The prepared components were then glued together and left to set. I use medium cyanoacrylate to save time but epoxy would also be a good choice. Once set the tailstock is brought up to provide support and the whole assembly turned to a cylinder slightly larger than the diameter of the completed barrel

The assembly is then reversed in the chuck so that the excess can be parted off and the face where the cap meets the barrel trued up

21 The body of the barrel can now be drilled out to a diameter sufficient to accept the section and nib. Take care not to damage the threads of the centre band by using too large a drill bit or careless drilling

2 Mounted now between centres – I used a cone centre with a small centre point to avoid making too deep a mark in the end of the blank – the barrel can be turned to shape and the sides sanded and finished

A threaded mandrel or jam chuck is used to re-mount the cap to shape sand and polish the end. Here the cap end is shown shaped and sanded awaiting polishing. As with the barrel the completed component was given a final polish on a buffing wheel

24 Once assembled you will have a completely unique and original pen and the satisfaction of knowing that no kit components were used in its making •





















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Identifying shapes

in turning

Richard Findley looks at how to identify different shapes commonly found in turning



Assorted router cutters to produce edge moulds. These shapes are closely related to many of the shapes used in turning

RICHARD FINDLEY



Richard is a registered UK professional woodturner living and working in Leicestershire. He discovered woodturning while working for his father as a joiner. He makes all kinds of work to commission, from replacement

antique components, walking canes and stair spindles, to decorative bowls. It is the variety of work that he loves. He also offers demonstrations and a range of woodturning supplies.

richard@turnersworkshop.co.uk www.turnersworkshop.co.uk Follow on Instagram: richard_findley ver the past few series I have looked at the techniques of turning various different shapes into timber, whether that be spindle work or faceplate turning. To begin this new series I thought it might be interesting and useful to look at how to identify some of these shapes by name. It is commonly quoted that there are only three shapes in turning:

- Beads: or positive curved shapes
- Coves: or negative curved shapes
- Straight lines: positioned at any angle

This is correct, however these shapes can be stretched, squashed and combined to make new shapes. They are still based on the basic bead and cove, but have different names that help to distinguish them from each other. Here, I will try to show each of these shapes with their names and explain where they can be commonly found and used.

Many of the shapes are closely related to the traditional mouldings that can be seen in most houses in one form or another, whether on the skirting boards, dado rails, picture rails or simply decorating the edge of a shelf. They will vary in complexity from a simple bevelled edge, bullnose or round over, to ovolo or ogee mouldings. A look at a router cutter catalogue will show you cutters that will produce most of these shapes on the edges of timber.

The shapes used in faceplate work are directly linked to these mouldings, and as I described last month, the forms used in faceplate work are also used in spindle turning, although they are slightly manipulated to make them work in this way.

WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW THIS?

In short, I suppose you don't. That said, it is always good to expand your knowledge and a deeper understanding of a subject can only be a positive thing. It can also be useful to know the names of these shapes when designing your turnings or when watching a demonstrator, so if he describes what he's doing and throws in a technical name of a shape, you will know what he's talking about!



■ Positive shapes

So a bead is a bead, right? Well not quite, because if it's a narrow bead it is known as a ring, and if it's stretched out it can become a bobbin or a sausage. This is illustrated in the pictures here.

A bead will tend to be slightly narrower than it is tall. When a bead becomes very small and narrow it becomes known as a ring. This is not to be confused with a captive ring, which is parted from the main section of timber, and is free to rattle and move around. As a bead gets wider it will reach a point where it clearly becomes a ball, and everyone knows what a ball looks like! Once it is stretched further still it becomes known as a bobbin. Continuing to stretch it to the point where it has a straight face with rounded ends, it becomes a sausage.



Different positive turned shapes



Rings



Beads



A ball



A bobbin

Negative shapes

You will be seeing by now that by altering a shape, it often gets a new name or description and while there are fewer variations for hollow shapes, there are still distinct differences. 'Cove' is the most common phrase used for these hollow shapes, much like 'bead' is the common name for rounded shapes. Coves can be almost any size and are called coves until they are stretched out to form a long hollow, which is known as a reel. In the image you will see two reels separated by a quirk, which I will come to later. A scotia is best described as a lopsided cove. A cavetto is a half cove, often seen with a small fillet either side of it, where a central bead has a fillet each side, followed by a cavetto and another fillet, before continuing along the spindle.



Different negative curves



A cove



Reels - separated by a quirk



Cavettos, each side of a bead, using fillets to break up and define the details



The oak jewellery box featured in one of my earlier series uses a combination of the cavetto and bead

Straight lines

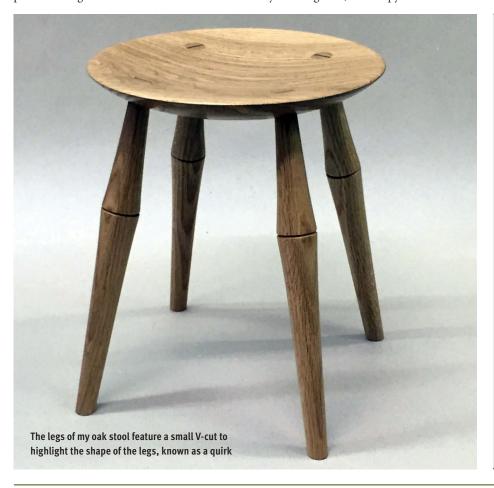
Straight lines are usually used to break up and define other, more bold details, especially in the case of fillets. Without fillets, beads and coves will flow into each other in a very wishy washy sort of way. The definition that this tiny detail brings is surprising, but important to traditionally turned designs. You will see that they appear often in the photos throughout this article and indeed

no doubt throughout the magazine.

Collars are wider straight sections that appear usually at the top of a turning and are often used on mass-produced turnings to put working room between a square pommel and the first turned detail on stair spindles and furniture legs. Hand turners don't need this detail as a sharp skew will cut details very close together, but a copy lathe will not

be able to produce this level of detail with the large scraping cutters that are used.

V-cuts are quite self explanatory, used on things like meat tenderisers and foot massagers to create crisp V-shaped details. When a small V-cut is used to separate or define another detail, such as between the reels or as on the legs of my oak (*Quercus robur*) stool, this is known as a quirk.



TOP TIP: GOOD USE OF A FILLET



The angled fillet is often subtle but incredibly effective

Sometimes you will notice a fillet is slightly tipped back towards a neighbouring bead. This is sometimes quite subtle and at other times very obvious, and is because fillets look best when they are set at less than 90° to the detail next to them. If a bead finishes at an angle to its base, to maintain an angle less than 90° and make it look its best, the fillet will traditionally be cut at an angle.

Combinations

What do you get when you cross a bead with a cove...? Although it sounds like the beginning of a poor joke, this combination is how more advanced shapes are created. An ogee, for example, is a hollow shape that flows into a rounded shape to form a flowing S-shaped curve. Done well, an ogee is a beautifully graceful shape that is incredibly versatile which can be found in both spindle and faceplate

work, being able to be stretched out wide for the underside of a platter, or stretched up tall for a deep bowl or vase form – as seen in the work of the late Bert Marsh who was known for his beautiful ogee forms – see overleaf.

Getting technical, an ogee comes in two forms which are recognised by their Latin names of cyma recta and cyma reversa. Cyma is the overall ogee or S shape, the recta and reversa refer to the balance of the shape. The recta has the hollow or concave portion at the top of the shape, whereas the cyma reversa has the rounded, or convex portion at the top of the shape. A combination commonly found in many spindle turnings is a tulip shape, which is once again a combination of a rounded and a hollow shape, and shown as the top section on the oak lamp in the picture.



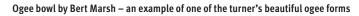
Oak platter using an ogee shape



A maple (Acer saccharum) bowl, a very different shaped bowl to the platter, but the ogee works here too









Example of a tulip form



Overall view of the oak lamp

Other common details

You may come across the term 'bird's beak' which could be confusing until you see the turned shape next to an actual bird's beak, at which point it becomes very clear! Here you will see a turned bird's beak, used on the oak lamp, next to an eagle.

A necklace detail is one used near the top of a spindle, just set down from the top detail, as shown on the softwood spindle in the picture. It usually involves a bead of some sort.

There are also other terms used to describe a bold feature detail on spindle work, such as trumpet shaped, heart shaped, onion shaped and urn shaped, all of which are quite literal translations of common forms used as wood turned features.



Bird's beak detail



Necklace detail on a stair spindle, set down from the square pommel and first detail



Shown next to an actual bird's beak, the description becomes clear

Glossary of names of shapes



Flutes and reeds run along a spindle

Ball: A spherical shape

Bead: Rounded shape usually slightly narrower than it is tall

Bird's beak: A half bead combined sharply with a scotia to form a shape similar to a bird's beak

Bobbin: A wider, stretched version of a bead **Bulnose:** Sometimes known as a round-over is a held bead shape, usually found at the base of a turning, such as the oak lamp pictured above

Cavetto: A hollow shape that is a half cove or quarter of a circle

Cove: A hollow U shape

Cyma recta: An ogee shape where the concave part is at the top

Cyma reversa: An ogee shape where the convex part is at the top

Flute: A cove that usually runs along a spindle – this is currently under Reed, but should appear under its own heading

Necklace: A detail set down from the top detail on a spindle, often a bead, fillet an small scotia

Ogee: A flowing S-shape

Ovolo: A moulding similar to a bullnose but usually used as an edge mould, with a fillet either side of it to give definition – used as the edge mould on the four lids of my oak jewellery box

Pommel: The square section often found at the top of a furniture leg and



This lamp base features a turned bullnose detail

at both ends of a stair spindle

Quirk: A V-shaped cut that separates and defines details

Reed: A group of narrow beads that usually run along a spindle

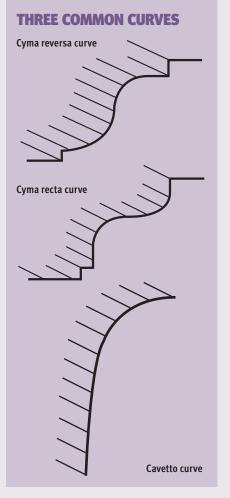
Reel: A stretched shallow cove

Ring: A narrow version of a bead

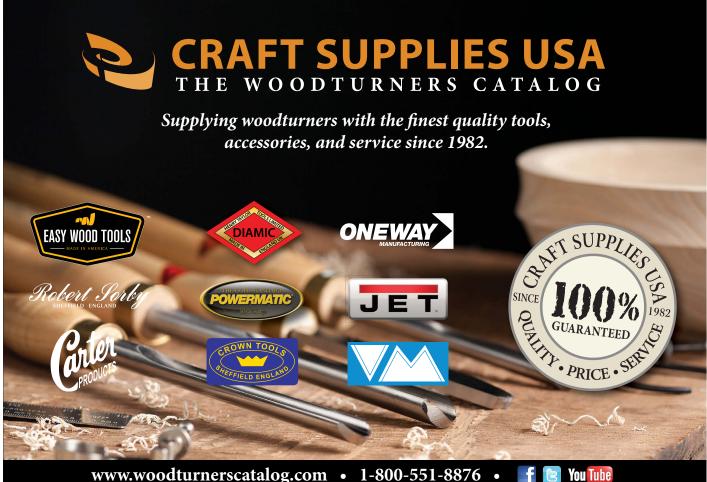
Sausage: A stretched bead shape with a straight portion and rounded ends that resembles a sausage

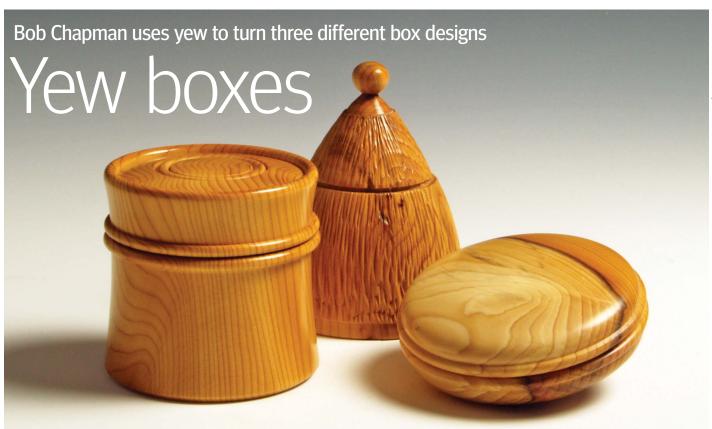
Scotia: A lopsided cove

Tulip: A shape made up of a combination of a round and hollow to form a shape loosely resembling the flower of a tulip ●









BOB CHAPMAN



After teaching chemistry for many years, Bob took early retirement to become a professional woodturner, and is a member of the Register of Professional Turners.

He was a demonstrator at the 2009 AWGB Woodturning Seminar and is available for commissions.

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here is a yew (*Taxus baccata*) tree growing in the churchyard at Fortingall in Perthshire that is thought to be between 2,000 and 5,000 years old and which is possibly the oldest living thing in Europe. Yew trees have long been associated with ancient religions and there are several examples of churchyard yews estimated at around 2,000 years old. From the age of these trees it is clear that they existed long before the churches were built, indeed some of them predate Christianity itself. One theory is that churches were built near yew trees to help encourage converts from the old to the new religion.

St Helen's church in the Derbyshire town of Darley Dale is home to another ancient yew, which illustrates the point. Estimated at 2,000 years old and growing only a few feet from the church door, there is archaeological

evidence of several more ancient settlements in the area around the tree.

The small Cotswold town of Stow-on-the-Wold was founded in the 11th century and the 11th-century parish church of St Edward's boasts not one but two yew trees, made remarkable in this instance by their position rather than their age. They stand like sentinels watching over the church door but their buttressed roots must one day endanger the building and presumably they will then have to be removed. Until then they make a sight to behold – Christianity comes to middle-earth.

The church of St Oswald's in Grasmere, in the heart of the English Lake District, has no less than eight yews. Not ancient giants these, nor planted in unusual positions. The eight, all relative youngsters as yews go, have the distinction of being planted by William Wordsworth in 1819, in an attempt to improve the church's surroundings.

Probably the best known use of yew was in the production of longbows, which were traditionally made from staves selected to contain both heartwood and sapwood along the length of the bow. The heartwood was positioned on the inside and the sapwood on the outside of the bow. The heartwood resists compression and the sapwood is strong in tension. These properties make a yew bow difficult to pull but swift to spring back, sending the arrow fast and far. The longbow was, and still is, a very powerful weapon and it was largely the skill of English bowmen that contributed to our success in battles such as Crecy and Agincourt.



This yew tree in Darley Dale is estimated to be around 2,000 years old



These two yew trees surround the door of St Edward's church, Stow-on-the-Wold



William Wordsworth planted these yew trees at St Oswald's church in Grasmere



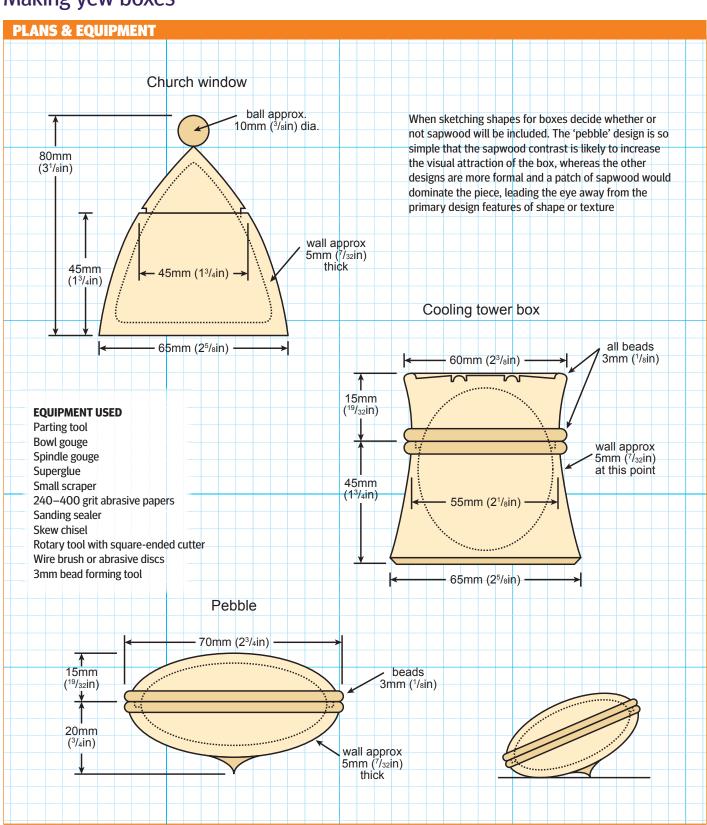
For bow-making all the natural defects that are common in yew must be avoided and only very straight grained timber is suitable. As a result the manufacture of longbow staves is very wasteful and the demand for medieval bows led to a serious decline in the number of mature yew trees. They were depleted all over Europe and this was partly

responsible for the change from longbows to muskets as weapons of war, which occurred between about 1545 and 1595. Churchyards seem to have been exempted from the search for 'weapons-grade' yew trees.

Yew is one of the most beautiful of our native English woods. The heartwood varies from pale orange-brown to mid-

brown, sometimes stained red or purple by iron, and the sapwood is a pale creamy white, often accompanied by shades of grey at the boundary with the heartwood. Both heartwood and sapwood work easily, sand well and take a high polish. Used for furniture and decorative woodware, it is an excellent wood for turning.

Making yew boxes



















The 'church window' box

1 Using the planned dimensions as a guide, turn a suitably sized piece spindle grain orientated of yew down to 65mm between centres, and form dovetails on each end. Mark out a section at about 45mm for the box bottom and take the remainder down to a diameter a little more than 45mm, then part off. This section will be used for the lid

2 Use a bowl gouge to reduce the outside of the blank to the approximate shape required, maintaining the small diameter at just over 45mm. The inside is rough hollowed using a spindle gouge with its flute at about 10 o'clock, pulling it from the centre out towards the edge

3 Yew is prone to small cracks and shakes but you can fill them with superglue. Use thin glue and give it time to penetrate the crack by capillary action. Allow time for the glue to set

Use a small scraper to complete the shaping and refine the inside surface. The scraper has the burr honed away and is used horizontally with the cutting edge at centre height or very slightly below. Take light cuts from the centre outwards and up the sides to the top. The curvature of the internal corners matches the shape of the scraper

5 Sand lightly with 240 and 400 grit papers before sealing with sanding sealer. Next, use a skew chisel to cut the shallow recess to accept the box lid

Mark the blank so that it can be replaced in the same position, remove it from the chuck and replace it with the lid section. Carefully turn down a short spigot to be a tight fit in the box. This requires a lot of 'trial and error'. Be patient!

Fit the box onto the lid. If the fit is good, the box will stay in place when the lathe is switched on but if in doubt, bring up the tailstock centre for extra support. With a small bowl gouge shape the lid to match the curvature of the box. Continue until the curve flows smoothly across the joint between the pieces. Once the external shape of the lid has been established, remove the box bottom and hollow the inside of the lid using the spindle gouge and scraper as before. Sand and seal the interior of the lid, and remove it from the chuck

Replace the box body section in the chuck and refit the lid, matching the grain pattern from box to lid. No matter how good the fit, the joint between box and lid will always be visible, so make a feature of it by cutting a narrow groove on the joint line. Complete the shaping of the lid and the ball on top. If the lid slips or comes off put a piece of tissue across the box and then insert the lid. This will tighten the fit enough to allow the ball to be finished



With the box completed, it is now almost ready for parting off. I intend to texture the surface, but if you prefer a smooth polished surface then sand and polish before parting off

Texturing

1 O It is important that the lines of the texture are vertical down the box and that they all start and end at the same level. To help with this, draw pencil lines on the box as a guide. The texturing is fairly straightforward with the corner of a square-ended cutter in a rotary tool. The texturing raises small splinters and wispy bits of 'fuzz' on the wood, which can be removed with a fine wire brush or abrasive 'bristle discs'

Texturing always looks better with well-defined start and finish lines, and to achieve this the box is returned to the lathe in order to cut in slightly at the top and bottom of the texturing with a small parting tool. To prevent the top coming off, hold it in place with some insulating tape

12 The box is then parted off and reversed onto long nosed jaws used in expansion mode just inside the recess for the lid. This allows you to clean up the bottom of the box, taking light cuts with a small bowl gouge

13 After buffing, the box is finished

The 'pebble' box

For this box design, you'll need a small piece of yew approximately 75mm diameter and 50mm thick, containing both heartwood and sapwood, with the grain running from side to side rather like a small bowl blank. Mount it between centres, then true up the blank and form a shallow 5mm dovetail spigot on each side. Then, using a narrow parting tool, divide the blank into two slightly unequal parts approximately 16 and 19mm thick

15 The thicker part is the box base. Holding it by the spigot, hollow it out with a gouge, refine with a scraper, then sand and seal and cut a recess to receive the lid. Take care to allow enough wall thickness for the beads, which mark the joint between lid and box

16 Use a 3mm bead forming tool to make a bead right on the very edge of the box, blending the curve of the bead into the flat area where the top and bottom will meet



























17 Reverse the work and hold it by expanding the chuck jaws into the recess that was formed for the lid. Using a small gouge, complete the underside, forming a small point which will tip the box sideways. This finishes the box bottom, which is sanded and sealed ready for buffing later

The box lid is made in a similar way, taking care when cutting the spigot to fit the box bottom. The lid is hollowed as before and can be reversed in the jaws and gripped gently by the spigot, using tape to protect it if necessary, while the upper surface is completed. The two parts are then combined into the finished box

The 'cooling tower' box

Driving past power stations I've always been struck by the elegant shape of the cooling towers, and have made many boxes based on this design. The addition of beads at the joint between lid and box, and on the top of the lid, give it just the right amount of decoration. Starting with a suitably sized blank, form a cylinder of 65mm diameter and about 75mm long with a dovetail spigot on each end. Mark the division between body and lid and part the lid section off, leaving the body in the chuck. Form the bead around the top edge, hollow the box body and cut a recess to accept the lid. None of the dimensions are critical, but refer to the diagram for guidance. Note the shape of the interior of the box. A smooth curve is easier to shape than sharp corners and has the added advantage that it makes small items easier to get out of the box

Repeat this process for the lid, forming a spigot that is a tight fit in the box body. Replace the body and insert the lid. If the fit is tight the lid can be worked on without coming loose. If it won't stay put, hold it directly in the chuck, gripping the spigot in the jaws and using tape to protect the spigot if necessary. Turn the top of the lid smooth and level and form the bead on the outer edge

2 1 With a small gouge, shape the lid top and edge down to the bottom of the beads, adding extra beads if desired. In the same way, shape the side of the box down to meet the bottom of the lower bead

2 Examine the profile and ensure that the curve of the sides is continuous from the body through the beads into the lid. Part off the box body and reverse it, holding it with the chuck jaws expanded into the lid recess. Clean up the bottom of the box with a small gouge, then sand, seal and polish and the job's done

23 The set of finished boxes should look something like this •



Eugene Grimley and **Peter Lyons** recall the early days of the Irish Woodturners' Guild and how it evolved to become what it is today

he Irish Woodturners' Guild – IWG
– was founded in 1983 making it the
oldest such organisation in the world.
In 1980 Liam O'Neill and Ciaran Forbes had
attended the International Woodturning
Seminar at the John Makepeace School for
Craftsmen in Wood at Parnham House,
Dorset, England. At this event they met
David Ellsworth, Bob Stockdale, Stephen
Hogbin, Ray Key and Richard Raffan.
Inspired, Liam O'Neill decided to put on a
similar event in Ireland, which he achieved
in 1982 with Ray Key and Phil Reardon
supporting him as the main demonstrators.

This, in turn, led to Liam O'Neill, Ciaran Forbes, Jim Foley, Willie Stedmond and others forming the Irish Woodturners' Guild in 1983. The idea was to set up a national, non-profit-making organisation dedicated to the advancement and promotion of woodturning and within a year there were upwards of 100 members representing almost every county in Ireland. The IWG was open to turners of all abilities from hobbyist to professional and from the outset it was an all-Ireland body.

The Guild's first seminar was held at Shannon, County Clare, in September 1983 with Ray Key, Michael and Liz O'Donnell and Richard Raffan as the guest demonstrators. Its success gave the then committee of the IWG the confidence to press ahead with more ambitious plans, which included having an annual seminar.

At the 1984 event David Ellsworth joined Michael and Liz O'Donnell and a great number of talented Irish turners. It was David Ellsworth's experience of these early woodturning seminars that inspired him to set up the American Association of Woodturners in 1986 and the following year Ray Key established the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain.

Chapters

In 1985, regional seminars were organised and this eventually led to the formation of local 'Chapters', a structure that still exists within the IWG. Members join the Guild and a proportion of the membership fee is returned to their 'home' Chapter to assist in its running costs. This is one of the main strengths of the IWG with a strong, openminded, national organisation providing guidance and support for the local Chapters.

The first Chapter of the IWG was set up in Dublin in 1990 and it this group that adopted

the title 'Chapter' rather than 'branch' or 'club', following the lead of the American Association of Woodturners. The aim of the Chapters was to build on the woodturning skills of their members and to provide a local forum for the interchange of ideas. This process continues today and there are now some 20 Chapters across Ireland.

A new Chapter can be established by 10 members of the IWG applying to the National Executive Committee. Following its approval, the new Chapter will get a formation grant from the IWG and set up a committee to organise the activities of the Chapter. Most Chapters hold a monthly meeting, which usually takes the form of a demonstration by one of their own members or by a turner from outside the Chapter, sometimes even from outside Ireland.

A typical small Chapter

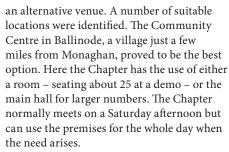
The Crossborder Chapter was formed in 2007 with about 40 members, although this susequently fell back to the current figure of about 30 members. Early meetings were held in the woodwork room of Beechill College in Monaghan but during redevelopment at the school the Chapter was obliged to find



Some of the traction engines created for the innovative Chapter Challenge in 2014



How times have changed over the years - and The Journal has kept the IWG's members up to date



The Crossborber Chapter is relatively small and as a result it makes good use of its own members to demonstrate turning projects. However, whenever the opportunity emerges, it will have a full-day demo with visiting international demonstrators.

A larger Chapter

Although less typical of the Chapter structure, a good example of a larger grouping is the Ulster Chapter set up in 1992 and now based at the Woodshed in Templepatrick, County Antrim. It was established following the placing of an advertisement in a local paper announcing the intention to form a local Chapter of the IWG in Northern Ireland and inviting those interested to attend a meeting. Some 70 members attended and, to this day,

the Ulster Chapter has remained one of the biggest Chapters of the IWG.

The normal meeting for the Chapter is 2pm to 5pm on the second Saturday of each month. There is a competition on two levels each month. Over the years the competition has helped to bring many good amateur woodturners to a higher skill level.

The Chapter has, since 2010, adopted the Play Department at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Belfast, as its charity producing close to 1,000 pieces of work each year. Christmas trees, snowmen, eggs, chicks and small figures are all made for the children to paint and decorate themselves. There are also some smaller items in 'safe woods' for the 'Treasure Baskets' used by the very young patients and their teachers. The Chapter is also working on establishing a twinning arrangement with Border Woodturners in Carlisle, England.

Given that Sam and Lynda Moore, proprietors of the Woodshed, host a demonstration every Tuesday night using local demonstrators the Ulster Chapter are forced to look further afield for their demonstrators. The majority of these come from across Ireland but three or four times a year the demonstrator will come from the



Pierce Boland demonstrating at the January workshop

UK which means that the demonstration will be an all-day affair. Occasionally the Chapter secretary Peter Lyons will get the opportunity to bring a demonstrator from further afield, such as the USA or continental Europe.

In such events, an Irish tour will be organised for the demonstrators to visit as many Chapters as possible in the time available. This has the combined effect of lowering the overall cost to the Ulster Chapter while simultaneously helping the smaller Chapters which benefit from being able to meet demonstrators who they could not afford to bring in on their own.

Recently, encouraged by several members, the Ulster Chapter invited Yann Marot from France to visit Ireland to do a series of masterclasses and demonstrations. This was a very successful event and Yann spent a very productive two weeks in the country, one of them in the Dublin area and the second with the Ulster Chapter.

All of the Masterclasses were fully booked and Yann also did the Tuesday-night demonstration for the Woodshed as well as a whole day for the Chapter on the Saturday. It is hoped that success of this venture will encourage more demonstrators to Ireland in the future.



The Journal

Soon after the founding of the Guild it became clear to those on the Committee that they needed to keep in touch with woodturners around the country and in 1983 Joe O'Neill initiated the monthly newsletter.

Michael Dickson, the then secretary of the IWG, took on the newsletter's production. Initially this took the form of a single sheet printed on both sides but by the early 1990s it was several pages long. In the spring of 1993 the Dublin Chapter's Garth May produced the first Dublin Chapter Journal. Within a year David Sweeney introduced the magazine and in 1995 the Dublin Chapter undertook the task of producing *The Journal* for the whole IWG membership. A year later the National Executive Committee took on the task appointing a Journal Editor to the Committee. Through the stewardship of Peter Mulvaney, Hanspeter Bodmer, Peter Lyons and now Rich Varney The Journal has become a professional 64-page, full-colour, quarterly magazine considered to be among the best of its kind.

The *Journal* echoes the workings of the IWG and devotes 50% of its space to reports from the all the Chapters around the country. This approach helps the Chapters to learn from what other Chapters are doing and also encourages them to improve their offerings to their own members.

During his time as Editor, Peter put out an appeal to try to get a full set of copies of the *Journal* from the beginning. Paddy O'Connor came forward with a full set, in a carrying case! This was given to the National Library of Ireland and it is kept up to date as each new issue of the magazine is added. A separate set was compiled from many sources and this travels with the post of the *Journal* Editor.

Seminars

The first woodturning seminar was held in Ireland in 1982, the year before the foundation of the Irish Woodturners' Guild. This event was organised by Liam O'Neill and others who had no idea how many, if any, woodturners would attend. This event was essentially a two-day upskilling course supported by Craft Supplies (UK) whose then instructor Phil Reardon taught basic skills while Ray Key demonstrated more advanced techniques.

In 1983, the first annual seminar organised by the newly formed IWG was held and hosted a great number of delegates due to the efforts of members. The seminars for 1984-1986 were held in Letterfrack, County Galway, and saw the introduction of prizes for the best pieces in a number of categories. This awarding of prizes for the best work at the seminar is still a major feature of IWG seminars.

The events are organised by the National



The 2012 Chapter Challenge demanded the teams turn their attention to creating intricate spinning wheels



Demonstrators at the 25th IWG seminar in 2008. The event set a high benchmark for future events

Executive Committee and hosted by a local Chapter. The local Chapter does the research on the ground for suitable venues and submits a proposal to the National Executive Committee. The local Chapter also provides much of the equipment required and the stewarding during the event.

Until 2008 the demonstrations were held in a school, during the October half-term break, with a local hotel providing meals and accommodation. A feature of each of the early seminars was the inclusion of a well-known American woodturner plus at least one from the UK. By the mid-1990s the number of UK demonstrators at each seminar had increased and often a European turner was included. By 2000, American, European and UK demonstrators were a feature of each seminar. At this time the seminar was still a two-day event.

As 2008 approached – the year of the 25th Annual seminar – the National Executive Committee at the time wanted to do something special to mark the occasion. It was agreed that the anniversary seminar would be a three-day event; have as many as possible of the original demonstrators from the 1983 seminar; and be held under one roof. The 24th seminar had been hosted in Ballina, County Mayo, by the Craobh Eo Chapter and it gallantly agreed to host the 25th seminar having found a suitable hotel in Enniscrone only a few miles from Ballina. This seminar had almost double the usual number of demonstrators and was deemed to be a great success.

The years since have seen the 'all-under-one-roof' and the three-day format retained. The National Executive Committee is committed to constantly improving the seminar for the benefit of the delegates who come from all over Ireland, the UK, the USA and Europe. It is remarkable that hotels are willing to cope with the mess that woodturners make though the area around each lathe is covered with plastic sheeting.

The 2008 seminar saw the introduction of the annual Chapter Challenge. The



Demonstrator Graham Whitty at a 2012 meeting of the Gorey Chapter in Robert O'Connor's studio

first Challenge was to fit as many boxes as possible – Russian doll-style – within a given size. Challenges since then have included the lightest plate of apples – the size was fixed – a breakfast tray, a spinning wheel, a model traction engine and, most recently, a bicycle, as featured in last month's issue of *Woodturning* magazine.

The IWG's structure

The National Executive Committee members are elected annually at the AGM with the exception of the President who serves a four-year fixed term of office. Office bearers may serve a maximum of five years. This is meant to revitalise the National Executive Committee but in reality it can be difficult to get volunteers to serve on the Committee and officers often remain on the Committee albeit in a different role.

Since 1983 the Seminar has been an item on the agenda for every National Executive Committee meeting and not just the upcoming Seminar but also looking ahead to future events.

One problem that has tested the National Executive Committee over recent years is the thorny issue of insurance. The insurance for all the activities of the Guild including Chapters is arranged centrally and as woodturning has developed over the years it has become increasingly important to get the correct cover for the activities of the Guild.

The National Executive Committee spends quite a lot of time discussing how the Chapters are meeting the aims of the IWG in what they offer their members. As mentioned above, the quarterly Chapter reports in *The Journal* give a good outline of what is going on around the country but there are, and always will be, variations in what Chapters are able to offer to their membership, especially those who meet on mid-week evenings. The National Executive Committee tries to support all Chapters through grants towards the purchase of new equipment, towards bringing demonstrators from outside

the immediate area and towards running local one-day seminars.

Membership of the IWG has fluctuated over the years, from a low of about 700 to more than 800. Having seen falling numbers for the past few years, however, the figures are beginning to climb again. It is the intention of the National Executive Committee to continue to promote the IWG and to increase membership as this is currently the only source of income. Encouraged by the Design and Craft Council of Ireland several members of the National Executive Committee have participated in a 'Business to Arts' programme and it is hoped that this will lead to sourcing other funding streams which will be used to set up training programmes for tutors, demonstrators and members.

Contacts: Eugene Grimley and Peter Lyons are the IWG's Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary respectively. Both are accomplished woodturners.

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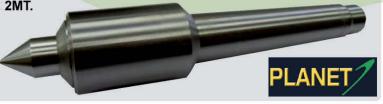
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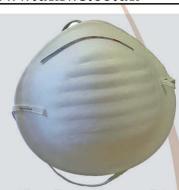
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Modern ogee bowl

Andy Coates gives the traditional ogee shape a colourful twist



easy to become bored with turning wood. Jobs that have to be done to pay the bills can become chores to be resented and put off, but that's rarely an option. So when you have some free time it's a form of respite just to turn for the sake of turning. If the result is something pleasing, and especially if somebody else thinks so and purchases it, it can do wonders for your mood and general enjoyment of your craft.

Quite often during these respite periods I return to 'old shapes'; forms and shapes that are beyond the claim of any individual because they are set in the deep history of the hand-made vessel. They're a safe bet, tried and tested and found to be good standards of a type. The ogee bowl is one such shape.

The ogee itself is a spindle turning shape, appropriated for the faceplate-age long ago, so spindle turning is a good grounding for learning the intricacies of the shape and its formation on the woodturning lathe. Incidentally, there's never a reason not to spindle turn. It's always a learning process, and always transferable to the faceplate – or 'scroll chuck' in modern parlance. So a 10-minute 'spindle session' before every allocated or stolen slot of workshop time is a good way to warm up the muscles and refresh the connection between eye and hands. It's never wasted time or timber.

The ogee shape works well on a bowl, and can bridge a gap between the purely utilitarian and the decorative. On occasion,

however, it can look a little staid. It is, of course, all a matter of taste, but the ogee bowl can be given a contemporary edge.

I've made many ogee bowls over recent years; all different, but stemming from the same traditional shape. A tweak here and there to the shape, a different treatment, such as carving, texturing, colouring or even a combination of a number of these can all work wonders in lifting what might be a quite ordinary object into something a little more special. And it can also rehabilitate a drab piece of wood, or help to highlight the features of a particularly nice piece.

Over this time it has also occurred to me that creating interest in the objects we make – especially the more speculative ones – is all about tension. It's the tension created between features that draws the eye – and hopefully the wallet – from the pocket of a prospective purchaser. So, where might we create tension? And how?

The most obvious place is between the chosen material, wood, and something else. In this case modern paint finishes. Spray paint technology has progressed in leaps and bounds over recent years, evidenced by the introduction of artists' spray paints, which seem to be forging a path through art shops and online suppliers. These paints – if not their

dramatically. Water-based sprays have emerged and a vast array of colours and finishes are available to try. If you don't fancy kitting yourself out with a dedicated airbrush system these paints can provide an inroad to a more refined finish when compared to brushed-on paints. So dig into your piggy bank, invest in some wild colours and give it a whirl. But for this project I'm eschewing the 'wild' and returning to an old favourite: red and black; although I did plump for a vivid and dramatic cadmium red. I'll also be adding something to add an aged effect to the paint. So, let's get on. I have used a piece of unidentified garden ornamental but you could use anything suitable. In fact, something fairly plain is ideal.

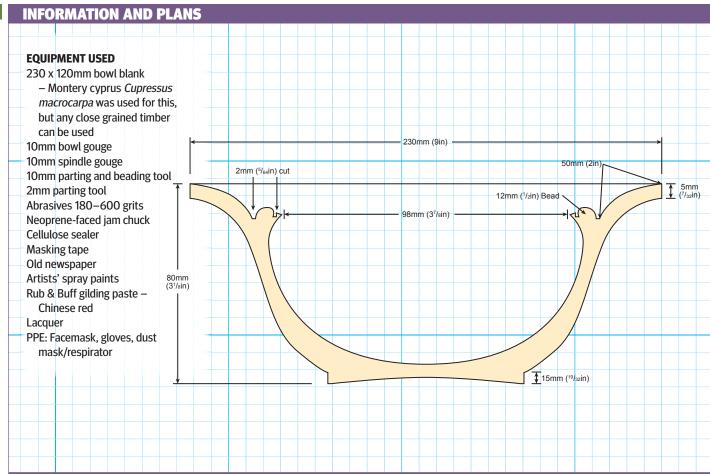
ANDY COATES



Andy is on the Register of Professional Turners (RPT) and is Chairman of the AWGB. He is a professional woodturner and has a workshop and gallery in Suffolk. He mostly makes

one-off pieces, but like any jobbing woodturner, is just as likely to be found doing small batch runs, antique restorations or any number of strange commissions. He also demonstrates and teaches turning.

cobwebcrafts@btinternet.com www.cobwebcrafts.co.uk \triangleleft



Mount your blank between centres. I use a steb centre and a revolving ring centre because they provide remounting capability. Using a long ground bowl gouge rough down the blank on all faces and check for faults that might require realignment between centres

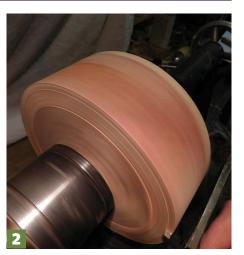
I mounted the rough blank with the bark side towards the tailstock to ensure that the recent growth was largely turned away during shaping. Turn a tenon appropriate for your particular scroll chuck on this face. Make the face of the tenon slightly concave and work as close to the revolving centre as it is safe to do so – the remaining stub may be accommodated within the chuck or can be hand carved away

Clean up the first 10–20mm of the top face at the headstock side of the blank. This will provide a reference for the upper limit of the eventual rim of the bowl. This will be roughly the finished surface height. Using the long ground bowl gouge begin to remove some of the waste. With the tailstock in place a pull cut on the wing is the most appropriate cut

The basis of the finished shape is visible. At this point I marked a line 5mm from the top face of the blank to provide a reference point for the finished rim thickness. This provides a finish point for the shaping cuts. I have also marked in pencil the final diameter of the foot. Here it is about 80mm. Work to these reference marks

























5 Using pull cuts begin to form the final shape of the ogee – a long, lazy 'S' shape when viewed from the side of the blank. Form the foot to the marked diameter, making it about 15mm deep. Continue shaping and aim for the finishing cuts to take you from one reference mark to the other in a single flowing cut. Abrade the finished surface to 400 grit, seal and apply paste wax

Remount the blank in the scroll chuck on your prepared tenon. Ensure the blank runs true. The rim should sweep in and down so make light cuts to form the shape, and remove waste behind the cut as required. You can use your bowl gouge on its wing for this series of cuts. Aim for a 4–5mm rim thickness, and a rim width of about 50mm. Do not begin to form the 'bowl' section just yet. The inner material is required as a barrier and support at this stage

Using the edge of the long ground bowl gouge round over the rim so that it has a gentle curve. Next abrade the rim and rim edge to 320 grit. Now stop the lathe and run a length of masking tape around the circumference of the rim. Press it down firmly front and back. Then wrap the underside of the bowl in old newspaper and secure firmly with masking tape

Take a tool with a sharp point and use the tip to lightly cut through the masking tape about 5mm from the edge of the rim. Peel off the inner ring of tape and you should have a perfectly masked rim section. If not, take another 1mm and repeat until you have. Pat down any lifting edges

With the rim and underside protected, you can apply the first coat of paint. Follow the can's guidelines and make light passes, never overloading the surface. Allow to dry and then 'knock it back' with a light pass of 600-grit abrasive. Wipe all the dust away before applying a second coat. You may wish to repeat this step again if necessary. Allow to fully dry/cure. Note the drying times for water-based artists' paints can be longer than for cellulose-based paints

As soon as the paint is properly cured begin to remove the tenon and underlying waste wood. Aim for a flat surface which will form a pad of wood raised above the inner edge of the inside rim depth

1 Begin to remove some of the central waste, leaving a band of wood next to the painted rim. Make the band about 12mm wide. It should be about 5–7mm proud of the inner edge of the rim surface. Slightly dish the central surface, but do not form the bowl at this stage

12 Using a 10mm spindle gouge, or a 10mm parting and beading tool, form a bead from the 12mm band you left. You will naturally form 'V' cuts to right and left of the bead. Once completed, abrade the bead to 320 grit taking care not to catch the painted surface

Now you need to mask off the painted rim. Take care not to have masking tape adhere to the painted surface. Extend the masking tape over onto the bead, ensuring that it at least covers the outer of the two 'V'-cuts either side of the bead. Mark the outer 'V'-cut with a pencil line

1 Lising the sharp corner of your skew chisel carefully cut through the masking tape on the pencil line. Be careful not to let any of the edge of the tool connect with wood either side of the 'V'-cut or it will catch

15 Remove the inner masking tape carefully and press down any lifting edges. You should have a cleanly masked off rim now. Next, increase the size of the inner 'V'-cut using either the skew chisel or a spindle gouge on its side. Be careful not to catch the surface of the bead. Most of the surface created will be turned away later, but this provides material for a frame later

Now take your contrasting paint colour and following the guidelines on the can prepare to spray the bead. Don't be tempted to hurry the process by applying too much paint. Repeated thin coats always result in a better finish. You may again wish to apply at least two coats, knocked back with 600 grit between dry coats

17 Using a 2mm parting tool, freshly re-ground, take a careful cut through the masking tape on the outer 'V'-cut at the side of the bead. There's no need to go to deep just yet as you will return here shortly. For now just cut through the masking tape to clean wood

Carefully remove the masking tape from the rim section and underside of the bowl. You may find that despite all of your best efforts that there have been leaks of paint, or that the 2mm cut reveals paint that has wicked through the grain to leave a stain. If this is the case re-cut the 2mm section to clean up. Try to aim for a finish that does not require abrading – the chances are you will damage the paint surface while abrading the cut

Now you can begin to form the bowl. As ever you can approach this in a number of ways. You can use a pull cut from centre towards the rim, or a push cut from the rim to the centre. Whichever you find easiest is fine. It is often easier to form the bowl using the latter cut, however

When you get close to the inner 'V'-cut to the inside of the bead, cut a flat surface, 2–3 mm wide and leave this alone. Then take the 2mm parting tool and make a matching cut to the one you made on the other side to the inside of the bead. You can now begin to hollow out the bowl











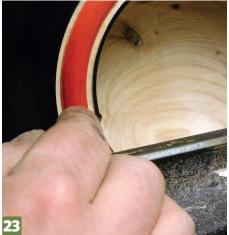


















ARTISTS' SPRAY PAINTS

Artists' spray paints are now made by a number of companies and are available from good art supplies stores, both on the high street and online. The quality is much improved and they are produced specifically with the 'artist' in mind and differ noticeably from the more usual

car-body sprays turners have used previously. You may need to experiment with the water-based and cellulose versions and you may find you prefer one over the other for a given application. The main advantage is the vast colour range, often offered in complementary palette schemes. One thing worth noting is the spray heads; these can be as prone to blocking as any other spray head. So read the instructions, see if the manufacturer has online help videos and follow the instructions. At an average of £10 a can you do not want to find your spray can is unusable later on.



2 1 Because the rim section extends over the underlying ogee we need to undercut the rim slightly for two reasons. Firstly, it prevents the lower section of the bowl developing a too heavy wall. Secondly, the undercut bowl adds interest to the finished piece, casting an inner shadow when lit from above. If your lathe has a reverse function and you have a chuck that will lock onto the lathe spindle you might find it easier to form the undercut with the lathe in reverse. This can be an unusual cut the first time you try it, but cutting on the opposite side to usual is easier and enables you to see the shape form

2 Complete the bowl shape, aiming for a flowing uninterrupted curve from rim to base. Undercutting can result in a poorer than usual surface finish because of the change in direction of the cut and the difficulty of achieving it. If this is the case you may need to clean the surface with a round-nose scraper. A round bar scraper is more easily controlled. Keep the cutting edge at about 45° to the wood to provide a shear scrape. Take very light cuts and do not rush. Once satisfied abrade the inner bowl to a 400-grit finish, seal and apply paste wax to a finish

2 3 In order to harmonise the bowl decoration take a black sharpie – or paint and a brush if you feel confident! – and colour the narrow band you left to the inside of the bead. This frames the bead and gives the whole thing a frame

The cadmium red I used is a very strong colour and the effect was a little too clean and bright for my tastes, so I decided on a simple and effective addition. I used a gilding paste to knock back the brightness a little and give an aged appearance. I used Chinese Red as it complemented the cadmium. Apply sparingly and carefully buff once cured. Excess is easily removed with repeated buffing. Once cured the whole upper painted surfaces can be lacquered if a more durable finish is required

The bowl is almost complete, but we have the tenon to deal with. Tenons ought not to be left on the objects we make. They are not designed to be there as part of the final piece. They are only for holding material, so we should remove them afterwards. I use a simple neoprene-faced jam chuck with the bowl trapped between it and the revolving cup centre. Take light cuts with a freshly ground 10mm spindle gouge and slightly dish the base. Abrade to a finish and the remove the remaining stud with a carving tool or sharp craft knife. Abrade the last part and seal

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Michael demonstrating his techniques on segmented woodturning

A self-taught woodturner

Before losing his sight, Michael worked at a hospital as a Cardiopulmonary Technician and did flat woodwork in his garage in his spare time. "I made furniture and grandfather clocks and lots of scrollsaw pieces. I had never seen a bowl turned on a lathe", he says. About 11 years ago he developed a rare disease called AZOOR. "At that time, there were only 500 documented cases and no one ever went blind. I was the first," he explained. "The disease process started with the flu and caused a type of autoimmune disease in which the antibodies that were developed to destroy the flu started to destroy the cones and rods of my eyes. It took a year to diagnose the rare disease and then a year of unsuccessful experimental treatments before I went completely blind. I have absolutely no vision at all. Totally dark."

In the meantime, as he did not expect

to lose his sight, Michael started a small sawmill business with his brother-in-law and it was here that he had his first experience of turning a bowl. "A customer - now a good friend - placed into my hands a bowl that he had turned on a lathe. I knew nothing about turning on a lathe, I had never even seen one turned when I had sight. My friend said that I should try turning a bowl. I told him I did not know how and was it not dangerous? He told me that if I went really slowly and took my time I could make a bowl. My sons had a mini lathe that was in the corner of the garage that they made pens on a few times, so I decided to venture out into the garage for the first time in three or four years and give it a try. I took a faceplate and screwed it to a glued-up piece of wood and started chunking out a bowl. I went into the house and told my wife 'I'm a wood turner." Michael admits that his first attempt was

not entirely successful: "It looked awful, something like a dog dish! Thick and heavy and flat on the bottom." However, this did not put him off him and he was determined to learn more about woodturning.

After buying a lathe, he bought some tools and several videos about woodturning. "I would listen to the videos and then go into the garage and practise what I understood. My wife would come home from work and watch the video with me and take a large mixing bowl and wooden spoon and show me how she would see the turner's hands and the position of the tool with the mixing bowl and spoon. I would go into the garage the next day and try again. So I taught myself to turn."

Turning style
When he first started turning, Michael made utility-type bowls but he has now



Cherry (Prunus avium) rootball vessel



advanced to more complex work. "I'll try anything or figure out a way to turn it blind style", he says. "I have gone from simple to more complex, thicker to thinner, and small to large or visa versa if it is challenging." He describes his style as "a freelance or free spirit style. The wood tells me what shape or turning it will become."

Michael relies on his sense of touch when making a piece: "Since I have never seen a turned piece or any of my bowls or pieces that I have turned, I feel the piece. Everything has a feel about the piece that brings an image to my mind that comes out in my work."

Inspirations and influences

Michael told us that he feels inspired by the challenges of woodturning: "I love learning and attempting all types of techniques." Woodturning clubs have had a great influence on his work. "I didn't know that they existed. I discovered woodturners at tool shows and would pick their brains about turning. Woodturners are the nicest people and they told me about woodturning clubs. I now belong to two clubs, Lincoln Land Woodturners in Springfield, Illinois and Woodturners of St. Louis, Missouri. So many woodturners have helped me to improve my skills, have given me ideas and have made me a better turner. I want to thank all of them."

Workshop and tools

Michael's workshop is in his garage. He has a Powermatic and Jet lathe, a tablesaw, planer, bandsaw, joiner, chainsaw, mitre saw and all the equipment that a woodworker needs. "I use these tools all by myself in the dark. Everything is arranged in a specific place and is not moved so that I can find what I need. I know exactly where everything is in the garage."

His essential tools are the lathe, 12mm bowl gauge, 12mm scraper, grinder and sandpaper. "I always tell my wife that I don't want any more tools, I need them!" he says.

He spends roughly six to eight hours a day in his workshop, he turns for a few hours, then spends time cleaning, sanding and finishing. As a blind turner, it takes him a little longer to make an item. A typical simple bowl takes him between one and one-and-a-half hours to complete.

To aid in his turning, Michael has modified an adjustable circle hole cutter to enable him to turn any size of tendon easily. To do this, Michael took the drill bit out of the centre and discarded it. He then turned the cutter around 180° in its holder. Instead of cutting a hole, it now cuts a straight tendon or spigot the chosen size every time. If you need a dovetail, a pass with a slew with create it. This device

is mounted into a jacob's chuck in the tail stock – hang onto it – and advance it slowly.

"I do all my own sharpening and grinding," Michael tells us. "I use the wolverine system with the vary grind for all my fluted tools." Michael has made three different ¼in plywood jigs that mount on the wolverine grinding table secured with wing nuts. He continures: "They slip into the same position every time ensuring the same angle every time for my scrapers." This method makes it quick and simple for Michael to make repeat angles for his square end and angled scrapers, adding: "CBN wheels are a plus."

Highs and lows of turning Michael told us that his lowest moment in

Michael told us that his lowest moment in turning was a painful one: "I smashed my finger and could not turn for a month. I turn almost every day so that month was torture." Aside from that, he has experienced many highs, including all the demos he has done for his clubs and at the Colorado and Utah symposiums. Becoming a woodturner has meant a lot to Michael: "It saved my life. It gave me a purpose and a sense of accomplishment, a sense of succeeding and lots of really good friends."

Self-promotion

These demos also give Michael a chance to promote his work. His pieces are also featured in three galleries in the US, The Studio on 6th in Springfield, Illinois, Turned Treasures in Belleville, Illinois and The Vault in Tuscola, Illinois. Michael also has a website, www.turningblind.com

Aims for the future

In the future, Michael wants to do more demos for clubs and at symposiums. Michael has, in fact, just been accepted to the 2016 AAW symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. He has also been invited to demonstrate in the Australian symposium in 2018 and is demonstrating in Vancouver, Canada and Seattle, Washington in 2016, and in 2017 at the Oregon symposium. Clearly Micheal has a busy few years coming up! "I love doing demos especially since it encourages clubs and other turners to help people with disabilities," he says. "My demos also encourage those with disabilities such as vision loss to not give up their love of woodturning. I show that there are other ways to achieve the same goal - turning."

As well as this, Michael's plans also include mastering new turning skills. "I see myself continually trying new techniques in woodturning. I recently started segmented turning and that has given me a new challenge that I can attempt to conquer." We look forward to seeing the results!



LIKES

- It's a very fulfilling hobby
- I can make quality gifts for charities and family and friends
- Woodturning meetings and symposiums
 I love to learn
- Meeting people woodturners are some of the nicest people
- Demos and teaching

DISLIKES

- Cracks
- Splits
- Knots
- Broken tools
- Cold weather
- Not enough time in a day to go to all the symposiums

HANDY HINTS

- I use all my safety equipment and I tape my fingers with masking tape so I can touch the bowl frequently and not burn my fingers
- Don't be afraid to try something new
- Don't be afraid of scrapers and sandpaper
- Go to as many demos as you can and join a club. I always learn something and so can you

TOP TECHNIQUES

 I don't have any special techniques. I just turn away everything that doesn't feel like a bowl!

Contact: Michael Blankenship Email: michael@turningblind.com Web: www.turningblind.com





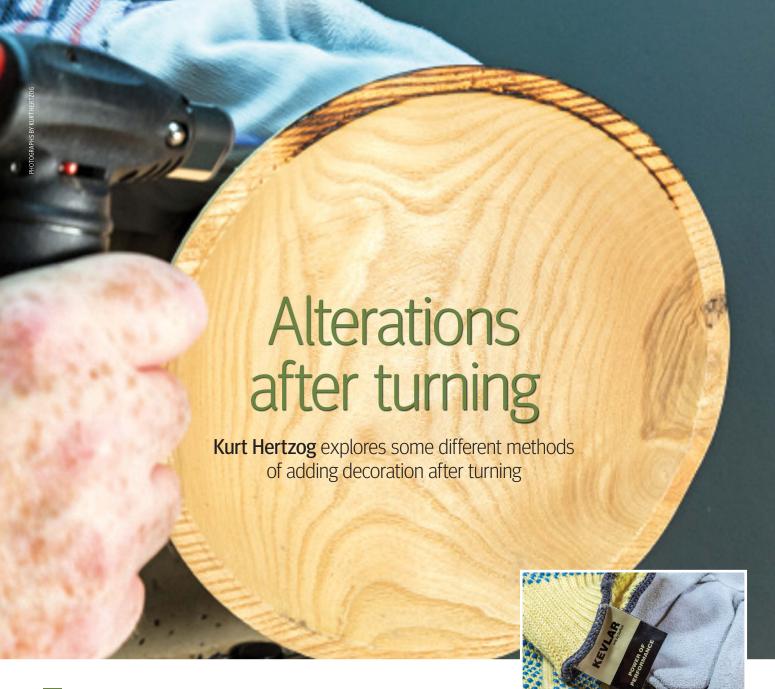


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KURT HERTZOG



Kurt is a professional woodturner, demonstrator and teacher and writes for various woodturning and woodworking publications in the United States as well as contributing to *Woodturning*

magazine. He is on the Pen Makers' Guild Council and is currently president of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW).

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aking your nearly completed piece and intentionally altering it may seem like heresy. Carving, piercing, painting, pyrography, distressing or other after-turning alterations may seem like degradation after you've taken the time and trouble to make it flawless. With beautiful wood, you can create a simple turning allowing the beauty of the wood to speak for itself. However plain,

boring woods can usually benefit from a little help. Past articles have touched on painting, piercing, inlaying and other after-turning ideas. This month we'll explore carving, pyrographing and minor distressing. These are just a few additional things you can do to add a bit of interest. While there are artists who have taken these techniques to a pinnacle rarely reached by the rest of us, my goal is to plant the seeds of simple things with which you can begin to experiment. Like most woodturning, there are tools that can be bought to ease the tasks but we'll focus on the simple tools yet show some of the available tools.

Safety

In addition to the usual cautions about eye protection and PPE as needed whenever you are in the shop, please take special care with the tools suggested for these modifications. Carving tools need to be incredibly sharp to be effective, so using a carving glove as appropriate is a wise idea regardless of your workholding method. A slip with a carving

Carver's gloves from Kevlar protect your hands from sharp carving tools. A welder's glove may be helpful when using a torch

tool is always a possibility so protect yourself from any mishap. For our pyrography, especially with a torch, use caution where you perform this. Be certain you do this in an appropriate place and keep an extinguisher handy. Protect yourself as needed against the potential for burns. Working in a safe environment that is clean and fire safe and taking care with these hot items is paramount. The burning materials should always be done with plenty of ventilation to avoid breathing the vapours.

Kev points

- Use woodburners and torches in a wellventilated, fire safe, clear area.
- Avoid breathing the vapours of burning.
- Protect your hands with PPE when using sharp tools or heat.

■ Marking your turning



A blunted, soft lead pencil along with your indexing head will help with marking out pattern spacing



A good artist's eraser can remove layout lines provided you haven't indented the wood fibres

You can work in a totally random manner if you wish. On occasion, it can be a very attractive solution. More often, a carved or pyrographed pattern in a selected area offers interest and imparts that 'handcrafted' feeling. While you'll try to make things fit the pattern, the minor variations that are almost impossible to avoid lend to the 'done by hand' impression. Laying out your pattern or design ahead of time is a good idea. Pencilling in your plan will let you see how best it will work and lets you make mistakes that are reversible. I use the indexing head on my lathe and a pencil laying on the toolrest to mark out my plans. Until I'm content with the plan, an eraser is all that is needed to get back to ground zero.

Most of us don't have the capability to create artistic patterns freehand. If you do, good for you, but I find I need to layout or trace my plans onto the turning. If it is a simple fluting or rotationally laid out pattern, I use the indexing head on my lathe as an aid. Locking the turning at the various angles

of rotation, I can mark the turning using the toolrest. Woodturning 267, June 2014, has a wealth of information on using the lathe as a marking aid along with methods of layout if your lathe isn't equipped with an indexing head. Even with a regular pattern, you have the opportunity to vary it slightly to make it less perfect. You can also use flexible protractors, compasses and printed patterns to aid with your pattern creation and application to the work. My preferred marking device is a dull, soft pencil. I want to place markings that can be seen but don't make any indentations on the wood. That allows for erasure of the marks should I change my mind, not use all of the marks, or remove marks when done. A soft artist's pencil works great. You can sharpen it to a point and then round it on a bit of sandpaper. If you wish to draw or trace a pattern or design on the wood, Saral paper, used by artists, works extremely well. It is a graphite paper that will leave a visible design yet can be removed if needed. Should you wish to use a more exotic pattern and have a photocopy or computer printed version, attach it to the surface using rubber cement. You'll need to relieve the paper pattern with slits to allow for attachment to a curved surface. You can cut or burn right through this attached pattern. An alternative idea is to attach the pattern to some Saral paper and then trace the pattern allowing the paper to impart the graphite to the surface.

Key points

- Use a dull point, whether pencil or rubbing device, to mark the wood.
- Do not use carbon paper! It is difficult to remove should you change.
- Use artist's Saral paper for tracing patterns. It is expensive but reusable.
- The internet is a huge source of designs and design ideas.
- Scaling of designs/patterns can be done via the computer or photocopier.
- Keep the wood clean by wearing clean gloves if necessary.

Carving accent patterns

When I'm happy with the plan, I use the lathe as my workholder and begin my carving. A suggestion that I'll offer is to do the carving in stages. Rather than commit to any regular pattern density, I begin by skipping the marks in an organised manner to see the effect before getting too dense. I can go back and execute the skipped marks if it seems to work better. I also make my carved depths very shallow to begin with. I can always return to make them deeper when needed. If you begin with things being carved too deeply, you have no way to regroup.

Your selection of carving tools can range from the inexpensive palm carving tools to the very high end carving tools. Properly sharpened and presented, they will all get the job done. In addition to hand tools, there are power carvers



If properly sharpened, carving tools from the most modest to the highest end will work



Very capable carving tools and sharpening systems are available at modest cost

available that will accept a variety of different carving cutters. These can be either purpose built or the special handpieces that will work when attached to a rotary tool flex shaft. In between both extremes is the hand-held chisel and mallet type approach. Wherever you find yourself on this continuum, you can take this adornment to the extreme you wish – from shallow sculpting to 3D relief scenes, all options are available to you. You may find that white gloves are helpful should you become

extensively involved with carving. These clean room or photo style gloves are very modestly priced and will keep you from soiling your wood. Once the surface of the wood has been dirtied with dirt and oils from your hands, it is very difficult to remove and is very unsightly.

Key points

- Use sharp tools for better looking results and safer operation.
- · Care in selection of carving direction based



Exercise care when carving and use PPE. I make shallow cuts then deepen as desired

on grain orientation will pay dividends.

- Use an indexing head or drafting tools to aid your layout.
- Begin with shallow depth cuts to deepen later as desired.
- Don't worry about layout marks. Erase them when done.
- Partial coverage in a delineated area usually works best.
- Don't commit to high density until you see the lower-density results.

Woodburning accent patterns

If you mark your pattern as above, you can easily use a woodburning tool to burn your accent pattern. There are a host of woodburning tools that you can use ranging from the discount store craft woodburners to the very exotic pyrographic art burners. There are also many ways to create your own burning tips. In the more modest priced burners, this is done by filing the provided tips into the desired shape. In the more expensive burners, you can create custom tips for use by fashioning nichrome wire. You can take woodburning, or more properly, pyrography to extreme levels. Our goal here is just to have some simple markings to begin with. How far you might develop your use of pyrography is your decision. It is an art form that will challenge you for many years should you pursue beyond our simple beginnings.

Key points

- An inexpensive burner will have a much lower heat recovery.
- You can file your inexpensive brass tips
- Lower heat with more dwell produces better results.
- Practise in an unseen area to develop techniques and settings.



The modest woodburners lack heat recovery capability. The tips are also limited requiring your modifications



The initial work laying out the fields for a simple pattern. You can be very delicate if needed



There are handles available allowing you to create your own tips from nichrome wire



The higher-cost units feature extensive tip selections, variable temperature and fast heat recovery



With a robust unit, you can sculpt the wood if you desire. There are tremendous creative freedoms



Depending on your level of tip creativity, you can texture and sculpt with a woodburner



I Torching

Torching sounds a bit brutal but in reality that is what is going on. The use of a torch needs to be done with care, both how it is done and where it is done. The beauty of the torch is that you can 'draw' with it. Depending on where it is presented and how, you can create minor colouration accents to features that have been carved into the turning. You can also use the torch to contour the wood to take on any shaping that you wish. There are a host of torches that can be brought to bear for this process. Very few of us will have access to multi-gas industrial-grade torches but most of us have a home shop propane torch. Even if

you don't currently have one, they are very modestly priced and available from DIY shops and discount tool shops. Another useful torch for more focused results is the mini-butane torches available to the artist. The flame on these units can be very fine and burns very hot. You can literally write with this flame. From my experience, I don't use any torch by itself. I always use this kind of flame in conjunction with another process. Usually I accent edges, cut in features, or carving that has been done. Torching can be done on green wood but it is quite variable. I find that dried wood works best but care needs to be taken to

control the effects. Keeping a wetted cloth to stop the effect exactly where it is planned works well.

Key points

- Torch in a fire-safe area and have proper extinguisher equipment ready.
- Green wood burns very differently to dry wood.
- A wetted cloth allows for precise control of burn areas.
- Use proper hand protection when using a torch.
- Preplan. Mark out your plan or enhance prior modifications.



Depending on your size and dexterity needs, you can use anything from the propane torch to micro butane torches



The pencil butane torch has a much smaller nozzle but still packs plenty of heat



Some practice light accenting on a rim. Ragged textures or delineated edges show the best

Denting and dinging

When you think of denting and dinging, there are a multitude of tools that can be used and even more surface modifications that can be made. Rather than the ultra-smooth, nicely sanded surface, you can create the dinged and dented markings that will draw some interest. Not only will they draw interest but they can also put your work into the various styles that feature 'distressing'. I think of the desert southwest of the United States for its rather unique distressed Mission-style furniture. The surface flaws in the wood lend an air of years of use even when the piece is brand new. Being able to present the picture of generations of age with something just created is a very interesting treatment. Two

simple methods for doing this is a hammer and punch and an impact scaler. The hammer and punch couldn't be simpler. A hammer striking a properly positioned punch to mar the surface and then moving it to the next location is all that is needed. If you don't have a patterned punch, feel free to create one or use anything that will safely accept hammer impact and impart texture to the wood surface. Another tool that will perform this feat is a rust scaler. I have an air-driven version that is used to remove rust or welding scale from steel. With the round nosed steel needles, it will create surface dimpling when applied to wood. It is especially effective when applied to wood that has been painted. This

will flaw the wood right through the paint creating a well-used feeling.

Key points

- A simple hammer and flat punch will allow distressing.
- Be certain your punch is safe for hammer impact.
- The effect varies dramatically with species and grain orientation.
- Nails, prick punches, drift punches and filed face drill rod will work.
- Experiment on a practice piece before committing to the final work.
- A method of sectioning off will help with visual impact.







Just the beginning of some texturing with the scaling tool. Finish or colouring over the top can create interest



A simple ball pein hammer can be used to create that 'hand hammered' texture like metalwork



Unfinished here but stain, finish or colourations will vary nicely because of the wood differences



Use the pein end, face end, jeweller's or carpenter's hammers as well as experimenting with punches



If you are shop handy, you can try making a variety of your own punches, regular pattern or not

Conclusions

Stepping out of the turning aspects and into what would be termed the art aspects was intentional. Beautiful wood speaks for itself, standing on its own, but what about boring wood? Sometimes clever turning can enhance the final product look of plain wood. Too often we get stuck in the making chips aspect of woodturning. The final result of turning can easily be altered to add interest and a personal touch with a simple carved or burned pattern. Using a carving tool, woodburning tool, torch or even something to distress the wood can make the leap from boring to interesting. There was no intention of showing finished pieces for you to like or not. Everything was presented as just ticklers to get your thoughts going. Take them and run with them. Don't let yourself be bound by the woodturning tool alone. Experiment. Get some scraps or rejects from the burn bin and try different things. The worst that can happen is another piece on the burn pile. Enjoy the freedom of after-turning enhancement to express yourself. •



Don't be so serious. Practise on some scraps and have some fun!

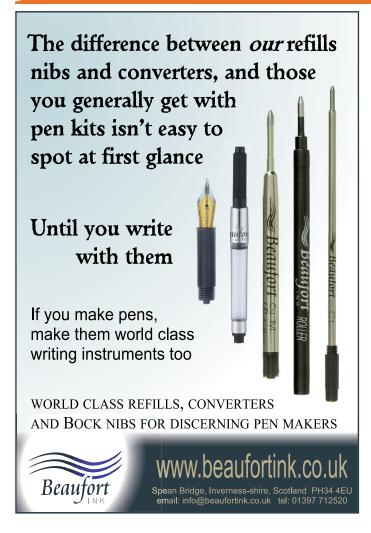




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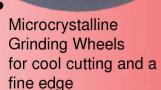
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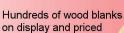


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A trumpet-inspired chess set

In the latest part of his series on chess sets, **Mike Darlow** turns a set based on a trumpet-shape design

My finished pieces turned in Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

MIKE DARLOW



Mike Darlow lives in Exeter in New South Wales, Australia. He is the author of six woodturning books, three woodturning DVDs and about 150 magazine articles on woodturning.

mike@mikedarlow.com www.mikedarlow.com

The set shown above is my attempt to design a set which, while superficially resembling the Staunton design, is more integrated. In it:

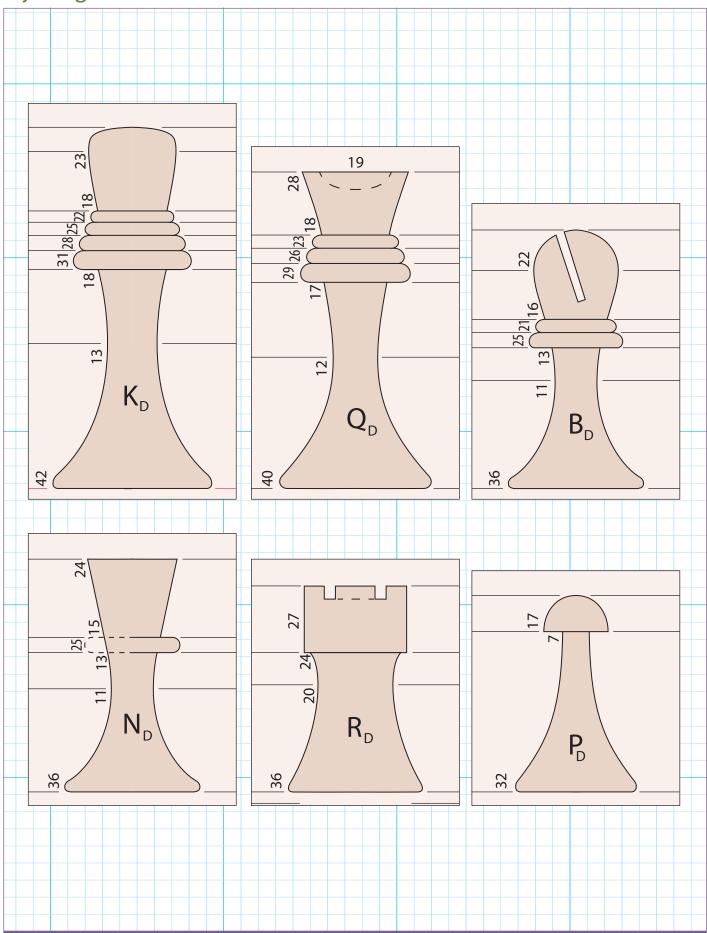
- I've adopted a trumpet-shaped piece signature with a splayed top for all pieces
- My king is the tallest piece
- The crowns of the king and queen conform with the Staunton precedent. Thus my king's crown is arched and the queen's pointed
- The king has four adjacent rings beneath the arched crown, the queen has three rings, the bishop two, and the knight one
- I decided to keep the narrow canted slot, which is a feature of the Staunton bishops
 I wanted to introduce a turnable knight
- piece signature. I chose an early 19thcentury dragoon's helmet and carved away part of the turned ring to represent the helmet's peak
- I wanted to use a square-in-plan battlement design, an unusual but not rare feature

 several are shown in George Dean's sumptuous 2010 book Chess Masterpieces
- Rather than the usual sphere, I decided to use a hemispherical helmet-shaped top on the pawns



Chess pieces of the Staunton design produced by the House of Staunton

■ My design



Making my design





The jig for cutting the rook crenels. The jig's vertical through hole is 134 inches diameter. A rook workpiece is clamped in the hole using the screw. The reference pencil marks allow the workpiece to be rotated in 90° increments



Sawing the slot in a bishop using a sloping jig that locks into the lathe banjo

WORKPIECE CHUCK

The third article in this series showed a homemade ½in diameter screwchuck. Screwchucks are excellent for faceplate work, but a workpiece that is small in diameter and smooth can be difficult to unscrew off. You can remove a stubborn workpiece by gripping it with a piece of fine-grained abrasive paper. One alternative is to instead use a chuck that has been neglected in recent years, the loose pin chuck. Manufactured versions are typically around 25mm in diameter, but this is obviously too large for most chessmen. My 'fixed' pin is here a length of ½in diameter steel bar held in a scroll chuck. The loose pin is just over 2mm diameter, and is cut from a wire coat hanger — this is handy because you can easily cut more to replace any loose pins, that get lost in the shavings. You can of course make your own loose pin chuck to any suitable diameter providing that you can source a drill to bore a hole of the same diameter in your chessman workpieces.



Although my pieces' forms – except for the pawn's – have enough volume low down to allow leading, I decided against it. I also decided to mount the men's workpieces on a commercial screw chuck. This allows simple rechucking for polishing. I therefore used a turning procedure similar to that described in the third article:

- 1. Rough each man's workpiece to a cylinder about 6mm oversize in both length and diameter. However, the rook workpieces must be turned to the rooks' finished length and accurately to the slot-sawing jig's hole diameter in my case 44.5mm
- **2.** Chuck each workpiece axially by the top end
- **3.** Bore the hole for screw chucking ¼in diameter for many commercial screw chucks
- **4.** The piece which presents the greatest challenge is the rook because its

- base diameter exceeds the breadth of its battlemented top. The rooks therefore can't be turned from plain, dressed square sections whose thickness equals their battlement's breadth. There is also the challenge of carving the embrasures, also called crenels or crenelles, and producing the square recess in the top. To cut the crenels I clamped the workpiece top down into a sawing jig, and sawed a slot using a table saw. Before cutting each of the other three slots, I rotated the workpiece 90°
- 5. The slot in the bishops is substantially narrower than I could cut with my circular saw blade; it's also canted. To cut the slot I used a hand saw sharpened with rip teeth supported on and guided by the sloping-surface jig shown above
- **6.** With each workpiece chucked on the commercial screw chuck, finish-turn and sand each man working from right

- to left. Turn away the central square upstanding section in the top of each rook to create the square recess
- 7. Carve each bishop's helmet's peak
- **8.** Polish in the lathe as described in the first article
- 9. The hole in the bottoms of the men could be left unfilled, or be filled for example by using a mortar of lead shot and gap-filling adhesive as described in the previous article. The men's bottoms could also be covered with discs of thin leather or baize as described in article two

Conclusion

Although strongly based on the Staunton design, this set design illustrates that the scope to create new chess set designs is infinite even if all the pieces are required to be turned. •

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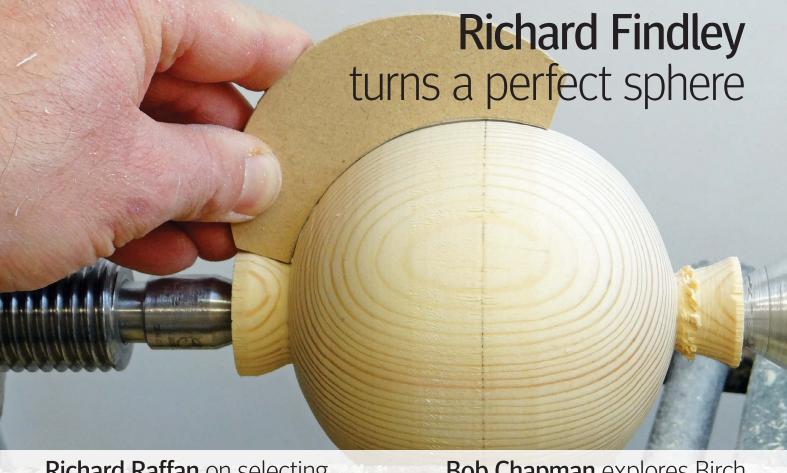


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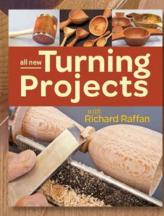
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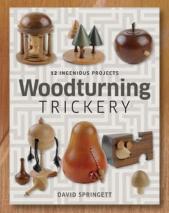


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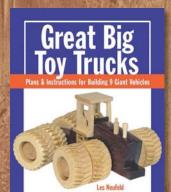
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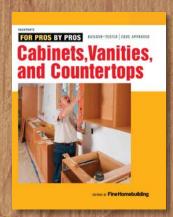
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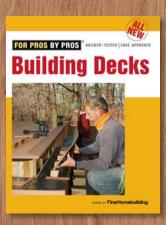


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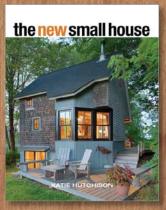
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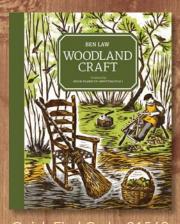
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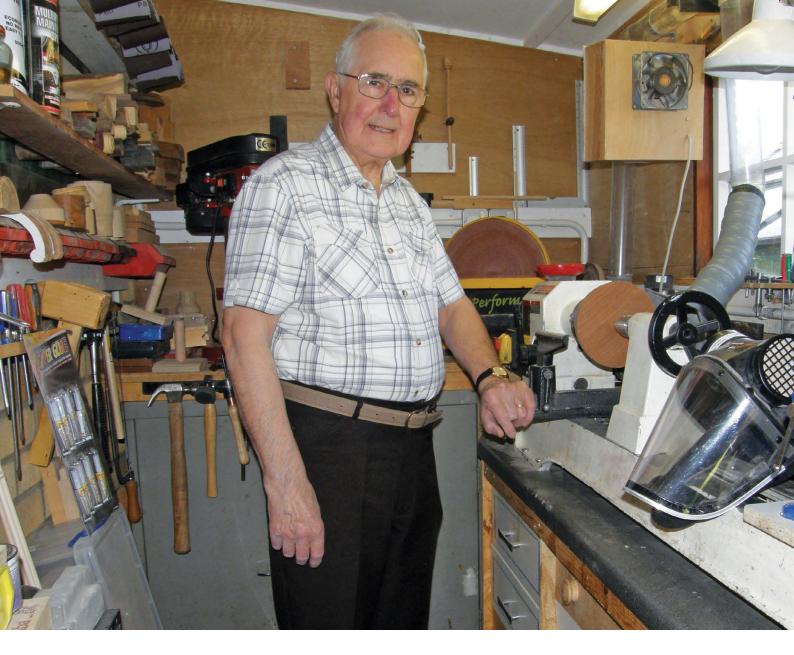
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In the workshop with... John Austin

The Essex turner extols the therapeutic benefits of his hobby...

orn in July 1937 in Dartford, Kent, John Austin had a conventional childhood, although like most children of the era, it was marked by WWII. He first bought a roundbed lathe on impulse to provide him with a hobby upon his retirement. This came sooner rather than later for John when a restructuring process at his then employer saw him leave work aged 60. He has been woodturning since and cofounded Chelmer Valley Woodturners, where he is now Chairman.

How, when and why did you start turning?

I started at Gravesend Grammar School for Boys in 1948, where the first-year curriculum contained the usual subjects, plus woodwork and metalwork. The woodwork resulted in a stool made of mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) along with a platter.

Some 47 years on, I bought my first roundbed lathe. Around the same time, I purchased some fuchsia plants from a local nursery and saw it was home to a woodturning club – BHP Woodcrafts, now Sandon Woodturners. In the intervening

years, I had been a chief technician with the RAF and a technical author for Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. relocating to Chelmsford, Essex. Since my retirement from the latter, my hobby has kept me active. I stress the hobby aspect as I am not a production/professional turner; that would be a job. Now I am free to enjoy my turning as and when the mood takes me. I can also vouch for the therapeutic value of woodturning. In 2000, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and needed major surgery. It took me a while to recover and no heavy lifting was allowed.



But seeing the shavings while turning raised my spirits and eased the way to recovery. Five months – and 30 radiotherapy sessions – later I completed the treatment. Some 15 years on, I am in good health and still making shavings.

But back to that lathe. After a couple of years, its shortcomings were appearing, so I bit the bullet and purchased an Axminster M950 with mechanical variable speed. Attendance at hands-on evenings and a few shows led to my next purchase, the smaller Axminster M330. Both are still in use today and do everything I ask of them. Yes, I look longingly at modern electronic variable-speed lathes but then the question arises: how would I re-arrange the workshop to shoehorn one in?

What and who are the greatest influences in your work?

Visiting demonstrators who took the trouble to explain the 'hows' and 'whys' of turning and answer some basic questions. Also, for their encouragement and help, Charlie Day, the first Chairman of Chelmer Valley, who is sadly no longer with us, and Gabor Lacko

Which music and books are you into?

My taste in music is eclectic and can be affected by mood, occasion or even the weather. I have just finished reading *Singapore – A Pictorial History 1819–2000* by Gretchen Liu, which my daughter brought home for me after a recent holiday on the island

What is your silliest mistake?

Buying a lathe on impulse. Next, thinking I was competent enough to judge the depth to the bottom of an early bowl without measuring it. Yes, I went through the bottom. Lesson learnt and I have measured ever since

What has been your greatest challenge?

My first demonstration for club members. It would have been easier if I hadn't known them

Name one thing on your turning 'to do' list?

At 78, I have done most things, so my 'to do' lists are not very long and are usually trumped by those of a higher authority – my wife. The priority is still to enjoy my turning

What is the one piece of equipment or tool you would not be without and why?

It has to be the small round skew chisel that I first saw demonstrated by Gary Rance. In fact, I bought one from him that day for the grand sum of £13. Like all new tools it took a lot of practice to conquer it, even now I'm nowhere near as proficient as Gary

What is your favourite type of turning?

Anything associated with making clocks

Contact: John Austin Email: j.j.austin@talktalk.net

Can you tell us about any of your recent projects?

About 10 years ago I bought enough ash (Fraxinus excelsior) to make two American platform rocking chairs to a design by Ray Jones. The ash 'matured' in my store until recently when I could no longer find excuses for not starting the chairs. Some 80 spindles later, a dry-run assembly led to a design change. The spindle that connects the seat assembly to the base was changed to a square section. The assembly was too big for my workshop, but my very understanding wife allowed me to use the dining table - covered, I hasten to add. The upholstery was also a joint effort with my wife and her sewing machine. The finished chairs have since gained an optional extra in the form of a head rest cushion



Some of the spindles used in my American chairs



My finished rocking chairs in ash, without their optional head-rest cushions



I sometimes slot a vice into the lathe bed



The original handle from my Gary Rance skew chisel



I created a genie pot in cherry (*Prunus avium*) after seeing a demonstration by Nikos Siragas



My lyre clock – left – was runner-up in the 1999 International Woodworking Show at the NEC

"Never push a blunt tool, sharpen frequently especially before that final cut. Otherwise you can end up with an 'oh, dear' moment – or a design opportunity"



A sewing kit made from sapele (Entandrophragma cylindricum) and beech (Fagus sylvatica)

HANDY HINTS

- Never buy a lathe on impulse as I did, join a club, ask questions and do your research
- Beginners should learn to use and sharpen the basic tools for spindle turning. Spindle turning will teach you tool presentation and manipulation and prepare you for future challenges in woodturning
- Always wear the appropriate personal protection equipment; you only get one set of eyes and lungs
- Ensure the blank you are about to turn is securely mounted before you start the lathe
- Never push a blunt tool, sharpen frequently especially before that final cut.
 Otherwise it can end up in an 'oh, dear' moment – or a design opportunity
- Pay attention to finishing; it can make or mar a piece of work
- Make a drawing to size or to scale –
 of any work involving several parts.
 It can help you decide how you mount
 each piece on the lathe and highlight
 any problems you may encounter
- Never stop learning. Use your eyes and see the shapes in architecture. Visit museums and other exhibitions



A poppy from the 2014 remembrance installation at the Tower of London within a flower arrangement in a sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) vase

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Cottage-style money box

Stuart King turns a child's money box inspired by a piece of antique Tunbridge Ware

STUART KING



Stuart has spent a lifetime researching, recording and collecting anything about the rural past and today is a well-known artist craftsman, demonstrator, international lecturer and photo-journalist.

He still actively records traditional crafts, and history via photography and video.

stuart@stuartking.co.uk www.stuartking.co.uk





Isla King with Grampy's money box

he inspiration for this little child's money box is an example created some 200 years ago. The spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells first attracted wealthy tourists towards the end of the 17th century who came to 'take the waters', hoping to cure the gout and many other ailments. As today, before returning home there was a desire to purchase a few gifts and reminders of their stay and in Royal Tunbridge Wells, this often meant a turned wooden souvenir.

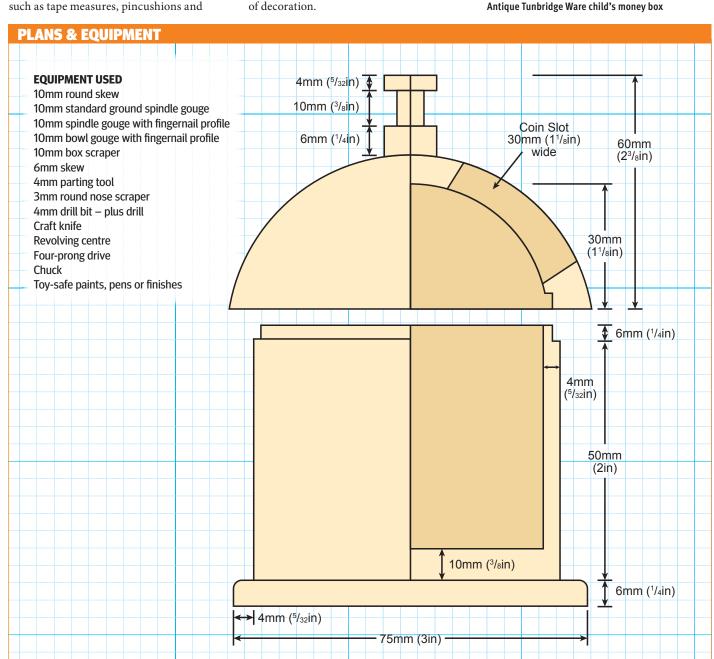
As the popularity of this Kentish town grew so did the business of producing knick-knacks on the lathe to satisfy demand, the early items were quite simple pieces of woodenware, often lidded boxes decorated with coloured lines. Slowly the products became more sophisticated in decoration and function leading to a wider variety of items including many sewing accoutrements such as tape measures, pincushions and

complete sewing sets. Inkwell stands and small snuffboxes were also popular.

By the beginning of the 19th century engraved pictorial illustrations were pasted on such things as box lids and the use of more sophisticated hand painted all-over decoration was more common. However, quite quickly during the early 19th century this simplistic style was replaced by the most intricate parquetry, marquetry and micro mosaic for decoration.

This brings us to this project; I think that it is charming in its simplicity, a true example of English folk art and a project that will allow some individual imagination in its making and decoration. Many of the original turnings were of birch (Betula pendula); I just happened to a have a suitable well seasoned block of lime (Tilia vulgaris), a white wood that allows for a wide choice of decoration.

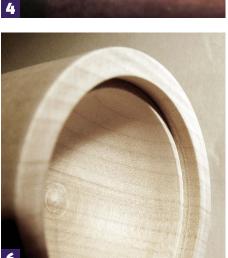








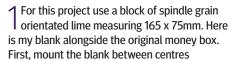






3 4 5 6 7





Rough the blank down to a cylinder using a spindle roughing gauge and turn a spigot which allows the timber to be held securely in your chuck jaws – in my case, I use parallel gripper jaws

Here you can see the original money box's lid interior. I used this as a guide for my lid. Draw a pencil line around one end of the blank to be used as a guide to hollow out the lid

Hollow the concave area of the lid using a 10mm spindle gouge with a fingernail profile, seen here in push-cut mode

5 Bring up the tailstock against the work and check that you are close to the desired 30mm depth within the lid

6 Here you can see more detail of the inner straight-sided recess that will fit over the box flange

Next, mark two measurements of 20mm and 40mm as guides to the external turning of the lid

Now, turn the chimney section down to 40mm, thus still retaining good support while turning the outer curve of the lid with a 10mm spindle gouge



There is much written and legislated for on the subject of toy safety. The European standard is EN 71 and covers all toys for use by children up to the age of 14. This is for those who make and sell toys and they must comply with all the relevant legislation. Homemade toys for personal use are not subject to the legislation, but there is advice and information that we should all follow and be aware of. For example, what is the age of the child the toy is being made for? Are there choke hazards such as those posed by small parts, etc.? If, as in this case, you are using a string cord and small handles, there is a strangulation and choke hazard that should be considered, making it not suitable for children under three years of age. Materials used should be suitable and finishes used should be toy safe. Common sense and a bit of research helps no end. Search the internet for 'toy safety legislation' for lots of helpful information.

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Continue in this fashion down to the chimney and detail using a 6mm skew chisel. Sand and then seal the grain with friction polish before parting off using a 4mm parting tool

Take the internal dimension of the lid with Verniers, then transfer this to the remaining material as a guide to the external flange over which the lid should be a fairly tight fit. Obtaining a good fit usually entails several attempts

The box section is now ready for hollowing. With a 10mm spindle gouge sharpened to a fingernail profile, use push cuts and then pull cuts to remove the timber quickly. However, the deeper you go the more risk there is of vibration on thin bladed tools, so I used a 10mm swept-back grind bowl gouge to deepen the hollow to a depth of 46mm. Clean up the inner base and square off with a box scraper

12 Now, the outer box profile can be established with a 10mm spindle gouge and 10mm round skew. Then, as with the lid, sand and seal the grain

13 Next, part of and turn down the remaining waste with a 6mm beading and parting tool to fit the inside of the box, this provides a 'jam' chuck that will drive the reversed box between centres so as to allow the base to be decorated and nicely finished

Clean up the base with light cuts from the 10mm spindle gouge ...

15... before applying your desired decoration Jusing the long point of a small skew

 $\label{eq:coloring} 16^{\text{Colouring and decoration is very much a}} \\ \text{matter of choice. I chose to spray the lid-} \\ \text{and lathe-- while slowly revolving in the lathe}$

HANDY HINTS

- This project is suitable for individual expression and the use of different media. Pyrography would be ideal to give crisp outlines, or maybe add some threedimensional carving
- My cottage is a charming thatched example but it could be of a completely different design, don't be afraid to experiment
- This is, in essence, a decorated lidded box, you could create a one-off container to commemorate a special event
- 4. It is essential to use dry timber to ensure that the lid remains a good tight-ish push fit. To make it more coin-secure, one could create a threaded lid











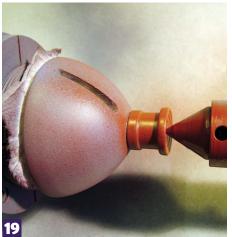




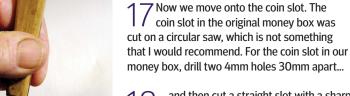












18 ... and then cut a straight slot with a sharp craft knife. Cutting a straight row of holes would make this easier...

19 ... or use a rotary carving tool fitted with a side or slot cutter. Here you can see the completed lid

For decoration, after spraying the box grey I hand painted the bottom ring with acrylic paint

1 Acrylic artist's paint is ideal for this folksy style, it also dries quickly and is water based

22 Holding the box between lathe centres will enable you to paint detail with a steady hand

23 Here is the finished money box •

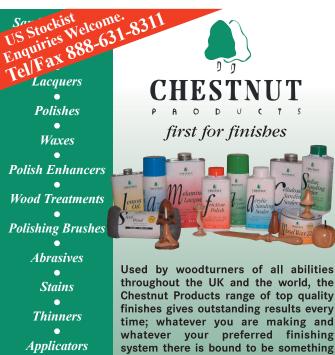












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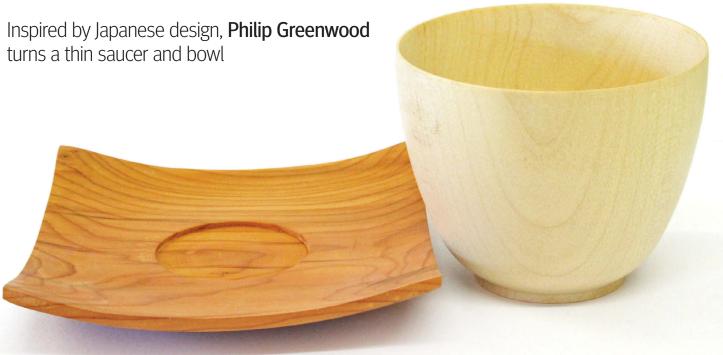
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Japanese-style bowl and saucer



LIP GREENWOOD



HOTOGRAPHS BY WENDY GREENWOOD

Philip has been turning wood since 1980 and started turning professionally in 1986. He was accepted onto the Register of Professional Turners (RPT) in 2006. He is also a member of the AWGB.

He can be seen working in his workshop in North Yorkshire and has demonstrated at the woodworking show at Harrogate since 2008. He runs courses at his workshop.

philip@woodturningintoart.co.uk www.woodturningintoart.co.uk

his project will show you how to turn a thin saucer and also a bowl-like cup. The two items are turned completely differently to each other. Both require techniques that will test your tool skills. The saucer requires turning a square piece thinly, so corners and flexibility are two things you will have to deal with at the same time. The bowl shape means you have straight sides and on the inside a tight corner to go round, again while turning this thin.

This item is for decoration, so will not be used. If you want to turn an item that you can use the choice of timbers is important, look for timbers that are food safe, close grained and with no defects in the timber. Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and beech (Fagus sylvatica) are the two main timbers that I

would select for use, other timbers may be suitable as well, just research which timbers can be used. This will depend on which part of the world you live in and the regulations in your country. If the items are for decorative use only, then any timber could be used.

The saucer and bowl could be decorated with paint, piercing, texturing or pyrography, or a combination. Turning the inside of the bowl could be accomplished many ways; I will look at a few in a panel below. In this project I will use a bowl gouge and a scraper. The finish again will depend on the item use, if it's decorative then most finishes on the market could be applied, but if this item is to be used then a food-safe finish is the only choice you have. On this one I am using finishing oil.

1. HOLLOWING METHODS

Here are a few alternatives: drill the main waste out with a drill bit held in a Jacobs chuck, in this instance I would use a sawtooth type bit, using a small bit for a start then increasing the size, as I want to reduce strain on the motor of your lathe. Using a fingernail ground spindle gouge and then finishing with a scraper is a good way, this is the method I've used for this project. A round or French curve scraper could be used for the full operation; this can be used to take heavier cuts at the start going to a lighter and more refined cut later to achieve a good surface finish to reduce sanding. A hollowing tool can be used for removing all the waste, and finished with a scraper. Choose a method you are happy to use.



2. WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN TURNING A SQUARE EDGE BOWL

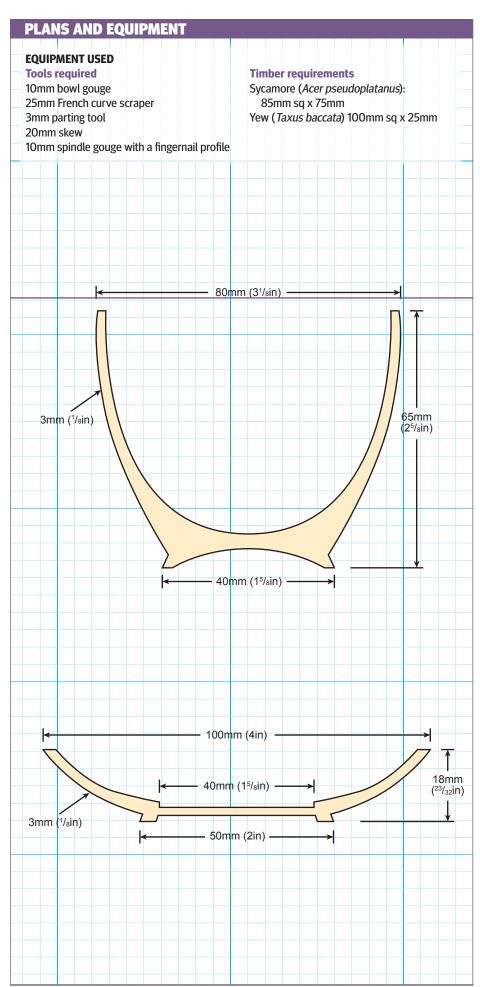
There are a few things to consider when turning a square edge item. Timber preparation: you want the piece of timber to be square with all corners as close to 90° as possible, or you will not have a square edge bowl. Close grain timber helps as well; open grain will be more prone to breaking. Speed is very difficult to advise on; this depends on a lot of factors such as experience, size of work, lathe stability and safety, the list can go on. But when you have a piece of square edge timber speed is more important, after a corner has passed your tool the slower your lathe speed is the longer before the next corner comes around and contacts your tool which means less tool control, which in turn means a poor surface finish on your work.



3. WET SANDING

This item is wet sanded on the final grade of abrasives to give a good finish. This is sanding while the oil finish is still wet, the dust and oil mixes to produce grain filler, which fills open grain or any small defects on the surface. You can use wet sanding from the start with the coarse grade abrasives through to the final grade, this reduces the airborne dust in your workshop as well. Can this method be used on any timber? No, this is down to cross-contamination of timber dust, think of yew or laburnum (Laburnum anagyroides) where the heartwood is dark but it is surrounded by light coloured sapwood. As you wet sand, the dark heartwood dust and oil slurry can be transmitted into the pores of the sapwood leaving a mottled coloured surface, not a good look. The only way with this type of timber is if all the sapwood has been removed, as in the saucer in this project.





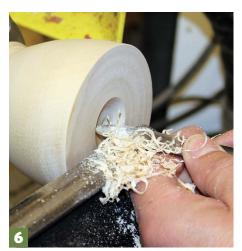
















Mount the bowl between centres, this is a spindle grain project where the grain is running parallel with the lathe bed, so this will be turned with spindle tools. Use a spindle roughing gouge to turn this to a cylinder, keeping the rest as close to the work as possible

You need a means of holding this in a chuck so you need to produce a spigot. On the end of the cylinder you can see a line; this is the diameter that you will part down to. Once you have reached this line, use the skew chisel to produce the dovetail to match your jaws

Use a spindle gouge to start the shaping process of the outside of the bowl. Try to always go from the large diameter to the small diameter to give the best finish, this means going from left to right and downwards towards the spigot

Leave a step at the base next to the spigot for added strength, although this would be more important with larger items. You are looking for a gentle curve with no flat spots on the curve. The base will be finished later after the inside is finished

5 Use the spindle gouge to clean the top face of the bowl. This means lining up the bevel with the top face on the outer edge and rubbing the bevel on the top surface as you move towards the centre of the face to leave a clean top face

Still using the spindle gouge, remove the waste from inside the bowl. Use the gouge with the flutes on their side and facing the direction of the cut, if the flutes face upwards it will be a very aggressive cut. Start in the centre and work towards the outer edge

As you can see I have removed a lot more waste from the top half. Don't go too deep at this point to reduce vibration when working near the top of the bowl. Aim for a wall thickness of 4mm in the top section. Reduce the depth of cut you take as the wall thickness thins

Use a round or French curve scraper to refine the top part, reduce the lathe speed for this part to avoid any vibration. Hold with the tool tip lower than the handle to give you a trailing mode on the cutting tip. Use a pair of callipers to check wall thickness with the lathe stopped

HANDY HINTS

- Wear personal dust and eye protection when turning, especially if you're working with toxic timbers
- **2.** Always keep your fingers and hand at your side of the toolrest



Move the toolrest in closer to reduce tool overhang. Go back to the spindle gouge to remove the waste from the bottom of the bowl. Check the depth as you go. Remember that you will be working on the bottom curve and the underside later on

1 Use the scraper to finish the inside curve and the base of the bowl.

Make sure this tool is sharp to reduce grain tear-out and sanding later. Take light cuts due to tool overhang

1 Start sanding with 120 grade abrasives to remove any tool marks left from the turning tools, then go to 180, 240 and 320. Next, oil the surface with finishing oil and while it's still wet, sand with 400 grade abrasive. I then added more oil and then used 600 grade abrasive, applying more oil as needed. Finish to the top part on the outside also. Buff to a shine

1 Place a piece of scrap timber in the chuck and turn to fit the opening of the bowl. Add some paper towels in between the bowl and scrap timber to protect the inside of the finished bowl. Start to refine the outside curve and foot. If in doubt about the wall thickness stop the lathe and check with callipers. Refit to the lathe and continue

'Make sure this tool is sharp to reduce grain tear-out'

13 To finish the foot, sand as in step 11 on the outside and the foot of the bowl. Once this is complete, stop the lathe and remove, then with a small chisel remove the small pip and sand as before

Now to the plate. This is a faceplate grain turning project meaning the grain runs at 90° to the axis of the bed bars. Drill a suitable sized with a deep enough hole in the piece to enable it to be held in your chuck jaws, then take a cut across what will be the base of the saucer. Once you have come past the corners you should have bevel contact all the time

15 Mark the spigot diameter on the base, for my chuck this is 48mm, then use the parting tool to cut this about 4mm deep. This will act as the foot on the finished item. Always keep your fingers at your side of the toolrest

16 Use the bowl gouge to start shaping the underside, a flowing curve with no flat spots is what you are aiming for. Have the flutes facing the direction of cut. Don't push the gouge against the bowl, just let it rub lightly, this will help when you reach the corners when you have an intermittent cut





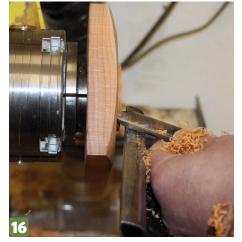


























17 You want a slight undercut on the foot area so use the bowl gouge at first, then use the French curve scraper to refine the curve, don't go too deep as this will have an impact on the top side later when you dish the top for the bowl foot. Place a dovetail on the spigot with the skew

Due to this being square I would never recommend sanding while the lathe is running, the risk of injury is too high. Stop the lathe and hand sand this through all the grades, try to sand in the direction of the grain. This will not take as long as you might think

Place a thin piece of masking tape on the spigot to reduce the chance of the jaws marking the spigot. You can see the recess that I use to turn the bottom part. Start to dish this towards the centre

2 Start to thin the edges down to the finished thickness of 3mm, leave the centre part to reduce flexing the piece. Do this with light cuts only. Once down to the correct thickness, move on to the next part and continue until you reach the centre

2 1 Use the parting tool to cut a 2mm deep recess for the foot of the bowl to sit in. Dish the centre slightly to match the base of the bowl base, but do make sure it is flat towards the edge

2 As I said before, I would not sand a square edge item with the lathe rotating. I use this sanding aid, which is held in the chuck with a sanding arbor to sand items like these. I still go through all the grades of abrasives checking that all the marks have been removed. I will then add oil onto the surface and while it's still wet, sand with 600 grade in the direction of the grain and buff to a finish

The completed bowl and saucer should look something like this

HANDY HINTS

- **3.** Be very aware of the square corners on the saucer when the lathe is turning
- 4. Sand by hand when you are turning an irregular shaped item. It would only take a fraction of a second to have an accident if you tried to sand an item with corners on while the lathe was turning
- **5.** Sand with the grain direction to avoid leaving scratch marks behind
- **6.** Stop the lathe frequently to check wall thickness on items that have thin walls
- Choose a food-safe timber if you're intending to use the bowl as a drinking vessel
- **8.** Take light cuts on thin wall items to avoid timber flexing









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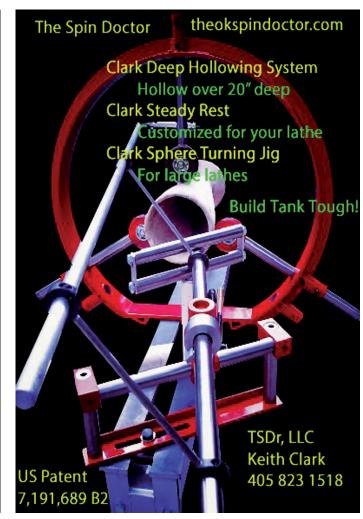
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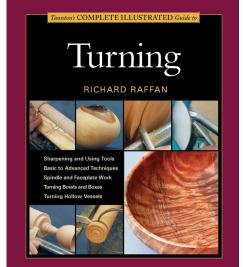
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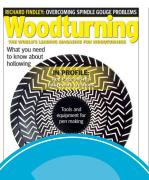
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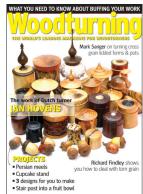














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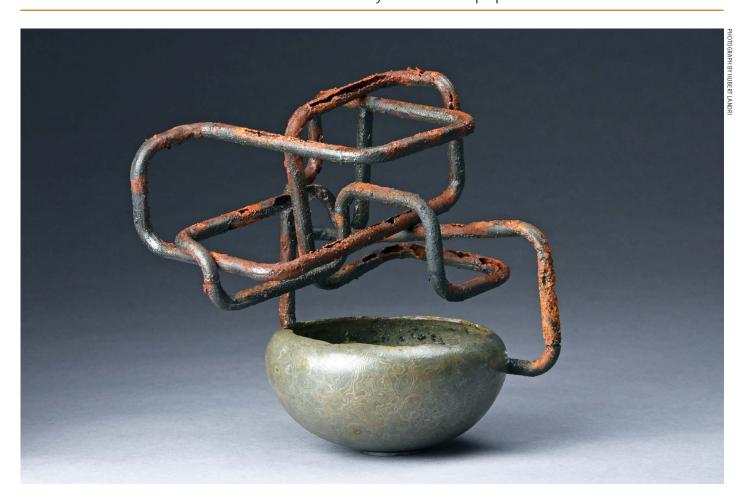
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Hubert Landri — 'Process of Creativity'

We unravel **Hubert Landri**'s intriguing piece, exhibited at the February 2015 AAW pop show



Such a wonderful cauldron
The brain assimilates the cells
of knowledge.
From the experiences to the
imagination, all is visited, processed,
transported through a way where
experiences mingle, intersect.
The useless is abandoned,
Essentials has emerged
Creation is born of a dream,
The culmination
Where it becomes matter of

"Everything starts with a dream,

rtist and sculptor Hubert Landri was born in France in 1969. He currently lives in the southeast of the country between Lyon and Marseille in the Drôme.

From a young age, Hubert had a strong attraction to woodworking and began practising his skills within the field of sculpture. He went on to undertake several internships, with each one propelling him to follow his desire to go further and further in woodworking each time. "These different learning and educational encounters led me to sculpture but using turned wood," Hubert explains.

"This discipline allows me to combine various elements of nature and different structure such as wrought iron, damask,

titanium and wood. This taste for mixtures of substances leads me every time on personal connections and deeper into the creation of unique and unusual pieces."

Hubert teaches at Escoulen School and is president of the Association Française des Tourneurs d'Art sur Bois.

Hubert explains his Process of Creativity, far left, and the piece pictured here is made of Damascus steel and patinated wood; the pipes in wood, the bowl in Damascus steel. The texture is representative of the steel rushed. Hubert's bowl dimensions are 120 x 80mm and the pipes are 10mm outside and 8mm inside.

Email: h.landri@wanadoo.fr

creation'."

'I remember a dream today:



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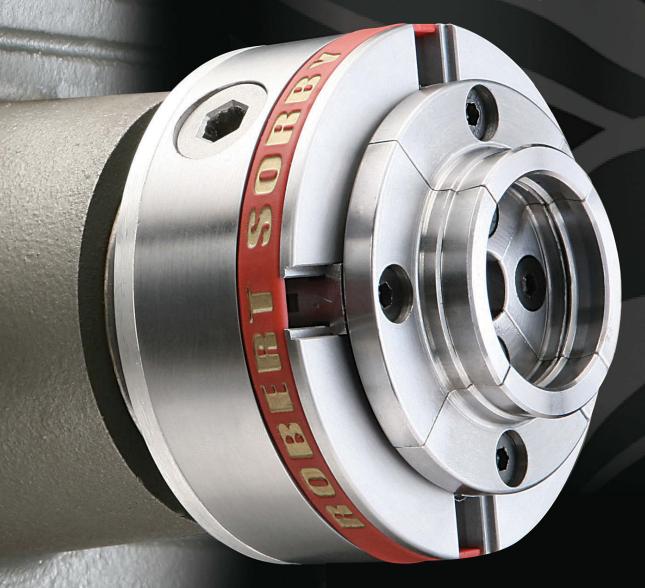
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