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Last week found me working out of town, and it was with mixed feelings that learned from my daughter that my local timber yard was on fire. Now I like a good fire as much as anyone, and let's face it, when it comes to entertainment— and as long as there is no threat to life—there is little to beat a good one. I'm sorry I missed it and from the sound of things it was a fine example, with no shortage of wood-based usel it did at thorough job of consuming the whole building (nor of threal and its contents, leaving behind only blackened and twisted steel. Fortunately no one was hut and judging from the wise-cracking spirits of the lads who work there, it was a nice bit of exchement for all concreend. And, looking on the bright side, at least it means reconstruction, and that means plenty of work for a lot of people.

In our modern hi-tech word it's easy to forget how fragile our seemingly secure existences can be all it takes is a spot of carelessness by someone and everything is changed. One good thing that we can take away from our fire-wordning, however, is an increased awareness of our own situations, now might be a good time to have a bit of a check on any plans we might have to deal with such an event on our own premises — at the worly least we should have a fire extinguisher standing by and a nice clear path to the exit.

I seem to recall similar incidents as a boy and observing that stores affected in such a way would inevitably have a 'fire sale', and be busier than ever for a few days as the damaged stock — often just tinged with the smell of smoke or lightly dampened from the fire-horses was snapped up by an eager (and unconcerned) public



The Editor visits his favourite timber yard; note ex-bandsaw in background, just one of many classic Wadkin machines last in the fire

intent on a bargain. I don't think they'll be having one here, though.

My apologies and commiserations to anyone who may have experienced something similar at a much closer distance recently, but it's hard not to be affected by large scale calamity, even on the periphery of our lives. At the end of the day, no one was hurt, and the incident (and others like if severe as an increminder of the firm) permanency of much that we consider final, fixed and forever."

* I had to have another read of Shelley's Ozymandias at this point...

mark

You can contact Mark on editor.ww@mytimemedia.com

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WOODWORK

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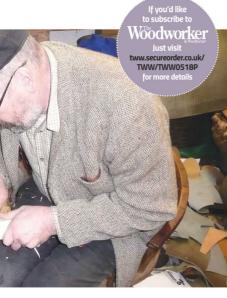
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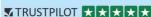
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

I'm sure I'm not the only one who experiences the occasional twinge of frustration when searching for a particular fitment or item of hardware to complete my latest woodworking project, quests of this nature are pretty much par for the course for most of us these days. As the number of actual shops and hardware outlets slowly decreases = and also the terms the remaining ones continue to stock - greater managination is called for to unearth the necessary manifest his or specifically monitoring produces the control of a continue to the control of the contro

Reassuring us that the phrase 'swings and roundabouts' has some actual basis in reality, it's been pleasing to note that searching for – and sometimes even finding! – parts online has become easier as the tracking-down of shops with doors, windows and a till has become

trickier. Now, with little more than a Wi-Fi connection, a fair bit of patience and the absolutely correct words of search, it's possible to track down exactly what you might need, courtesy of the internet.

But before we registe too soon, it's as well to remember a few things land yes, I'm speaking from personal experience here before you set out on the properties of the personal experience here before you set out on the personal p



NEW HAND TOOLS RANGE FROM TRITON TOOLS

Introducing the new hand tools range from Triton Tools. With a range of chisels in the most helpful sizes, clamps to hold that project in place and rasps for fast material removal, this new range from Triton is a must for the workshop.

Chical

Boasting precisionground, hardened Cr-V blades, Triton chisels strip away wood with ease, delivering



a long-lasting, superior performance time and time again. The capabilities of the hije-quality blades are augmented by large striking caps made from tough, nickle-plated steak falke to weather repeated heavy blows, these caps channel power exactly where it's needed. This overall toughness is harmonised with an ergonomic handle deeign that uses themoplastic nubber to restate a soft but firm grip, thus minimising user fatigue. The commitment to quality in build and performance is matched by the attention paid to storage.

and secure when they aren't required.

Clamps

Combining cutting-edge technology and ease



of use, Titton's quick clamps are a vital addition to any work-shor, Ideas fibre-reinforced nylon frames and corrosion-resistant steel rails stand for up to repeated use in all conditions, guaranteeing high-quality performance regardless of the task stand. Tough, non-maring and non-maring in a stand. Tough, non-maring and one-marking jaw pads provide a secure hold while protecting jaw pads provide a secure hold while protecting jaw pads provide a secure hold while protecting jaw pads provide as secure hold while protecting jaw pads provide as secure to the clamps in simple the workpress. Making effective use of the clamps for precise control of gip pressure. Ease of uses in smatched by versality of design the quick-twist levers can be used to reverse the clamps in moments, turning them into effective spreaders.

Rosns

Putting their precisioncut Cr-V steel blades to good use, Triton's rasps deliver excellent removal of all hardand softwoods with



minimal effort. This single-minded pursuit of quality can also be seen in the handles, which make use of thermoplastic rubber to provide a durable but comfortable grip, thus limiting the strain on users.

Get your hands on them now by finding your local stockist at www.tritontools.com.

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10-11" Beginners' routing (2 days)
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12 Spoon carving 12–18 Windsor chairmaking

14-16 Longbow making

17-18 Willow sculpture

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Web: www.greenwooddays.co.uk

19 Pyrography

22 Pen turning 23-24 Woodturning

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NEWS In brief...

YANDLES SPRING WOODWORKING SHOW

Yandius Spring Woodworking Show returns from 13–14 April and, as usual, will be led at their Somerset premises. Expect I do exclusive show deals, demonstrations taking place throughout the two days, masterclasses in woodworking, a hobbies & cardisthe two days, masterclasses in woodworking, a hobbies & cardismarquee, save 155 on all timber, plus you can also receive free expert advice on a huge range of top brands. On top of all this, entry and parking is free. Diff not our more about this fantastic event, which is always a highlight on the woodworking events calendar, see www.yandless.co.uk.





IT'S SAFETY FIRST FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Dr. Martens, iconic British footwear brand, is bucking the trend for women in industry, with the launch of its unique women's industrial collection, offering female workers a choice of boots, without needing to compromise on safety.

In recent years, more women have decided to embark on careers within bycailly railed embarted industries such as construction, engineering and manufacturing. However, despite being exposed to the same risks, they are rarely supported by the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) available. The choice for women working within hazardous environments has famously been limited, resulting in women wearing safety footwear that has not been specifically designed with them in mind.

A survey commissioned by Trades Union Congress reveals that only 29% of women wear PPE specifically designed for them, while a further 57% said their current PPE actually hampered their work. Wearing uncomfortable PPE, such as safety footwear that doesn't fit, can be hazardous, and prevent women from safely conducting their jobs.

To help encourage and support females in industry, Dr. Martens' new Women's Collection ensures women are actually given a choice of protection, style and colour for their footwear, and no longer have to compromise. The innovative collection includes:

- Maple a classic eight-eyelet lace up steel-toe work boot, the Maple
 is designed with soft leather and heat-sealed uppers. The padded
 tongue ensures comfort, as well as the SoftWair™ sock liner delivering
 extra cushioning at the heel.
- Arbor this classic Chelsea work boot has a steel toe cap with soft leather uppers that are heat-sealed with a PVC outsole that is durable.
 The SoftWair* sock liner also delivers extra cushioning at the heel and forefoot, while the raised grid pattern promotes underfoot airflow to keep feet dry and comfortable.

The Women's Collection is a game-changer for industry. Available in UK sizes 3-9, these boots are now available to buy online: www.drmartens.com/uk/c/industrial-womens.

BWF MEMBERS' DAY 2018

Joinery businesses across the UK are urged to put 13 June in their calendar as the sector meets for BWF Members' Day 2018 to address its latest challenges and get practical advice on issues relevant to all shapes and sizes of woodworking business.

The key theme of this year's BWF Members' Day will be "Bulld it Better with Wood: The event will take place at Heilidon Lakes Golf & Spa Hotel near Daventry and will include workshops on getting joinery products specified in the digital world, negotiating the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and managing a healthy and safe workplace.

The event will offer the perfect opportunity to address new challenges, such as how the building regulations are being reshaped post-Grenfell and new training grant reforms, which will change the way woodworking companies upskill their businesses. There will be a chance for SME joinery firms to absorb the lessons of the Carillon collapse with a seminar on cash flow and managing credit exposure.

BWF Members' day is a long-established and integral part of the Uk/joiney sector clained. Last year's event was commended as a great success by those present, with 100% of feedback from attendees rating the event as good or excellent. The event is open to anyone in the industry but, as in previous years, all BWF members are being offered on free space. It is usually a self-out event is open for law further announcements and a full programme of events will be available soon at www.buf orgu.h/meass/events/bufmembersday.



FAST, PRECISE CABINET INSTALLATION DEVICE FROM BESSEY





The new front frame clamp FRZ from BESSEY makes it easier to install cabinets with front frames. All work steps required for the installation can be carried out while clamped, without having to remove or reposition the clamp. The work is simple and the result will win you over with its speed and quality.

With the FRZ front frame clarp, BESSEY has combined the different installation steps involved in tother wall and base unts with an imposed framework into one process. On the one hand, the cabinets can be drawn together and perfectly aligned using the clamp. On the other, it provides support for the installer when pre-diffling holes and putting screws in the each position. The clamping device is removed only after all work has been completed; this prevents the cabinets from shifting during installation.

The special design makes it possible for the clamp to remain on the workpiece for the entire assembly period; the L-clamping jaws enable clamping on both sides to connect the clahners. Any mismatch in depth can then be corrected using the edulystable alignment plate. In addition, the new BESEY clamp is equipped with a swivelling of ill bush. It enables precise pre-drilling of the screw connection while clamped, which suprantees precise rests in hicthrea claimle installation.

Thanks to the use of high-quality materials, this new product from BESSEY is particularly durable as the clamping objects and pressure jaws are made using powder-cated die-cast aluminium. The guide rods, spindles and alignment plates are made of steel. To protect delicate surfaces, self-adhesure felt strips for the clamping jaws and alignment plate are also provided.

The new front frame clamp FRZ from BESSEY has a clamping width of 80-120mm and a throat depth of 30mm. It is now available from specialist dealers; to find out more, see www.bessey.de.



NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND – MAY 2018

Owing to their setting, many mills are havens for wildlife — watermills by ponds, rivers and streams, windmills set apart to catch the gusts and gales to turn their sails. Using natural power, they do not pollute or blight the environment.

Striking landscapes with a mill as their focus are home to much of our country's wildlife, including otters in Devon or swallowtail butterflies on Wicken Fen.

This year, National Mills Weekend, an annual celebration run by the Mills Section of SPAB (the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), will spotlight the importance of mills to the natural world.

Throughout the weekend, many wind and watermills will be displaying images of the flora and fauna that can be found in the vicinity – from birds, fish and mammals to butterflies and bugs, native wild flowers and grasses, trees, moss and fungi. Even mills in an urban setting will be showing how they play a positive role in the local environment.

Hundreds of mills, including some not normally open to the public, will be taking part. Many will be offering 'colour-in' hand-outs for young visitors to help them identify wild visitors and species, along with family-friendly '1-soy' checklists of wildlife that they might look out for.

The popularity of National Mills Weekend grows year on year. In 2017 over 320 mills took part, with an estimated total of 40,000 visits over the weekend. Taking place on the weekend of 12–13 May, see www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk for more details.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF NEW INTERMEDIATE COURSE

The Chippendale International School of Furniture has announced details of its new one-month intermediate course. The month-long course will primarily be taught by staff member Alan McGovern who has 33 years of woodworking experience.

The Chippendale school, situated near Edinburgh, is recognised as a leading international furniture design, making and restoration school.

Each year it runs a 30-week professional course, which draws talent from around the world. This year, students come from the UK, USA, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore, India, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Trinidad & Tobago.

The intermediate course fills an identified gap between the School's one-week introductory course and professional course. The introductory course is aimed at giving students a taste of woodworking and, if they then register for the professional course, they have their course fees reimburse.

The intermediate course will only have two students at any one time in order to maximise the amount of one-to-one tuition, and there will be no formal start and end dates, to better ensure that tuition can be fitted around students' other commitments. The course will not only teach practical skills, but give students a bench-work project to design and build a solid-wood table.

The course is aimed at the enthusiastic hobbyist who wants to take their woodworking skills to a whole new level. It's not intended as a pathway into professional woodworking, but will give students the skills and conflidence to flourish in their woodworking hobby.

Further details, including fees and an online application form, are now available on the Chippendale School's website: www.chippendaleschool.com.





NEW UIK TECHNOLOGY PARF SUPER DOGS

Another clever creation resulting from collaboration between inventor Peter Parfitt and UJK Technology is the new Parf Super Dog. CNC machined from 303 steel, these Parf Super Dogs precisely match the holes made by the UIK Technology 20mm cutter. What's more, they will fit with precision into the 20mm holes of the UJK Technology Multifunction workbench. Plus, they are compatible with the Festool MFT/3 tabletop and other grid tables with 20mm holes



No matter how tight the tolerances in the dog hole, tall dogs will always have a little movement. There has to be a slight tolerance: however, without a locking device, this will inevitably result in a slight wobble and a possible loss of accuracy. The taller the dog, the more pronounced the movement. To overcome this, the original Parf dogs clamp to your table using a threaded knob, but this assumes you have easy access to the underside of your table.

Now enter the UJK Parf Super Dog, precisely manufactured to an exceptionally fine tolerance. A simple twist of the top of the dog changes fine tolerance into zero tolerance and locks it firmly in place. Once locked, there is no wobble or movement - the Parf Super Dog fit is rock solid. And a simple twist of the top in the opposite direction releases it.

On the technical side, the Parf Super Dog is 90mm long and comes with three interchangeable collars. A 25mm diameter, 10mm tall mid-bush register exactly mimics the original Parf Dog, providing 60mm projection in total. A 20mm diameter plain collar allows a completely flush fit. When used in pairs the super precision fit of the dog is perfect for fixing other items or jigs with corresponding 20mm holes.

Finally, a stop collar fits into the chamfer around the dog hole in the UJK Technology workbench. It provides a register ensuring the dog sits exactly at 90° to the work surface when locked in place, while still allowing for a flush fit. A UJK Technology chamfer cutter is available for other tables, or you can use a router with a bevel cutter to create a slight chamfer. If the dog holes do not have a chamfer, you can use the Parf Super Dog with this collar inverted.

You can also insert the Parf Super Dog from beneath the table and lock it for use as a low profile dog. For more information and current pricing, see www.axminster.co.uk.

BOSCH 18V GDR IMPACT DRIVER - VERSATILITY & AFFORDABILITY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Enabling trade professionals to raise their game without incurring extra spend. Bosch Professional brings the GDR 18 V-160 Professional impact driver to the marketplace. Top of its class, the new product leads the industry's 18V

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in dark workplaces are included in the standard specification Robust construction and easy serviceability, together with proven performance capabilities, make this an ideal tool for a wide variety of

tradespeople It is aimed at trade sectors like carpentry, building and electrical, as well as heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) Specific applications range from wood screwing and drilling

to installing and maintaining HVAC systems, assembling wheels, constructing metal and erecting high racking. The driver comes with a 14in hex bit holder and shank, compatible with a multitude of accessories. As part of the Bosch Flexible Power System, the Bosch GDR 18 V-160 Professional impact driver is fully compatible with the comprehensive

Bosch range of 18V power tools, chargers and batteries It is now available from specialist retailers in a choice of packages.



The GDR 18 V-160 can be supplied in a Bosch L-BOXX carrying case, without batteries, at an RRP of £147.71. A kit containing the tool. two 2.0Ah batteries and a charger, supplied in an L-BOXX, sells at an RRP of £263.99. These prices are inclusive of VAT and are subject to change. To find out more, see www. bosch-professional.com/gb/en.

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This handy new set of augers from Trend comprises common diameters of 13, 16 20, 25 and 32mm. Ideal for general hole drilling duties in wood-based materials, the 159mm long augers will also find favour with on-site workers for drilling out lock and latch mortises and other mortise-type applications, or for drilling holes through joists for cable runs while the 32mm bit is suitable for cylinder-type lock fitting. The inclusion of a 150mm long extension bit allows longer holes to be made with ease.

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MANUFACTURER: Metabo

D&M GUIDE PRICE: £149.95 inc VAT (no batteries or charger)

New from Metabo, this light, compact cordless L-Class vacuum cleaner is ideal for mobile use for extraction and vacuuming of dust and chips. It features PressClean: manual filter cleaning using strong air flow by activating the switch on the extraction unit during breaks.

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This useful machine is easily transportable with ergonomicallydesigned handle or carry stap, and the capacity of the battery pack is displayed directly at the control panel of the vacuum cleaner. It comes complete with a 3m hose, fleece filter bag crevice nozzle, carrying strap and an optional wheeled trolley is also available.









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Chairs challenge

David Oldfield's sculptural chairs may look beautiful but they caused him problems from the start

had already made a large dining table and now the client was wanting a set of chairs, despite assuring me they'd be bought separately.

Even so, good news is good news and I agreed to develop a style of chair to suit the table. Unbeknownst to them, there was a serious problem that needed solving - I didn't have enough walnut. It had been hard enough to find in the first place, now I had to do it all over again. More of this later

Imaginative design

Before you design a chair, you have to imagine it. In fact I had already done this while working on the table, so I knew more than I was prepared to tell the client. The reason for that? Always prepare the ground before you sell an idea. So you have an image in your head you want to expand on? Get yourself in the right mood and start to sketch. Little thumbnail diagrams, bold strokes on a drawing board, describing the chair in text form, all help to build up a conviction of something which you believe in. I don't mess about with scale drawings. If you are going to develop an object to full-size, remember that a chair is a serious working item that will probably get abused in its lifetime so the attention to construction is paramount. This and the angularity of shouldered tenons, plus sweeps, if there are anv. are better revealed in an accurate full-size drawing

Having achieved all of the above I took myself off to the client, armed also with a very good line in the reason for my decisions. They hmm'd and haa'd, but really it was a fait accompli. I was thankful that not too many views were aired. My conviction, plus an element of bombast. sealed the deal and I left feeling triumphant.

Returning to earth after that little conquest was sobering - where was I going to get the walnut!? This turned into a bit of a quest, but eventually I got hold of some - at serious cost to my sanity, I might add. Read the full story, The walnut hunt' overleaf.

The making

For some reason I have no photographs of the preparation of the walnut. Suffice it to say that days of marking up, making patterns and bandsawing the various components took place. I made two prototypes of the chair in pine and after various adjustments, began working the walnut. Good air-dried English walnut cuts like cheese and is a wonderful timber to work in. The colours and tone are subtle and charming, a joy when you begin to polish. Things were looking up.

I knew from the outset that this wouldn't be an easy chair to make, but I'm guite bullish about compromise, so expediency was ignored. Also, as with the table, all surfaces had to become flush so setting out needed to be done with extreme accuracy. The union between legs and



Inhster-back curve



Creating the curve was difficult, but the end result was worth the stress!



the 'sweep' of my imagination



rails was critical; half a degree out wasn't good enough because the angularity wouldn't add up. This was pretty frustrating, but eventually I conquered the problem – thank heavens for a good table saw!

The chair rails were cross-banded in saw-cut veneer so that all grain except the yoke would become vertical. This was the easy work, although Iddin't think so at the time. I said earlier that I had made two prototypes. I had, minus the yoke. My thinking was, "I'll figure that out when I get to it." With the chairs by now formed up in a state of dry fit, the time was now.

Chair yokes

A yoke, in case you're not familiar with the term, is the back of a chair — the back rail. I remember coming in that morning with the intention of starting on them. It may seem odd to the reader that I had never dwell on how I might make them, but I'm like that – don't fill your head with problems when what you are coping with is enough as it is. At least that's what I tell myself.

enough as it is. At least that's what i tell myself.

I stared at the prototype. OK, I've got to curve
the timber two different ways; how the hell do
I do that? Panic rose in my crop. You silly sod,
you should have thought about this before you

started. Completely frazzled I took the dog for a walk, giving myself a good chance to think.

Experience and reason came to my aid. Of course build up the area by jointing. 57mm curved pieces, each one angled against the other. That meant four laminations per chair, all coming from the same stock so that the grain would match. There were eight chairs, so add that up? The curvature? of designed is known as a loster-back curve. The work was prodigious, hour upon hour, inspecting the grain, bandsawing freshand - ill-advised - to a given line, stacking them up to check that the grain flowed nicely.

THE WALNUT HUNT

Upon contacting my original source, I was told that what remained of the log had someone's name on it, so I was obliged to look elsewhere. At one point I felt like I had phoned everyone in England. "Dry 4 in valnut! Haven't seen that since I was a boy."

Igot fed up listering. Then I got the message "Heard you are looking for walmut ke've got a short butt here that might be suitable." I was onto them like a shot, explaining the project. "Mail us a cutting list and we'll send it down," they said. Not bloody likely! I never buy blind; sepscially walmut, which can be problematic. They were in Norwich, which is a tough drive from Bath—not that I minded: I was on the tail!

All the way up I was thinking what kind of a yard it would be. They had a good reputation for native timber – would I find a treasure trove? It was a disaster! With an offhand gesture I was given directions on arrival, and in a dark corner I found the log. It had been raided and put back without fillest – avery bad sign. I stood the planks up for inspection, every one of them and big trouble. Was this an old log they hadn't. been able to sell? Had they thought I might be a rookie and assumed that because I had come all this way I would be buying it anyway? I was furious. Striding back to the office, I let them know my thoughts. This was greeted with surprise, but also indifference — a strange combination. What to do next? I phoned the Derbyshire people.

The log was still there. I was told, and hadn't been paid for, so there was a good chance I could get my hands on some. Fiddle dee dee, off to the Derbyshire Dales I went. Bath to Norwich, Norwich to Buxton - the dog and I had just about 'had it' by the time we arrived. Putting myself up in a pub for the night - oh the Guinness, oh the bed! - I was at the timber yard sharp the next morning. The planks were laid out for me, sisters to the one I had chosen for the table. "I'll take the pair," I said, reaching for my chequebook. There was a pause. "Actually we've just received an email from the man who reserved them," they said. "We can't sell them to you." I stood there in mute disbelief. One minute, seventh heaven; the next, acute disappointment. I felt defeated and the trip back was a dull affair, much like the time I went to Scotland to fish and came back without catching anything. What the hell do I o now, I wondered, mooching round my workshop.

In good ready to the control of the

I will end this sojourn here. Legging it around Britain hadn't amused me so I was enormously relieved to have found what I had set out to look for. I also made a resolution not to add up what it had cost me!



1 Half of the walnut plank was skimmed so that I could look at the grain

Eventually, I had them worked out. Now it was time to cut the angles. Because of the concave curve, the top and bottom of each piece did not appear straight and as I made them I began to feel like a mad inventor. Finally — without going on too much — the task was completed. I can't remember how iglued them up, I'm afraid, though it's rather a relief to have frogotten that particular trial.

Each yoke then had a pattern laid over and the semi-circle cut of it. Not only this but also a 4mm lath was applied into the curve to protect the exposed end-grain. OK cleer clogs, now cleant tupl had no make front and rear cradles and do a great deal of experimenting with spokeshaves. I have several and found the newly designed Veritas was the boy, being razor-sharp; cliscovered it could clean up accurately across the



 ${\bf 2}$ I had to trench the legs so that they would take the yoke



3 Spokeshaving the yokes was a long task. Note the 4mm lath (or fillet) on the inside semicircular edge, which covers the end-grain



4 The legs were eventually fitted into the yokes



5 The shoulders were tested for true - that is, no gaps



7 The swept arms were fitted into the chair legs

grain, finishing off with coarse glass paper. It was exhausting work, mind. Anyone coming into my workshop around that time got snarled at. I just remember a blur of total concentration - it wouldn't have done to rip the grain up, after all!

It was a huge relief to have found a successful method, but it didn't stop there. As you can see from the photos, a short tenon was made on each side of the voke, which meant 32 shoulders. each one cut on the curve. I didn't mess about; I had on order a Lie-Nielsen crosscut tenon saw and nothing was done until it arrived. Once again, total concentration was required, and my heart was in my mouth throughout; going inside of the line would have been disastrous. Gradually, piece by piece, they were coming together, although cramping up was quite an experience.



The arms

As the sculptor Henry Moore once said: 'If you can see three dimensions you can make three dimensions. I had originally seen the chair as a carver, so I was totally confident about what the arms would look like. Trouble was, I hadn't drawn it. I was excited because this was going to be the 'icing on the cake'. Again, I went to do it, and couldn't re-visualise the image. I trawled my memory but, no, it wouldn't come. It seems obvious looking at the photos but it wasn't to me at the time. More panic, more frustration, I made all sorts of arms and posts, but none of them seemed to work. I got to a stage where I knew I had lost the plot - I didn't know good from bad. This had happened to me once before so at least I recognised my own dilemma. I knew that the







This is where veneer is laid under the face veneer and at right angles to it, so as to stabilise the panel. It also provides better adhesion of the veneers to the substrate. Cross-banding is also known as counter-veneer

TIP

Where possible and especially with important projects, never buy the timber without going to see it first. You want to select the best boards available, after all

arm must sweep out from the yoke, and that it was to be curved and canted onto a swept post. I ran through all of that but nothing looked right. We have a banker mason at the farm who I know has a very good 'eye', so I went to him and ranted like a madman, admitting my abject failure. "Let's have a look," he said, in mild amusement. In short and in the space of 10 minutes, we had it solved: I had briefly lost confidence in my own ability, that was all. Not a nice experience.

To round up...

Although I am proud of my chairs, I definitely don't want to make them ever again. I could have designed a more simple chair, of course, making life a good deal easier, but I can't deny how well



8 A finished voke ready for fitting



9 It looks more like a sculpture - pity it's only the back of a chair...

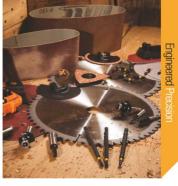
these sit at the dining table I had made previously. Contemporary Classicism - that's what I set out to do and I think I did it, but I would, wouldn't I? Conviction is a wonderful thing, however gruelling. Open framework - for that is what chairs are – is often more interesting and difficult to make than a closed cabinet. I walked around those chairs so many times looking at the angles, the sweeps, the union between horizontal and vertical and have said before that they are about as near as a cabinetmaker gets to sculpture. This will probably bring howls of protest, but there is one advantage. A chair is a servant to mankind, and humans like to sit. A sculpture might be pleasant to the eye, but all you can do is dust it. Amen. ww

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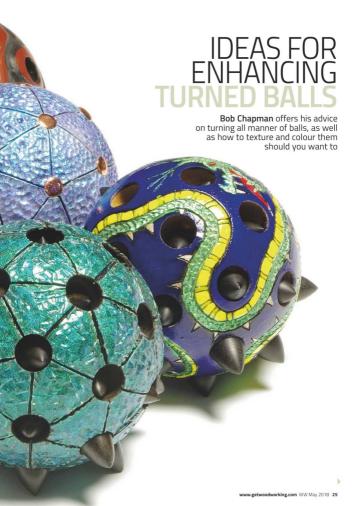
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Turned balls

ell, before you can do anything with them, you must first make your balls. I use a home-made ball turning jig for mine.

My jig is quite bulky, and to avoid fouling the chuck it requires the centre of the ball to be

My gis quite builty, and to avoid fouling the chuck it requires the centre of the ball to be about 100mm away from it—this is the gis? biggest drawback, otherwise it works perfectly. It tuilises the top-side of a metabouring lathe to hold the cutter and move it forward by as little as 0,001 in at a time, thus enabling balls of very precise dimensions to be turned if required. The balls in make are usually around 70mm dameter, and this dimension is rarely critical—it's just a comfortable size to hold in the hand.

Using a ball turning jig

In this case I am using a section from a reclaimed oak fence post. It's a bit too short to position the ball's centre far enough from the chuck, so I have glued a length of dowel into one end to move it along a bit (photo 1). Using a spindle roughing gouge, turn the block to a cylinder with the diameter a couple of millimetres bigger than the desired ball size (photo 2).

Allowing a couple of millimetres for waste, measure the ball's radius along the cylinder from the tailstock end. Draw a pencil line around the workpiece at this point. To turn an accurate ball, it is essential that the pivot of the jig is directly below the desired centre of the ball. I use a small

try square to line these up accurately (**photo 3**). It is also essential that the cutting edge of the tool is exactly on the centreline of the lathe. I usually set it to the centre of the mark left by the tailstock centre (**photo 4**).

The lathe is set to a moderate speed and the ball is turned by rotating the cutting tool left and right, advancing it by small increments each time (photo 5). Eventually the ball is complete but for the bit holding it in the chuck (photo 6). Any necessary size adjustments can be made now before parting off-fielding the ball in a small cage chuck (photo 7) remove the final stub and complete the ball photo 8). Construction details of my ball turning jig can be found in the technical section of my website— www.bobchapman. cauk. While the ball turning jig was set up, Irandes several balls from different timbers.

At this point the balls could, if you wish, simply be sanded and polished. A collection of balls of different sizes and timbers, all highly polished in a wooden bowl can look very attractive, but I quite enjoy turning Singapore balls and wanted to make them more elaborate by using this as the theme.

Singapore balls

Marking out a Singapore ball requires a little bit of arithmetic and some careful work. First, measure the diameter of the ball and multiply it by 0.526. (This number, 0.526, arises from the geometry of a sphere and, if such things interest you, there is a mathematical explanation of it on my website IS et a pair of compasses to your resulting figure and draw a circle of this radius anywhere on the ball. Choose any point on this circle and draw another corte. Putting the point of the compasses where these two circles cross, draw another on epitod 9). Continue until you have completed all possible crossing points. You should now have 12 such points marked if you draw pencil lines connecting these 12 points to their nearest religious; you will eventually have 20 triangles. Using trial and error, find the centres of each triangle and mark 20 more points, making 32 altogether. These points show the positions of the holes in 3 insignapore ball.

To make a Singapore ball, each of the 32 marked positions is drilled to a depth of 18mm with a 10mm diameter drill (photo 10), before being undercut to enlarge the hole slightly without enlarging the opening (photo 11).

The wooden spikes in the ball are made in a tear-drop shape. 17mm long and wey sightly too big to go through the holes in the ball. Aim for what engineers call on interference fit. One pushed into the ball they won't come out again and should nestic comfortably just below the surface when retracted (photo 12). Making the holes and then the spikes is a tedious business, but one that affords you plently of practice. By the time you have finished your first Singapore ball, you will be something of an exomething of



1 A bit of old fence post



2 Turn to a little over the required ball diameter



3 Line up centres carefully



4 Ensure the cutting edge is at centre height



5 Take light cuts, back and forth



6 Part off, leaving a stub big enough to complete the curve of the ball



7 Prepare a simple cage chuck to hold the ball



8 Turn the stub away to complete the ball



9 Draw circles carefully and keep checking that the compass setting hasn't changed



10 For an approximately 70mm ball, drill a 10mm diameter hale 18mm deep



11 Undercut the hole slightly, but don't enlarge the opening



12 A polished wood Singapore ball, but I don't know the name of the wood



13 A ball marked out with burn lines connecting the 32 points



14 The finished 'bug-eyed' ball



15 Texturing with a rotary ball burn

TECHNIQUES FOR COLOURING & TEXTURING TURNED BALLS

Pyrography

I know that colouring and texturing wood does not appeal to every turner but I like it and feel that it can enhance the appearance of many wooden objects, although I admit that afterwards they no longer look very much like wood. If colouring is not for you, most of what follows can be done in plain wood, suitably polished.

Taking a different ball, I marked it out as for a singapore ball and used a pyrography pen with a sharp point to burn fairly deep lines between the 32 positions (pibed 13). Using the same tool, texture lines were burned to fill in the triangles at different angles, and the whole ball was then sprayed matt black before being painted with joonja indisecting gene paint. My plan was to nisert green glass marbles, which I had left over from making a solitare game. Choosing a dril size just

smaller than the marbles' diameter, the holes were drilled to a depth a fraction more than half the diameter. The glass marbles were then pressed into these holes, leaving half the marble visible (photo 14). The result was interesting but had a bit of a "bug-eyed" look. The 3 glass marbles also made it very heavy.

Copper pellets

Some years ago a friend gave me a small bag containing farm dameter copper pellets about 3mm thick. These were the waste from punching out 6mm holes in a sheet of copper, intended for lenow not what purpose. I thought these might look attractive set in a ball so, after marking out and burning lines as before, a series of form holes were drilled 3mm deep in the Singapore ball positions. The triangular areas were then textured with a rotary burn (photo 15). The jo Sonja paints require a dark background so, after

texturing, small woodscrews were driven into some holes to provide a stand for the ball while it was sprayed with mat black paint and then painted with an indescent blue (photo 16). A wooden holder was made for the copper pellets so that they could be polished before insertion in the ball and they were finally tapped in gently using a short block of wood to protect them. When complete the entire ball was grayed with a clear gloss finish to prevent the copper inserts from transfaling again (photo 17).

A variety of techniques

I was quite pleased with that effect and decided to do something similar in an actual Singapore ball. After marking out and burning in triangles as before, the 32 holes were drilled and undercut ready to receive the spikes. The whole thing was then textured using a pyrography tool with a flattened triangular tp. This was a time-



16 Apply iridescent point to a black background in order to reveal the colour



17 A completed ball with polished copper pellets



18 Pyrographed facets painted with iridescent turquoise, plus ebony spikes



19 Carving the doomed oak bal



20 Painting the carved sycamore replacement



21 The finished 'copper ball' with ebony spikes



22 & 23 Views of the 'dragon ball' showing the contortions of the dragon



consuming process but, once completed, the ball is already blackened and ready for painting. I used turquoise iridescent paint to achieve a very pleasing 'faceted' effect. Ebony spikes completed the ball (photo 18)

Trying to get away from the pyrography and iridescent paint, I thought about carving a Singapore ball but wondered if it might weaken it too much. However, nothing ventured and all that, so I set about carving the oak ball I'd turned earlier. I found it better to clamp it between centres on the lathe, using shaped wooden pads to hold the ball without damage (photo 19). A Flexcut blade in a reciprocating holder in a Dremel made the carving easier, but care had to be taken not to

FURTHER INFORMATION

All the balls shown here are for sale between £70 and £120. Contact Bob via his website if you are interested - www.bobchapman.co.uk cut too close to any of the holes, or too deeply. After carving, the entire ball was sprayed matt black before painting. I first tried a plain acrylic brown paint but it made the ball look very dull. so, despite my resolution not to, I resorted to iridescent paint, mixed some red into the plain brown, and tried again (photo 20).

The dash of iridescent red made all the difference, lifting and lightening the brown to a rich metallic copper colour. Taking care only to paint the tops of the hills and leave the valleys matt black, the ball was coloured. The addition of ebony spikes finished it off - literally. While inserting the second spike a section of the surrounding oak splintered off and was lost among the shavings. Reckoning that the oak was too brittle for the purpose. I started again with a piece of sycamore: make ball, mark out, drill holes, undercut holes, carve ball, paint ball, make spikes, insert spikes. Fortunately it all went well the second time and I am pleased with the resulting ball (photo 21). There's a

lesson there - don't make the ball out of hard. brittle wood.

Burning a dragon

The piece of sycamore used for my replacement ball was big enough for two, so I made a second one while I was at it. With this ball I wanted to try an idea that had been going round in my mind for some time - a Chinese dragon. I spent a bit of time researching them. Apparently they are more like ferocious worms and don't have wings. That made the job easier - fitting wings into the spaces between the holes of a Singapore ball would be very difficult. With the ball completed as far as the holes I set about drawing the dragon entwined around the ball, first in pencil and then with the pyrography tool, using it to add texture to the upper part of the dragon's body. I planned out my colour scheme and became so involved in the project that I completely forgot to take photographs until the ball was finished and it was too late. It's my favourite (photos 22 & 23). ww

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THE LAST CLOG MAKER IN ENGLAND

John Greeves meets Jeremy Atkinson, the last traditional master clog maker of bespoke clogs in England, who still earns a living from his work



1 A green sycamore block used to make the clog soles

eremy Atkinson has a wry smile and tells me that he's been described as 'critically endangered. He is of course referring to his craft that faces near extinction. He's the last traditional master clog maker of bespoke clogs in England, who still earns a living from his work. His workshop is located in Kington, a small rural town in Herefordshire. As a master clog maker, he's highly skilled in both areas of woodcarving and leather and was taught by a man, who was taught by a man, in an unbroken line stretching back in time. The origins of all wooden soled footwear is

thought to have arisen from the Roman bath shoe, which was worn to protect the wearer's feet from the hot tiled floor. European clogs developed differently from British clogs and were all wood, whereas the British clog combined carved wooden soles with leather uppers. In England many clog makers used alder, with birch being popular in

Cumbria and willow in Lincolnshire. Sycamore was the favoured wood of West Wales, with alder and birch being used in other areas. In Scotland, birch was mainly chosen.

Clogs remained a popular form of footwear in Britain from the beginning of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th. Clogs were the functional footwear of the industrial revolution. Famous novelist Jane Austin wore them and even Captain Scott used alder clogs in conjunction with snow shoes on the ill-fated expedition to the South Pole. Clogs were still being used as late as World War II and were regarded as essential wear in many industries although the perception of them was changing. They were often considered unfashionable, utilitarian and owning a pair was regarded by many as a sign of poverty. Their appeal also declined as affordable mass-produced leather boots offered a suitable alternative to the everyday wear.





2 Froe used with wooden mallet to split the block



3 The first knife used is a blocker or stock knife For Jeremy Atkinson, the process of making clogs

starts away from the workshop. For nearly 40

and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of their

years, he has worked with most types of woods

characteristics. He's using green sycamore today,

which was cut from an upright tree of 20 to 30

years old (photo 1). He avoids hedge sycamore

and trees growing in areas with high prevailing

winds. "You don't cut a leaning sycamore. When

you come to carve sycamore that's been leaning.

the compression side of the tree will work, but

the side which has been under tension will not.

he tells me. Jeremy has found this to only be a

characteristic of sycamore and something clog

makers seem to know. He then selects a block

where the grain is fairly parallel and more stable,

which will ultimately require less carving. Jeremy

It's so elastic the blade can't get purchase,"

Selecting the tree & wood



4 The second knife used as a hollower



5 The third knife used is the 'gripper',

or rebate knife high on the stability index in relation to other hardwoods and having minimal shrinkage. In addition, the wood doesn't crack very easily. takes a nail well, and is more durable in the mud.

Construction The sycamore is half-split into two smaller clog blocks using a froe (photo 2) and a wooden mallet. The froe creates a nice straight line. Initially, the clog maker wants one flat surface and he works off this. Three clog knives are used in the overall process. They are the blocker or stock knife (photo 3) the hollower (photo 4) and the gripper or rebate knife (photo 5). When required, each knife is attached to a ring in the bench. The sole

WOODWORKING MATERIALS & TOOLS

Tools Alder

Bench with ring

Green sycamore

Clog hammer

Rirch

Blocker or stock knife

Hollower

Gripper or rebate knife Froe

Wooden mallet

Range of lasts

Saw

Twca cam

Stanley knife

Wet stones Leather making materials and tools

Materials

Range of leather hides of varying thicknesses Clog maker's hammer

Dyps

Stanley knife

Synthetic thread

Templates for the uppers

Upholster's pinchers

Synthetic thread Pinchers for nail extraction

Steel and brass tacks: %in to 1%in

Nail extractor

Toetins (toe plates)

Beveller

Black Japanned clasps

Star wheel punch

Black Japanned buttons

Evelet crimper Button split cutter

Templates according to the style of clog

Needle

Harness making machine



6 Blocking out



7 Preparing the heel



8 Blocking out the underside

block is held in the left hand and secured against the left thigh when carving. The dog maker manoeuvers the blade down on to the sole block using his right hand. In working any of the knives, two golden rules exist: the knives must be razor-sharp and the clog maker should always work towards the centre of the grain.

Blocking out

The human template for creating the outline of the clogs in ost simply drawing round someone's foot, it involves carefully calculated measurements and photographs, combined with 37 years of experience to understand the fit of a person's foot. The first Infel' used is the blocker or stock infle, which cuts the base and sides of the soles and roughly shapes the inside (photo 6). The clog maker is also blocking out or carving the cast (which in hisse is called the spring) as well as the underside and the heel as part of this process, Jeremy uses a save to partially out into



11 Nearly there. Using the 'last' as an indicator



9 Matching up the pairs

the sole block (photo 7): this forms the heel and he then continues with the blocker (photo 8). It's a very awkward knife with an offset handle, but it can chamfer the underside to complete a concave curve. He breaks the knife open so he can twist it out. "You always work as a pair," Jeremy tells me. There are regular checks as you constantly match up (photo 9). He is hoping to achieve a mirror image. Jeremy can detect if it's 'lumpen or misshapen, if the curves start in the same place, whether the heights match or if wood still needs to be blocked out in the pair. Sometimes he sits a sprung last on the soles to see if it sits right. There has to be some correlation between the 'sole' and the 'last' otherwise the leather isn't going to sit correctly, but as Jeremy reminds me, you are making the clogs for an individual and not for a last. Sometimes he deliberately diverges from what the last wants him to do when he is making a correction for a high arch, flat foot, or other orthopaedic needs.

Hollowing out

The second knife is the hollower, which is used to hollow out the foot-bed for the foot to rest in. Both the blocker and the hollower are made in two pieces of hard carbon steel with the pieces welded together. This isn't making a pretty shape, but carving out where the foot is actually going to



12 Drawing the line back on and preparing to cut a bevel with a blocker knife



10 Hollowing out

come into contact with the clog soles. The knife is carefully used to avoid rippling the wood when carving. The hollowing out can start either at the toe or the heel [photo 10]. Again, careful checks are made when matching up the pair and using the last as another check (photo 11). The outline (using the template) continues to be redrawn in the making of the clogs (photo 12).

Cutting the bevel

The blade is changed to a blocking inn'te again as a bevel is out arround each of the clog goise [photo 13]. Both soles are matched up. Some of the kind work has to be felt to avoid the blade snagging. To make final adjustments, the blocking blade is ben replaced by the blotwer blade when the cutting of the bevel is complete. In his pursuit to create a matching gair, all the time levemy continues to match up, removing a small area where the match isn't the same and taking out excess where the sole appears higher on the other solice photos. If a 15].

Creating the rebate using a gripper or rebate knife

The third knife you use is the gripper or rebate knife that attaches to the ring on the bench like the two others. This cuts the groove or the rebate for the 'upper' (the leather part of the clog)



13 Cutting the bevel using the blocker knife

WOODWORK The making of traditional bespoke clogs



14 Do they mirror one another after the bevel has been cut?

to sit in (**photo 16**). The two constituent parts of the gripper knife are the bit and the gripper beam— it's basically two tools in one. There's a particular angle on the blade: it doesn't all engage at the same time. The centre engages before the outside, allowing you to go round corners.

This is the safest but most difficult knife to use as the blade follows the curve made by the previous knives. The skill involves moving both the block and blade together in one flowing movement. As Jeremy says: "Basically, you're cutting in and feeling the knife. If it starts to bind, you know it's splitting, You do it all the way round.



17 The groove or rebate, which has been cut with



15 The bevel, once completed

Little knots can be worked both ways with the "V blade or gippe blade, which not as 90" bend and allows you to go round corners without breaking the blade or splitting the wood" (photo 17). Time is then given to clean out and even up the rebate with a Stanley knife (photo 18). Light finishing touches are also made using a Twoca cam tool (photo 19). All this is done before the wood dires out. The soles are allowed to continue to rest for about three weeks before the uppers are fitted. The customer can either have the

wooden finish unplugged (natural) or buffed

up according to their choice.



18 Cleaning out the groove with a Stanley knife



16 The gripper cuts the rebate for the leather uppers to sit in

Uppers

Oppera by lastes 10 years to become a master in probable not only do you have to be converse cog maker you you have to be converse required operation in the working of eather together operation in the working of eather to the converse of the converse of the converse together operation and the converse of the converse together operation of of the together operation of the together operation of the converse together operation of the together operation of the converse together operation of the together operat

learning uses locally purchased hide, which he dives himself. The thickness can vary for the type of skyle required. Making a boot might use 3 mm and 2.5mm leather, whereas a classic log might use leather thicknesses of 3 mm and 4 mm. Jeremy cuts the various shapes for the uppers using his Stanley larlie (Jehobo 23). These can be overlapped and stitched by hand or machine stitched using Stanley larlie (Jehobo 23). These can be overlapped and stitched by hand or machine stitched using a harness making machine (Jehoto 24). A top can be produced which is over-stitched, sometimes studied and with leather stiffeners for support (Jehoto 25). Again, a black lapanned clasp or a button fifer instance for a Webs slipper skyle), a two-piece button or a clasp of og may be used, but it all deepends on the skyle.



19 Finishing touches with a Twca cam



20 A range of styles are made in the workshop



21 Different templates are used to make a particular style of clog



22 Marking out the leather using the templates



23 Cutting out the uppers



24 Sometimes the leather is hand-stitched



The method of attaching the upper (top) to the sole is called lasting. The top is placed over the sprung last and the leather is stretched over this with lasting pinchers. At the start a tack is hammered into the heel and toe (photo 26). The upper continues to be nailed to the rebate of the sole all the way round using a clog hammer (photo 27). Smaller steel tacks are used at the toe and larger tacks at the heel. The leather is pulled down during this continuous process. If Jeremy is using brass tacks, he uses them later when the welt (a strip of leather that goes around the clog) is nailed around to hide the steel tacks underneath (photo 28). Depending on the style, eyelets, clasps or an



25 View underneath, stitched with a stiffener and studded



26 Spring 'last' inside - toe and heel nail are attached first





28 Brass tacks hold the welt in place, covering the steel nails



29 Sometimes a button or clasp is used in the design of a clog



30 A toetin attached at the front of the clog



are nailed to the wood

enamel button can be added (photo 29). Toetins (photo 30) are nailed at the toe end to protect the leather in some designs. Rubber soles are then attached. The heel rubber (photo 31) is the same as that used for conveyor belts in rock guarries and the clogs produced are not only an object of individual beauty but have a durability and grace about them, which can endure the ravages of time. ww

FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about Jeremy and to see more examples of his hand-crafted clogs, visit his website: www.clogmaker.co.uk

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ON DISPLAY

Niall Yates hits the brief of making a covered notice board and juggles various elements in the making process

he customer's brief was for a covered notice board for the outside of his shop. It was to be positioned under the eaves of a low building so would be partially sheltered, though given its location it would still have to contend with some wind and driving rain. Having worked for him several times in the past. I know that he has genuine concerns about the ecological credentials of the timber that would be used and given that sapele is the most readily available and used timber for joinery in these parts, going for that particular option was probably best avoided. A European or American hardwood would be a better fit for the cabinet itself and for the backboard I would use 12mm OSB. As for the size, it was to be as large as possible to fit the space available, which led to the dimensions being fixed at 1.8 x 1.2m.

Juggling the various elements

When quoting for a job one does have to try and keep costs to a minimum while still producing work that is fit for purpose, though this can be difficult at times. It's often tempting to go for purplish and choose timber of more robust.

dimensions, knowing that this will prove easier for the job, despite it being a costlier option. This, however, can also lead to the end result looking clumsy, although you can mitigate against this by careful design and the judicious use of chamfers and other visual tricks.

I decided, however, to use 25 x ± 50mm oak, relying on the use of this thinnes stock to keep the material costs as low as possible. I hoped that, after planing to size, it would have enough straight timber to complete the job and that I could easily hang a pair of jated doors without the added complications that bent stock would bring to this task. I would be greatly helped in keeping the timber straight by fastening it squarely to a rectangular backing board of D58 and by the use of housed door stops glued in possition, which would add to the rigidity and help straighten any cabinet sides that had drifted slightly out of true, after planing.

Jointing, grooving & rebating

The first job was to put the oak I had chosen through the planer. It's always pleasurable planing American white oak as an all pervasive smell

of vanilin fills the workshop, which for me invariably calls to mind a nice glass of Rioja (phota 1). Calls to mind a nice glass of Rioja (phota 1). Expette the sawn timber being well over its stated 25mm thickness, I had to take it down to 19mm tog et as much straight, undamaged stock as possible. It then selected which boards cloud best use freach of the components although unless you have a lot of surplus timber, this is always going to be a bit of a componense.



1 American white oak - all planed and ready to go

WOODWORK A notice board for Adam



2 Top board of cabinet with groove for housing



3 Cabinet base with dovetails - doorstop temporarily tried in position



Having chosen the pieces for the four cabinet sides. I set about rebating one edge of each board, leaving me with a 6 × 6mm tongue. I then cut the boards to 125mm width, the resultant offcut - complete with tongue - forming the housed doorstops

The next task was to machine the dovetail joints for the bottom board and sides, followed by the 6mm grooves for the doorstop. After which were the stopped housings for the corner joints of the top board and the rebates for the OSB backboard, which on the two sides were also

stopped (photos 2-4). At this stage I also made the sloping cuts to the tops of the two sides where the roofing board would fit (photo 5). The internal surfaces of the oak boards were then cleaned with a scraper plane (photo 6) and the doorstop was cut to length and glued in position (photo 7). At this stage the 12mm OSB backboard was cut to size and reinforced with 50mm wide fillets (photo 8).

Putting the cabinet together

After some further cleaning up of the stops (photo 9), I started to fasten the cabinet together. Since I was using the OSB backing board to keep the cabinet square, I first screwed the top board reduced in width by the thickness of the backing board - into position on the front top edge of the backing board. I then glued and clamped the two sides to the top board with PU glue. I further reinforced this joint with the use of a pocket screw to the front (photo 10). When the glue had set. I turned the whole assembly around and glued the dovetailed base into position



Angled top being cut on one of the side boards



6 Cleaning up the inside of the cabinet with a scraper plane



7 Doorstop being glued into position



8 OSB back stiffened with additional fillets

9 Sharp arrises removed from doorstop

The roof bard

The roof board was next biscuited and glued in place, with a couple of additional triangular bearers to prevent it from sagging over its length. At this stage, in an attempt to control condensation on the glass inside the cabinet, lalso drilled a series of 30mm holes in the top to house four circular stainless steel vents

(photos 11 & 12).

To help with fastening the notice board in its eventual position on the wall, I planed two 50mm wide oak battens and fitted them vertically against the inner edges of the cabinet sides. These were each drilled out to take three No.10 screws, which should easily be strong enough to secure the notice board in place (photo 22).

Glazed doors

It was now time to make the pair of glazed doors for the front of the cabinet. I had to order an additional length of 150 × 25mm sawn oak, as I realised I didn't have quite enough timber to finish the job. This worked out quite usell as some of the



the job. This worked out quite well, as some of the 10 Gluing up frame – note cling-film to stop back being glued unintentionally



 ${\bf 11} \ {\sf Rear \ view \ with \ roof \ fitted-note \ pocket \ screws \ and \ holes \ for \ vents}$



12 Roof from front



13 Marking out door mortises with the stiles clamped together

other planed timber that I had set aside for the doors was too bent to use, and this gave me the opportunity to swap some of the pieces around. The stiles and rails were first planed to size, before the stiles were marked with their mortises (photo 13). These were then cut on the mortising machine to a depth of 50mm and given a shallower groove for the haunch (photo 14). I tackled the tenons on the radial arm saw (photos

15 & 16) and trimmed them to width with a tenon saw while the rails were held in the bench vice. When marking the haunches, I find it helpful to use a chisel of the required width and to draw along its edge; this guarantees a consistent depth to the haunch and a neat fit, especially if you use the same chisel to set the depth of the groove for the haunch on the mortising machine.

With the mortises and tenons cut (photo 17) the stiles and rails required some further machining. The bottom rails had a slope planed on their top edge to shed water more easily and the rails and stiles were rebated on their back

inner edge to a depth of 5mm to accommodate the glazing. The rebates were machined with an overhead router, and those on the stiles were stopped just short of the mortises. Later these corners would be trimmed square with a sharp chisel after the doors had been glued up. Now that the machining was complete, the doors were glued using PU glue, clamped and set aside to dry.

Fitting the doors & hardware

The doors were cleaned up front and back with an orbital sander (photo 18) and were then planed for fit, allowing for a gap of approximately 3mm around them for clearance. I next routed out the housings for the hinges using a homemade jig. I had to enlarge the chamfer on the 75mm solid drawn brass hinges to accommodate a No.7 brass screw, as I didn't think the smaller screws supplied were strong enough to support the fully glazed doors. With the doors hung it was now time to fit a cover strip behind the left-hand door to seal against the weather and act as a door-stop for the right-hand door. The rest of the hardware, including a pair of cranked brass bolts to hold the left-hand door shut and a lock to secure the right hand door, were also fitted (photos 19-23).

The glazing strip

I now converted all the planed timber I had remaining into strips of 30 x 8mm, which gave me enough for the glazing plus a couple of spares. I then routed a decorative chamfer on the outer edge of this with the overhead router. The glazing strip was fastened in place behind the door rebates initially with steel screws, although these were swapped for brass ones later on. This was the case with all other screws used on this job. Also, I chose to butt the corners, rather than mitre them. The glazing strip had to be cut away in several places to accommodate the bolts and the lever of the lock.

Finishing & pinboard

It was now a matter of removing all hardware,



16 Cleaning up tenons with a bull-nosed plane



14 Mortising the stiles



17 Door components - a bit more machining still to do



18 Glued and cleaned up, doors prior to fitting



to seal gap between double doors



21 Cut-outs in door cover strip to accommodate



22 Batten fastened to inside of cabinet to help with fitting notice board in position



unscrewing the removable strips and sanding all the parts, before carrying out a bit of filling, especially on the glazing strip that had suffered some torn grain when being routed. Three coats of exterior varnish were then applied, sanding between coats.

For the surface on which to pin the notices lelected to use cork tiles, rather than the proprietary board sold for this particular purpose. This was motivated by the need to keep the material costs down. Before fixing the tiles in place, the OSB backing board was first coated with a suitable primer and allowed to dry fully.

Glazing & reassembly

For glazing the doors, I used 4mm tempered glass. This was bedden on a film of clear silicone and held in position from behind with the glazing strips. With the rest of the parts reassembled and the hardware re-fixed, the notice board was now ready to be delivered to the customer before being pressed into use (photo 24), www.



23 Doors hung, ready for clean-up and varnish - cabinet still minus pinboard and glass



24 Notice board installed and in use





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On a recent five-day training course, Tormek met all the UK and Irish retailers. Staff members were trained in all aspects of sharpening with Tormek, and shown why Tormek is the No.1 for your edge tools. Both the T-8 and T-4 were reviewed in detail including



Delegates sharpening on the Tormek T-4

the seven-year warranty; delegates examined every jig, and then each one sharpened a tool from blunt to finished edge. The theories of sharpening were also discussed so that everyone on the training course would know how to get the very best edge on their tools.

Tormek's trainer, Stig Reitan, said: "It was great meeting everyone and feeling the positivity among the participants. Lots of questions were asked and answered. Buying a machine from a person who knows and understands the system is reassuring for new users and we're very excited about the new Skill Centres in the UK and Ireland.

The tomato test

Those on the course brought their own knives to the training and carried out the Tormek fornato test. As soon as delegates had determined and understood the angles for the different types of knives, they then had to sharpen and hone theirs. Once satisfied they had the sharpest edge, their next task was to slice a tomato without holding it or it moving on the bench if they achieved this, they had passed the test and could then have the tomate for lunch!



A razor-sharp, Tormek sharpened knife carries out the tomato test

Tormek in action

To finish the training, each Skill Centre representative had the chance to sharpen their chisels and other tools with Tormek watching, ensuring they understood every detail as to why this wavent-winning. Swedsh export is the leader for sharpening all your edge tools. Now you can see Tormek and have a personal demonstration at all of the authorised Tormek Skill Centres. For more information about Tormek ordoucts: wist wave-brimanc.com.



Axminster's Meg Burden sharpens her knife



Stig Reitan talks Tormek to the delegates

uring his reign Kaiser Wilhelm II set himself the task of building up the imperial navy. He loved the sea, and used to travel to the Norwegian Fjords on holiday. Once, in the early 1890s, he travelled incognito heading for the North Cape, and had less than 10 battleships and just a few squadrons of destrovers with him over the North Sea.

Indeed, probably in the spirit of sussing out each other's fire power, Winston Churchill, as First Sea Lord, had in 1913 accompanied the Kaiser on manoeuvres in Norwegian waters.

kaiser on manoeuvres in viorwegian waters. But our story starts a couple of decades earlier when the Kaiser went to the Lofoten archipelago and met his namesake. Young Wilhelm was introduced to emperor Wilhelm, probably because of his name. Today we can only try to imagine the social span this handshake represented. The Norwegian Wilhelm had a humble background, and later in life he earned his living as a crewman on board a local freight ship. Back home he had his own boat, a small one capable of being pulled up onto land by only one man.

Fishermen sons

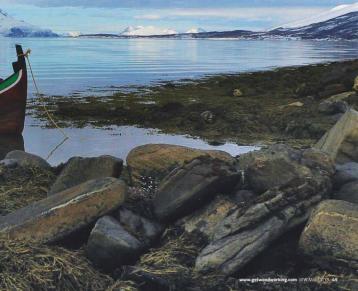
By this time Wilhelm had a family of his own and was having to work away from home to earn the money to keep them, leaving his sons to row their small boats out to sea to seek the fish on which the family survived. He had a small Nordlandshåt built according to the same principles as the Viking ships.

Two of his sons subsequently became chefs on one of the post-carrying coastal steamers that ply most of the Norwegian coast, from Bergen to Kirkenes. One of the brothers, Hans, settled in Kirkenes at the Russian border, taking his father's boat with him to the town, which arguably was

the most bombed city in the world during World War II. This was because Kirkenes was the staging area for attacks on the Russian port of Murmansk designed to cut supply routes from Britain. The attack on Murmansk was conducted by the 'Hero of Nanik', Eduard Diett, who forced the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force.

Nordlandsbåt out

New types of small boats with engines met the needs of new times better than the old ones built for sail and oars, and the Nordandshire was gradually placed out. It was a plece of luck when Wilhelm's old boat was stored in Krisenes and so escaped the fate of many of these boats, which received a Villing finale – being black from the tart they bearen covered in – other bearen they burned very well so were popular for the annual ridsummer bonfries.



WOODWORK Norwegian boat building



Boards are already cut to shape. The templates are on top with the boards awaiting the planer



Tore Kornbakk in his workshop. The boards must be planed down to 12mm thickness. In the background you can see a build in progress



On the wall hang the bow and stern templates



Detail inside the stern



Detail outside the stern

HOW TO BUILD A NORDLANDSBÂT

The first job is to lay the keel. The bow and stern are each cut out from one piece of wood and given the correct proportions. The keel is joined after the curve, then the rig is built around the bow, the keel and stern.

Next, the boards are cut according to the old templates, after which they are sanded to 12mm thickness and the edges shaped. Then Tore takes his bucket, collects hot water from the kitchen and pours it into a self-made tray. This is insulated from the floor to prevent cooling. After some time in the water, the board can be bent into shape.

Supported by the rig, the first board is riveted to the keel and the bow or the stern. During the cooling process, while it finds its new shape, the boards are also kept in place with clamps.

The hull is built under pressure, the shape being achieved without frames and requiring considerable craftsmanship. The frames are attached when the hull is almost complete. The finish includes oiling, painting and sometimes the addition of a mast

Skip a few more years and it's on to the third generation and the marriage of Whilehelm's granddaughter to a very handy man called Tore Kornbakk. A construction worker, he went into early retirement and after restoring a few cars, among them a Calliak from the mid '50s, he had the little Morolandskib throught from Klirkenes to his home in Sortland, a day's drive north of the Pola Cricle.

New Nordlandsbåt

He dismembered the boat, and used the old boards as templates for the ones he would make. He was going to build a brand new Nordlandsbät. Traditionally the boats were constructed from pine, and initially Tore had problems finding boards wide and thin enough for his lightweight construction.

"A boat builder further south told me I needed

equipment for around 20,0000 feromer faptime. 22,00000 to be able to bail of the solid. The necalls, 50 he experimented and developed his own methods, costing virtually nothing, lie had been told he would need special equipment to steam the backs under pressure, to make them bendable, but his solution lay in the simple form of a rectangular tray on the workshop floor. "Instead of steam," just pour hot water over the boards and let them stay in it for a while!" Over the years he has built around 300 boats and a new one is in the making. The keel is in place, together with the bow and the stern. The lowest board on each side of the keel is attached, and work has started on the second.

The lowest board on each side of the keel is attached, and work has started on the second on the port side. The boards are riveted together with a washer on the inside.

Workshop support

To align different pressures, the build is supported by the workshop itself in an adaptation of traditional boat-building technique, where poles were used from the ceiling, here Tore outlines the profile of the boat's side with wooden templates. The frame is mounted later. "probably had agod plan initially," he says. "Only a few things have been adjusted according to experience."

The clinker-built vessels are closely related to the old Viking longships, both in shape and building methods. They have a shallow keel, no deck, V-shaped design and a square sail. When winds are unfavourable, the oars must be manned.

The rudder is at the stern post – the smaller boats had none – and the length-to-beam ratio varied from 3:1 to 4:1.5 ome of the bigger ones had a detachable cabin at the stern, sometimes with a stove inside. In general one could say the



The boards from the old Nordlandsbåt. During the dismembering process, each board was identified and marked



The build in the rig: boards are kept in place by wooden and metal clamps; note the piece of wood inside at the nearest metal clamp, preventing marks from the metal in the softwood; the white template is outlining the boar's profile



Tore shows the riveting



The boat is built inside a rig. Here you can see the three white templates determining the boat's profile from bow to stern

smaller was used for fishing and the bigger for transporting fish to the Hanseatic harbour of Bergen. On the return trip they brought precious grain.

Heavy weather

This journey was risky, and many went down with all hands in heavy weather. During the Napoleonic Wars some were also intercepted by the British navy. In any case, the loss of a Fembøring, the largest vessel of this type, sadly meant hunger and poverty in the fishing village where the boat belonged.

All the boats had gunwales painted in distinct colours: "Each place had its own colours so it was possible to see where the boat came from, even at a distance," Tore explains.

The Nordlandshåt lays low in the sea, and there is no deck to protect it against a breeding wave. It is main asset is its ability to ride the waves. And as the story goes, some sailors managed to sail and sail-submerged boost filled with seawater onto a wave in such a way that they emptied it. And if the boat should passe, the hallast was round stones under the loose wooden floor in the boat, which could fall outs on the boat didn't sink.

Thanks to people like Tore, boats such as those used by the Vikings are likely to be seen on Norwegian waters for generations to come. ww



The bow is fixed in the rig

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Light spills over

Amidst the hardship and shortages of wartime, The Woodworker helped to shine a light into the darkness with a project designed to keep the home fires burning...

ooking at old copies of The Woodworker in our extensive archives, it's clear that the craftspeople of yesteryear had to endure much more privation than most of us have or ever will experience. True, it's hard to quantify feelings like suffering or loss, but this example of a useful project from The Woodworker of December 1917 gives us an indication of just what it means to go short. When even a basic commodity like a box of matches is rarely available, it's a clear indication that times are hard

Telling it like it is

One of the things that has impressed me the most is just how our magazine was kept going throughout two world wars; I like to think that not only were the staff concerned extremely dedicated, but that such a publication (or instruction manual) was considered by the government to be of definite worth during a conflict, and possibly even given assistance when it came to apportioning paper stock and similar. Let's face it, there are always things that need building, and as (re)construction will invariably be near the top of the list when it comes to keeping a country going, a magazine that tells you how is of considerable value.

Basic tool-making

This nice little job illustrated here was intended to keep the many pipes of Britain going, and by showing how to make a dedicated 'spill plane'. I'm sure it must have helped enormously. A fairly straightforward project, and one which needed little in the way of materials, it's a nice example of basic tool-making. There's something particularly satisfying about making your own tools (as I'm sure many readers will know), and if that's a project you've yet to embark on, I'd recommend you give it a go as soon as you can. Lucky us to work in peace.



278 WOOD SPILLS INSTEAD OF MATCHES

HOW TO CONSTRUCT A PLANE FOR MAKING THEM



DO GET IN TOUCH

If any readers have memories and photos of things they or their forebears made from The Woodworker, please get in touch as we'd love to see them. Just email me on the usual address: editor.ww@mytimemedia.com and we'll get them in the mag

Make your work more efficient and safer with these tools of the trade

or carpenters, time is always at a premium. Whether you are working on large construction jobs, fitting kitchens or making furniture, the need to work efficiently and effectively while providing a high-quality finish is always essential.

Fortunately, there is a range of tools available for tradespeople which can speed up processes, improve accuracy, and provide enhanced protection, thereby reducing the chance of injury. IronmongeryDirect offers some of the most popular and helpful products on the market.

DBB Mortices

The Souber DBB Morticer produces a perfect lock recess every time. It is a genuine five-minute morticer, which will save time and money for anyone who regularly fits mortice locks. The self-centring jig minimises marking-up time, while its vertical guides, height and depth stops

Thingamejig Scribing Tool

Scribing is a common and important task carried out by carpenters, making this device a toolbox essential. The Thingamejig Scribing Tool can scribe laminates, painted items, stone, soft metals, timber, veneers and more. The tool's blade heights can also be adjusted to ensure the most accurate measurements using the laser cut ruler, which is available in both metric and imperial measurement. It also only requires one hand to use, so you can steady yourself, or what you are scribing, with your other hand.

Blum ECODRILL

For tradespeople regularly fitting Blum hinges, the Blum ECODRILL offers a great return on investment. The hand-operated device provides easy and accurate drilling for all 35mm diameter Blum hinges, or hinges that follow the Blum pattern.



The Souber DBB Morticer produces a perfect lock recess every time









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FELDER GROUP UK are hosting their annual Spring In-house Exhibition at their UK headquarters in Milton Keynes on 13 and 14 April 2018. This is a great opportunity for all visitors to see one of the widest range of machines on the market and have one-on-one time with the technical sales team, product managers and service technicians

ive demonstrations will be performed on the Hammer A3-31 planer/thicknesser, equipped with the award-winning Silent-POWER spiral cutterblock, along with an extensive range of kit on display, offering you the chance to witness

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Felder Group UK's Managing Director, Matthew Applegarth, commented: "We look forward to welcoming you all to our showroom and demonstrating just how good our machines really are! Join us at our in-house event and get a great deal on a quality machine built in Austria."

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The convalescent woodworker

Proving that woodworking is always beneficial, Michael Forster makes a 'therapeutic return' to woodworking by showing us how to make three small desk projects using offcuts

ollowing major sur gery last year. I was barred from lifting anything heavier than a fall lettle. On, well, at least I could make text. Of course, there was a time when If a have been whisked off to a convollescent home by the sea with a wheelchair, a rug for my knees and staff to make the text, but those halyon days are sady long gone. But the pressing issue was, how much longer would this keep me out of the workshop? Certainly, I had to shelve the furniture project—but perhaps I could make some light-weight items, with lightweight kift, from small offfotts? The only question was, what?

Pen tray

Then a friend requested a very simple pen tray for her desk – just a bit of wood with some flutes in it, really. That seemed lightweight enough and the seed of an idea was sown. It quickly blossomed into a number of decorative and functional desk accessories – all made from small offcuts with no heavy lifting.

Paradoxically, despite the world going mad for digital everything, there does seem to be a resurgent interest in handwriting — evidenced by the mere existence of dedicated websites such as Pen Heaven — so this idea had real appeal.



1 The end of the blank was squared up and smoothed on the shooting board



2 To cut the flutes I clamped end-stops of scrap to the router table fence



3 Reversing the timber between each pass and moving the fence back between the second and third got me two pairs of stopped flutes



4 I then reset the fence to cut the edge flutes. Always complete the cross-grain cuts first so that any breakout will be in the waste



Sizes are mostly not critical and can be adjusted to suit the circumstances, but I'll give the basic dimensions of mine as I go along. I'll also show different versions of each – some very simple; others rather more complex to make.

The pen tray uses a 340 × 100 × 18mm board – if the inkwells aren't required, then of course it can be shorter. Once the timber is prepared, the first task is to trim the ends square and smooth. For this, I use a shooting board (photo 1) – one of



the first, best and most-used jigs I ever made. I use it so much I have some special planes for shooting, but they're luxuries and a standard bench plane is quite adequate

Most pens are around 140mm long, so I cut the flutes to about 160mm. It's really just a tablerouting task. I spaced the flutes to form two pairs, for black and red pens. The simple expedient of reversing the workpiece and repeating would mean the pairs would match perfectly.

To centralise the grooves I clamped a couple of stops to my router table fence (photo 2). It's worth taking some trouble to ensure they're equidistant as any discrepancy will show when the work is reversed between cuts. Numbering the grooves 1-4, I plunge-cut groove 1, turned the workpiece around and cut groove 4. Then I moved the fence back and cut grooves 2 and 3, ending up with a clearly wider space between the pairs (photo 3).

After resetting the fence again, the same cutter

used for the flutes also served to relieve and lighten the edges of the board. I did the end (cross-grain) edges first using a square of MDF to serve as a mitre fence (photo 4) and to prevent breakout on the corners. Any minor breakout that did occur would then be cleaned up when the long edge flutes were cut.

The ink wells are of course guite optional, but as I and the other recipients I had in mind prefer fountain pens, I thought they'd be a nice touch.

WOODWORK Small projects



5 A pair of 'antique' style inkwells sourced from eBay



6 These Lamy ink bottles make a good alternative.
They're easy to fit, and the ingenious design means
you can extract the last drops of ink from the bottle.
Just snap off the plastic bases and they drop in



7 For the antique inkwells, I began by marking the mortises on the timber

I used two different approaches: an antique-style pair (photo 5) bought on eBay, which needed to be mortised into the board, and a couple of Lamy ink bottles whose design made them simplicity itself to incorporate (photo 6).

For the 'antique' ones, I marked the mortises (photo 7) and took out the waste freehand with repeated plunges of the router (photos 8 & 9), finishing off with a chisel (photo 10). The Lamy ink bottles just equired a 25mm hole each for the spigots and 'job done! I think the 'antique' wells look better on the desk (photo 11), but modern ones (main photo) are far more functional.

Envelope rack

I then went on to make a stationery rack, which gave me a chance to freshen up my handdovetailing skills (photo 12) – but for those not so inclined, other jointing methods are available, the dovelatis in this case being strictly decreative and therefore optional. So for this article IT focus on the simpler approach. Modern guiles will hold the fronts on with no trouble at all. So this can be as basis as three officts trimment on size (the rack is about 100mm wide) and glued together – and there is an elegance in simplicity, which for some people might make this style actually preferable to the more elaborate alternatives (pibnot 13).

The front panel can be as simple or elaborate as you like — from a plain, straight top edge to something more shapely or maybe some fretwork. My preference is to keep it relatively simple — but that's entirely a matter of personal taste. For any who like the dovetailed version, I'll be doing a separate piece about that skill set in a later issue.

Desk rocker blotter

There's real nostalgia for me in this — my father had an antique one on his desk at home. Apart from the looks, the action of using it has a nice feel (photo 14). I take mine to book-signing events and it recently generated a satisfying if paradoxical degree of envy in another author promoting a book on mindfulness!

The blotter has just three parts (photo 15). For many woodworkers, I guess, the threaded knob might be an issue since the screwbox used to cut it is an expensive bit of it it that probably isn't needed in a great many home workshops. I was Ludy to have one I bought decades ago languishing in a drawer. However, it doesn't need to be a problem — an alternative is to use a shop-bought cabinet knob, and secure the top plate with a coulder of rice. Shirty horses screws.



8 I then took out most of the waste by repeated overlapping plunges with the router, used freehand



9 The roughly cut mortise just needs a bit of tidying up...



10 ... with a sharp chisel and mallet



11 The 'antique' stand looks great on the desk, even if the inkwells are too shallow to be of much use!



12 The houndstooth dovetail is a great decorative feature – and for causing dropped jaws at craft fairs!



13 ... there's definitely an elegance in simplicity



14 There's something strangely satisfying about the feel of the blotter in action



15 The blotter is made up of just three parts

(photo 16). This would be fine, since the blotting paper lasts a long time so doesn't need frequent replacement.

The main block measures 155 × 70 × 45mm, the top plate is about 10mm thick while the screw-in knob is around 40mm diameter and a total of around 75mm long. I began by cutting the block and the top plate to size. The block would be left square until all the components were made and fitted.

The diameter of the central hole in the block will depend upon the particular screwbox used, and doubtless the drill sizes relevant to each will be specified in the instructions. You're probably better advised to follow the instructions specific to yours, as I've lost mine! However, I can give a few tips from my experience on this project. My screwbox is a Nin thread (we all used imperial in

those bygone days], so I diffiled a 10mm hole in the centre of the block and a 16mm hole (for the screw to slip through) in the top plate. It's best to use a diffile pers for the hole in the block so that the knob will sit square to the plate. And don't make the mistake of thinking that the tap will naturally follow the hole —it's penversely possible for it to cut an angled thread in a perpendicular hole! So the use of a small square to check is advisable (photo 1 and sadvisable (photo 1 and sadvisable) (photo 1 and

Turning the knob

Here I need to declare my limitations. I'm very much a beginner turner and don't feel at all qualified to advise or instruct anyone else — so I'll confine myself to saying that I mounted the blank in a woodscrew chuck (photo 18) to enable me to work the top of the knob easily. Beyond that, I'm assuming that if you've got a screwbox in your kit, then you're probably a better turner than I am anyway! Otherwise, use the simpler method I mentioned earlier (photo 16).

Working the thread

For the turners out there who haven't used a screwbo. If le polinia little about that process. If you splash out on a new one, of course, you'll get proper instructions with I, but they re opensive. You might be lucky and find one at a car boot or craft market – almost certainly, like mine now without instructions—so I'll tell you the process I followed. The first job was to remove the cover plate from the die photos 19 & 20 /1, oa llow it to cut right up close to the base and knob, leaving the minimum shank possible.

One thing I remember from the long-lost



16 If you don't have a screwbox, this looks perfectly acceptable. I'll replace the screws with slotted ones when I replacish my stock



17 Cutting the thread in the blotter for the wooden screw — use a square for the first few turns until the tap is established — and move it 90° between turns



18 To turn the knob, I mounted the blank in a woodscrew chuck — and that's all I feel qualified to say on the subject of turning

WOODWORK Small projects



19 I removed the cover plate from the die block...

instructions is the caution not to back off the die (as I believe is done when threading metal), since in wood this tends to fragment the thread. So I set the knob in the vice, placed the die onto the taper on the end of the spigot and began to turn as smoothly as I could to cut the thread (photos 21 & 22).

Don't worry if the knob feels tight when you test it — a quick polish with wax should make it turn sweetly enough — but I left that until the very end to avoid getting wax on surfaces I'd later want to varnish.

The final stage

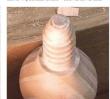
Now, let's return to the block and cut the curve. Screwing the knob into Jake for this provides a useful hand-hold when shaping (photos 23 & 24). The actual curvature is a matter of trial and error. I made a ply template, using a trammel rod, which I then used to mark the main block before bandsawing it and smoothing the curved surface. on a disc sander. The top plate can be simply cut to size and then trimmed up. Chamfering the edges (photo 25) lightens the appearance and takes the starkness off it.

All that was then left to do was to sand down through the grades of abrasives – 180, 240 and 320 – and apply three coats of acrylic varnish, flatting down between each. I like this as a finish for items that will be subject to a lot of handling, and also because it discolours the timber much less than many alternatives.

Well, that's about it for my therapeutic return to woodworking. For now, anyway, as there's a very real possibility of further surgical interventions in the nearth future. If probably soon be looking for some more lightweight objects to make from offust (idea on a postcard to the Editor...) and if I make them you'll be among the first to know. Meanwhile, if your interested in the fancier versions of the stationery rack, look out for my dovelat anticle — soon to come, www.



21 The knob was held in the vice as I wound down the die as smoothly as possible...



22 ... to produce the thread



20 ... to allow the cutter to cut further along

23 The knob then provides a nice handle for bandsawing the curve...

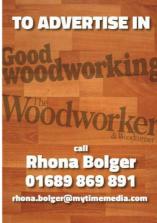


24 ... and smoothing it at the disc sander



25 Finally, I worked a chamfer round the edge of the blotter's top plate









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MY WORKSHOP ME AND

Retired Civil Servant Andrew Griffiths

shows us around his shed workshop. which is situated in Bridgwater, Somerset

- What is it and where is it? s a 24 × 12ft heavy-duty shed next to my garage.
- 2. What's the best thing about it? I fitted it out exactly as I wanted. And it's insulated!
- 3. And what's the worst?
- Maybe it's got too much machinery in it now!
- 4. How important is it to you? 's somewhere I can spend a few hours being creative and talk (to myself... out loud).
- 5. What do you make in it? furned bowls, pens, furniture repairs (mostly for neighbours), wall art.
- 8. What is your favourite workshop tip? eep your workshop clean and tidy. Always be able to return to a clean and organised workplace.
- 7. What's your best piece of kit? A Ryobi compound mitre saw.
- 8. If your workshop caught fire, what one thing would you rescue? The fire extinguisher! OK, an old wooden engineer's toolbox with my pen kits in it... mainly
- because it's the only item not bolted down. 9. What's your biggest workshop nistake?

I was once told by a dearly departed friend that every mistake is a 'design opportunity'. I have lots of these; too many to choose from.

10. What's the nicest thing you've ever made?

A bunch of grapes made from ebony: 65 of them turned individually. Painstaking and monotonous but never again! The customer was over the moon and wanted another bunch for her mum, so I made that too

11. And what's the worst?

A woodturning club competition piece many years ago: "Make something from a 75mm cube." I put a load of shavings in a bag and it was the only entry in the beginners' category, so I won! Other than that, too many to choose from

Andrew Griffiths



2. What's the best lesson you've rned?

Use a dust extraction system as well as a mask/ respirator when working on the lathe. A great deal of fine dust is produced when power sanding, and I breathed it in after I took off my mask. I now have a proper system that removes the dust at source

13. If you won the lottery, what would you buy for your workshop?

Depends on the win! If it was £100 million then I'd be off in my private jet, but realistically I'd like heating and humidity control, a phone just for show, a better table saw, and a fridge for my super glue! ww

NEXT MONTH

In the next issue, we step inside the workshop of North Devon woodworker Roy Kitcher. We'd love to hear about your workshops too, so do feel free to send in a photo of your beloved workspace, and please answer the same questions as shown here. We look forward to hearing from you

Woodworker

Drop us a line on paper or via screen and keyboard to add your voice to the woodworking crowd; you might be one of the lucky few who will manage to get their hands on a coveted Woodworker badge! You can write to us at The Woodworker, MyTimeMedia Ltd, Suite 25, Eden House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TNB 6HF or send an email to editor.ww@mytimemedia.com

STAR LETTER







We can always find the time to make something fabulous

CLOCKTACULAR

Hi Mark

I've made a few clocks as gifts for family and friends recently and just thought you might like to see them. Kindest regards, **Rob Winter**

Great stuff, Rob – that's a really nice selection there. I'm also a big fan of the Art Deco style and think you've pulled it off very nicely with those. If any other readers would like to send in photos of their work, we're only too pleased to see them.



THE 'WOODWORKER'S BIBLE'

Hi Mark,

I've been purchasing *The Woodworker* since the early 80s; it's my monthly 'Bible', and features fabulous articles written with such passion!

I've been woodworking since 1969, and finished my City & Guilds in 1975. The article on Leeds College made me think of my tutor – he was a Yorkshireman and a fabulous teacher, such a cod guy and his influence on me as a teenager was huge – a really lovely man! This is my version of a patio lanter and was made in the workshop of

the Furniture Recycle Project, Gloucester Dock. I so love my woodworking – nothing to retire from, eh?

Thank you, brilliant people, and long may you be the 'Woodworker's Bible'. Best regards, Sammy Bogle

Nice one, Sammy – it's a joy to hear your pleasure, and you're right, woodworking is something we never want to retire from – if anything, a lot of us will probably be even more productive as the years go by.

All the best. Mark



There's something very attractive about a curvy leg

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

HI Mark, I will start my email by congratulating you on the very thought provoking articles in the March issue of The Woodworker & Woodworker. Woodworker and article lowed like too comment on is 16. College out on its own, which took me back to when I started work and I did my Apprenticeship in Carpentry. As inverse, the control of th

The other thing I would like to comment on is how health & safety has progressed in the last 59 years. When I started work there were no gloves, goggles, dust masks, safety shoes, or any PPE in building industry, if you wore gloves you were thought to be a 'Pansy'; you just had to get on with it.

And tools have progressed too: there was little in the way of power tools – when you needed to drill a hole in a wall it was the hammer and Rawl plug jumper to pouch it into the wall, or later a hand drill with a

masony bit. Ripping timber down to size on site was done using a panel saw or a crossors was and drilling holes in the timber with a brace & Dit. All of these were jobs for the apprentice. The first thing the apprentice had to make when on site was a sushione, which was a leight of 100 × 50 × 610mm with legs, but they needed to be light so they could be taken from set to site, so you cit a cut of 150 × 25mm and cut it to 100 × 25mm. The next thing you needed was a saw sharpening horse in order to keep them sharp. It was hard work but this way ou learnt the basics. Thank you again for the very interesting articles – I'm looking forward to more. Richard Scott

Hi Richard, yes, I thought that was a good article myself, and just shows how much we are continuing to progress, especially in terms of safety. In my ideal world fall like to get know-how from the new and the old together and create the perfect 'now' as a mixture of the best of both eras; I bet there's a lot today's vounseters could learn from tradies of the past.

Glad you're enjoying the magazine; it makes it all worthwhile to our little team when we hear readers say that. I hope you still do a bit of woodwork now and then; I consider myself very lucky to be (just about) making a living fram it still. Mark

GET IN TOUCH! Don't forget, we're always keen to see your photos, so please don't hesitate to send them in if you've snapped something of interest recently.

Email me on the usual address: editor.ww@mytimemedia.com

Please note that all digital photos need to be greater than 1MB in size to guarantee sufficiently good reproduction for the printed page



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SWEET SCENT

Bryn Edwards presents a lovely design for a traditional turned pomander, which is made using mahogany

ried scented plant material has been used in rooms since ancient times, in a variety of ways. Here I'm going to show you how to make a holder that can be used in a wardrobe, or places you may like to see a pomander in action. ww

TOOLS REQUIRED

- A lathe
- Various turning tools
- A Proxxon long-neck grinder, fitted with a 50mm saw blade. You can see this in the photo below, fixed in a jig with the





1 The timber I chose to use for this project is mahogany, but any good hardwood will do, even three odd pieces from your scrap box. The sizes are approximately as follows: two at 100 × 80 × 80mm — this will give you the body and lid – and finally, a piece measuring $100 \times 40 \times 40$ mm for the finial



2 Mark the centres on all three pieces



3 Mount the larger of the blanks on the lathe and begin to turn it to the round



4 Next, turn a spigot to suit your chuck. This will vary as you'll have a different chuck to the one I'm using



5 Put the spigot in your chuck and line up, making sure it's parallel to the headstock



6 You are now ready to put the cuts around the outside, and for this I used the indexing system on my lathe. Switch the lathe off, line up the blade so that it's parallel, and when you're sure everything is in the right place, you can start cutting



TURNING

Making a pomander



7 When you have completed the cuts, 24 in total, make a second pass, and line up the blade using the chuck key. When you are sure, tighten the chuck and do the same, making another 24 cuts



8 Using a Forstner bit, drill out a large amount of the inside



9 With a large hale, tidy up the interior, making sure the cuts have pierced the sides



10 Sand the inside, starting with 180 and working up to 400 grit. Notice that here I'm using a pair of forceps; these help to keep your hands away from the spinning pomander



11 Apply a coat of sanding sealer to the inside of the pomander



12 You can then turn the body round and finish off the turning



13 Drill a 12mm hole in the bottom of the piece



14 Next, sand the outside and apply a coat of sanding sealer



 $\textbf{15} \ \mathsf{Take} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{second} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{larger} \ \mathsf{pieces}, \ \mathsf{mount} \ \mathsf{it} \ \mathsf{on} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{lathe} \ \mathsf{between} \ \mathsf{centres}, \ \mathsf{and} \ \mathsf{turn} \ \mathsf{it} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{round}$



16 Cut a shoulder to suit your chuck



17 True up the piece, using a skew chisel, then shape the end so that it will be a nice loose fit in the bottom of the pomander



18 Here you can see me checking the fit



19 You can now shape the piece to your own design



20 Here I am drilling a hole through the top of the pomander



21 Sand the piece, starting off at 180 and working up to 400 grit



 ${\bf 22}$ Apply a coat of sanding sealer to the top of the pomander



23 Turn the top around, sand, and finish off with a coat of sanding sealer



24 Finally, take the smaller piece, mount it between centres, and turn it to the round

TURNING

Making a pomander



25 Again, turn a spigot to suit your lathe



26 Using a skew chisel, turn the end square, then turn down the end to fit in the bottom



27 Check to see if it goes into the hole – you're looking for a tight fit here



28 Continue with the shaping of the finial



29 Sand to 400 grit, then finish with a coat of sanding sealer



30 Place an eye in the finial and fasten a piece of string to this. Next, glue the finial and set in place. Now for the top: make sure you leave enough string so you're able to lift the top and fill it with pot pourri, and lostly, the a knot. The project is now complete





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Once you've finished sanding stop the lathe and use a Chestnut Products Tack Cloth to remove any dust residue from the sanded surface.



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In the final part of this series, Andrew Hall shows you how to make a multitude of accessories for your newly turned Blues bowl, including a pick up, slide, plectrums, and your very own bowl in which to place them all

BLUES BOWL

PARI 3

In the final part of this series, I'm going to show you some accessories that can be made to accompany your Blues bowl. The previous two articles demonstrated how to make the acoustic version of the instrument, but here, I'll show you a few small projects that will enhance your new Blues bowl, starting with a pick up. WW

MANUNC A DICK I

The pick up allows you to electrify and amplify your Blues bowl.
It uses a single coil pick up, which is available from Amazon



1 The first step is to turn the jack plug holder using a piece of pink ivory









3 Next, drill a hole through the material to a depth of 10mm diameter, then hollow the bottom section of the jack plug holder using a 10mm bowl gouge with a swept-back grind



4 Turn the shape on the outside to that of a small top hat and sand through the grits to 600



5 Turn the top, holding it on a jam chuck, then drill a 10mm hole for the jack plug



6 Polish the top and bottom with three small mops loaded with tripoli, then buff using carnauba wax



7 Trim the two wires and tin the bare ends with a soldering iron...



8 ... then solder the wires to the positive and negative ends of the jack plug



9 Tighten the locking nut on the jack plug and glue the two pieces together – I use Chestnut Products' thick CA adhesive



10 Attach the pick up using self-adhesive hook-andloop-backed material; this allows the pick up to be used on several guitars

MAKING A SUD

Another item you will need is a slide; these can be made from glass or some very dense hardwoods. They can also be made using acrylic materials, such as alternative ivory



1 I made a jig to cut wine bottle tops, using a standard glass cutter



2 The jig revolves a wine bottle around the cutter, so that the bottle neck is scored



3 To remove the neck and get a clean break, you need to bail the battle in a pan of water...



4 ... then immerse the bottle in iced water. The neck will then break cleanly



 $\bf 5$ You can then sand the bottom, outside and inside, with water and abrasive to smooth the sharp edges



6 Another type of slide can be made using wood or acrylic. To make one, mark the centres of a piece of alternative ivory and pink ivory wood...



7 ... then turn each between centres



8 Drill both pieces of material from each end to a diameter of 19mm



9 Turn a pair of cones to friction hold the slides; these will allow you to complete the turning and sanding



10 Turn, sand and finish with abrasive to 600 grit, then burnish with shavings



11 Sand the ends of the slides to a finish, using a sanding disc



12 Finally, buff to a finish using a three-stage buffing system, such as the one I'm using from Beall

PLECTRUM

You can also make your own plectrums or picks, using a special punch that can be bought from Amazon — it simply re-uses old store or credit cards





PICK BOWL

And, finally, to keep your slides and picks safe, you can make yourself a pick bowl



1 Mount the blank using a screw chuck or dovetail drilled with a 55mm sawtooth bit on a pillar drill



2 Shape the outside of the bowl using a 10mm bowl gouge and cut a 3mm deep dovetail to take your size of jaws



3 Sand through to 600 grit, removing the dust and grit particles with a soft brush between each. I start at 180, 240, 320, 400 and go up to 600



4 Finish the bowl using your preferred method for the purpose of this article, I chose to use a spray gloss lacquer



5 Chuck the bowl in the dovetail jaws and true up the surface



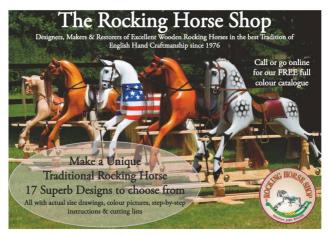
6 Remove the material, leaving a central dowel on which to hold the slide



 ${\bf 7}$ Sand through the grits and finish with lacquer



This concludes the project; enjoy learning to play your Blues bowl



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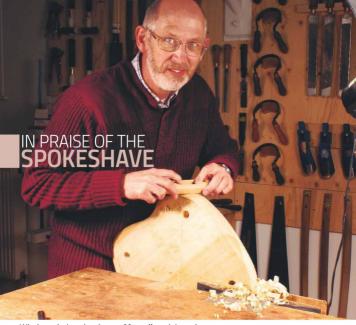
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Windsor chairmaker James Mursell explains why the spokeshave is his favourite workshop tool

plane is to a cabinetmaker what a spokeshave is to a Windson chairmaker. Sounds like one of those annoying statements in an IO test, where you have to fill in one of the words, doesn't it? All I mean is that planes and spokeshaves are key tools in both disciplines. Windsors have almost no flat surfaces, so my workshop has just a couple of Record planes, two scrub planes with wooden bodies, and two block planes. The only technical task that I perform with the planes is to joint small blocks of wood for gluing onto the arms of some of my chairs to make hands. The joint has to be first class, as it must endure considerable stresses every time a sitter pushes him/herself up and out of the chair.

But despite the fact that I don't have much use for a wide range of planes in the workshop, the spokeshave is essentially just a small plane itself, with a short wooden or brass nose in front of the blade. Unlike its cousin, it is designed mainly to create curved surfaces, either concave or convex. In all its shapes and sizes, the spokeshave is my favourite tool in the workshop. However, it must have a wooden body, which is not an arbitrary preference of one material over another: the blades of wooden's shaves are held at a much lower angle than their metal counterparts, and therefore they cut the wood more easily. Also, wooden ones look so much better, and feel nicer in the hand than the metal leversons!

Customising

Apart from some wonderful, tiny Chinese spokeshaves that luse throughout the chair, I have made all the 'shaves in my shop, including the travishers (curved spokeshaves for hollowing seats). My designs have evolved from the traditional to a new and distinctive style that works very well. The major difference is that I have done away with the handles. Students unused to these tools tend to goal the handles.

with both fists, leading to disappointment at not being able to make fine cuts.

These tools should be held with the fingertips as cole to the centre of the tool as possible, directly in front of and behind the blade. With this approach, your fingers will have maximum feedback from the cutting blade allowing constant adjustments to be made to the cutting angle.

I have spokeshaves that work brilliantly for green wood, which is very soft. However, they will then be far too aggressive when used on dry wood (especially end-grain) and will chatter hornight. The difference is the angle between the blade and the nose, which is greater for softer wood, and almost nonexistent for hard end-grain.

Final adjustments

If you buy an old second-hand tool do not hesitate to take a block plane to the nose and flatten it, adjusting the angle to your preference; if the nose



1 I make my own spokeshaves, tailoring them to their individual tasks



2 The angle between the blade and the nose is greater for wet wood (left), but almost nonexistent for dry wood (right)



3 Newcomers to the spokeshave tend to grip the handles in both fists, making fine cuts nigh on impossible...



4 ... which is why my custom-made 'shaves lack handles, to encourage a more delicate, 'fingertips' approach

has become too hollow, then it's not worth buying. However, there is often more wood that can be planed than you first think.

You may find that having planed the nose you have to enlarge the throat to allow the shavings to pass through between the nose and the blade, but careful work with a chisel will soon sort this out. If you specialise in concave work, then you can carefully round the nose slightly to fit the curves that you are working on. Bear in mind that the travisher is curved in two directions. allowing it to hollow a seat, but it isn't suitable for the concave curve of a bow, for example,

Provided your blade is sharp, the nose has the right angle, and the shavings can flow through the tool, you should be in business, Just do not forget that skewing the blade across the direction of travel, as you probably do instinctively with a plane, will usually ensure a smoother cut. Tune your tool well and you'll soon be searching for wood to shape! ww



5 The travisher is a curved spokeshave, which is used for hollowing out seats

Specification
Max volume flow:
3,900/min
Max vacuum: 24,000Pa
Filter surface area:
6,318cm²
Rubber-insulated mains
cable: 7,5m
Container /filter bag
capacity: 26/241
Dimensions (L x W x H):
630 x 365 x 540mm
Max appliance socker
Connected lood: 2,400W

Typical price: £670 Web: www.festool.co.uk

PROS

 Superb design and engineering

Weight: 14.7kg

Hugely efficient

CONSThe hefty price tag

RATING: 4.5 out of 5

Festool CLEANTEC CTM 26 E AC extractor

This excellent workshop vac from Festool benefits from superb design and engineering

Although dust may be an unavoidable part of any woodworking. Festorol have been doing their utmost of late to make it less of a problem, and the CTM is just the latest of many top class extractors they now have on their books. On opening the box, the first thing that struck me was the size and shape of the vae. it's pretty helfty, but the low, squut shape immediately suggested to me a potential benefit as some kind of table or support platform. With its flat top designed to take one of the Festool or other brand Systaines (increasingly becoming a standard), the vac doubles up as a moveable workstation, and the built-in footbrake helps to be girt all parked nicely.

Solidly built machine

Extra usefulness apart, it's the main function of the CTM annely dust extraction — that this impressive machine excels at. Not only does it supply a continuous and very high suction (approved for dust class MI), but the self-cleaning filter (with adjustable time intervals) ensures that all dust and debris removed from the scene tape within the normous capacity. (26 little filter bag inside. As they say, it's a job well done.

I found the controls to be mildly confusing at first glance, but it didn't take me too long to work them out from the pictograms printed thereon. One of the big benefits of this vac is the appliance socket with auto start, and anyone who's used



one before knows just what a boon this feature is. Also on the control panel are settings for hose diameter land consequently tool attached) and rate of flow, time intervals for the filter cleaner, and power. It's a very solidly built machine with scope to take a staggering number of accessories, including a Bulletoth deliver, which will permit response to the filter of a Bulletoth deliver, which will permit response control—ledel for any cordless tools that would otherwise not benefit from the auto staff refature of the anoilisme souler.

Cable management

Although I might not be the tidiest worker, I can't stand tangled cables and hoses, and so it was great to note that both hose and power cable each roll up and if nearly into their respective storage areas. I don't think I've enjoyed coiling a cable on a voc. as much sincer my gramy's hower. And, in a very pleasing and long-overdue piece of simple land now so obvious) design, the SS mhose features a smooth worsen surface instead off the customary spiral ribs, so edge snags at key moments are now a thing of the each surface.

In summary

All in all, this is a great machine that produces excellent results and with full user control. MC



The Festool CTM doubles up as a work platform; note clipped on Systainer



Ease of cable management is unsurpassed



The bottom of the machine contains the 26 litre dustbag; the upper part houses motor, controls and easily removable filters



Close-up of controls; note appliance socket and centre blanking plate, which has been removed to show housing for Bluetooth receiver



The smooth surface hose, with rubber adaptor head



Arbortech TurboPlane & Ball Gouge

We look at two cutters from Arbortech, both of which are nicely machined and ideal for a wide variety of carving tasks

All fans of woodcarving — and indeed, most woodworkers will no doubt be family and with Archard to thates symple-looking discs which, when fitted to a standard 4 in grinder, transform that particular province too line as vessal face view. Not for the faint-hearted, Arbortech blades will guidely cannet their way through timber at raile perhaps only accord to a chainsaw. Building on the popularity of their earlier blades, this successful. Australian firm bus now released a council or few purportices.

TurboPlane

the Ball Gouge and the TurboPlane.

Differing in many respects from the original Arbotrach cutter, the IuroPlane offers the user the frame to shape wood in the flat or outside curve, as well as a degree of inner curve ability, courtesy of the rounded edge and cutter profile. It's straightforward to attach to your grinder and is quickly up and running don't be too eager, though, as it's very easy to get carried away, Chips fly off at a rate of knots and you'll definitely appreciate it if you've got some glows on. This useful tools easy to sharpen and acquiring one is the logical next step for all those of us who strated with the original.

Ball Gouge

A completely different kettle of fish is the Ball Gouge. This 90mm long ball-tipped cylinder also screws directly onto the spindle of a standard grinder, protruding at 90° and creating



Reverse side of the TurboPlane



I found that tidy work was much easier in green timber



Wild cherry, beech and poplar

an unusual hybrid power tool in the process. Using the ball gouge takes a bit more getting used to than the TurboPlane; you really need to get your body behind it and keep your elbows tucked in. Make sure you start on some scrap timber as it can prove hard to control at first, and go for a low angle of cut.

When it comes to sharpening, the cutting ring – a solid, sharply edged disc – is advertised as self-sharpening in use but you still may need to slacken off the holding both and rotate the disc to present a couple of new and sharper areas. With the disc removed it became clear that user sharpening would be beyond the vast majority of woodworkers, me included.

I'm currently making a small batch of spoons and I found the Ball Gouge just the licket to form a number of different disphaboutis. As might be expected, working in (semi) green timber is a lot easier than the seasoned stuff, but as long as you're prepared for the occasional slip you should be 0'K. A good quality grinder would be an advantage here as the length of the cutter means that a lot of force is exerted on the spindle bearing, mine went through a variety of states from allarmingly children and insort perfect for an allowed perfect has the spindle bearing, mine went through a variety of states from allarmingly with a common and the spindle bearing.

In summary

Both cutters are nicely machined, and in use they give every confidence. Whereas the TurboPlane has a nice conventional feel to it, the Ball Gouge was something of an oddity to me and took a while to get used to. MC



Troop removal takes only seconds, so don't go too mad

Specification TURBOPLANE

- Designed for wood
- shaping and carving
 Attaches to most
 100mm and 115mm angle grinders
- Three tungsten carbide cutters
- Easily sharpened using a diamond file
- 100mm with a 22mm hole diameter
- Rapid freehand wood sculpting, planing and trimming
- Leaves a smooth finish requiring
- minimal sanding
 Ideal for free-formed convex and concave shapes

BALL GOUGE

- Carve smooth hollows in wooden spoons or small bowls
 Attaches to a
- standard 100mm or 115mm angle grinder Ideal for small to
- medium free-hand sculpting • Carves in any
- direction; easily hollows or undercuts
- Create an effective chiselled texture on
- wooden surfaces

 Efficient and high
- performance tool offering a good degree of control • Anti-grab technology
- helps prevent tool from digging in Self-sharpening
- blade, rotatable and replaceable long life
- Max speed of 12,000rpm

TurboPlane – £121.67 Ball Gouge – £83.40 Web: www.brimarc.com

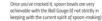
PROS

 Quick and easy timber shaping

CONS

 Everything happens very fast – especially mistakes

RATING: 4.5 out of 5



Specification

Base size: 220 × 120mm Chuck capacity: 1-3 7mm Chuck travel: 30mm Chuck type: Collet Collets supplied: 1.0. 1.5, 2.0, 2.4, 3.0 & 3.7mm

Diameter of column: 20mm Weight: 3.3kg

Overall L \times W \times H: 320 × 240 × 130mm Power: 85W Rating: Hobby Speed range: 1,800, 4,700 & 8,500rpm

Throat: 140mm Voltage: 230V Typical price: £186.55 Web: www.brimarc.com

PROS

Compact

CONS

Very accurate

Excellent depth stop

Would be an advantage if drill ROHM chuck, in

included the Proxxon which case the product would have earned 5 stars

RATING: 4.5 out of 5

Proxxon TMB 220 bench drill

Ideal for model making and model engineering, this bench drill from Proxxon is quick to set up and operate as well as being solid and very accurate in use

The Proxxon TMB 220 is a very small precision bench drill. It is ideal for drilling holes in wood, plastic and non-ferrous materials to a maximum depth of 30mm and will therefore be of interest to model makers and jewellery makers in particular. It comes with a six-piece triple slit precision collet set (1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.4, 3.0 and 3.2mm). These collets are extremely accurate but they are very small and can easily be lost. The bench drill has a guill diameter of 32mm and the throat depth, column to drill spindle, is 140mm.

I think it is worth spending an additional £13 to buy the Proxxon ROHM Jacobs-style chuck, which will take shanks of 6mm downwards. This chuck is designed to specifically fit the TMB 220 with its Xin thread: it is accurate, easy,

to use and I strongly recommend it.

Build quality

The top casing is quickly removed to reveal the flat belt and aluminium pulleys, which transmit the power from the 85W motor and can be set to one of three speeds: 1,800, 4,700 and 8,500rpm. I particularly like the calibrated depth stop, which remains positive when set. Very small diameter drills are vulnerable to breakage

when used in a hand-held drill but the risk is all but eliminated in a bench drill. Suitable drills, burrs, polishers, etc. are made by Proxxon and other manufacturers with a 3.2mm or a 6mm shank, if used with the drill chuck,

The drill can be lifted with one hand so it is easy to put

away after use. This drill can only be used in an upright mode; if you wish to drill angled holes, you will need to make a jig for the table.

Table & optional extras

The machined die-cast aluminium table measures 220 x 120mm. It has a slot for a fence on to which a vice can be located. The base is drilled to take a micro KT70 compound table. This accessory costs £88 and makes accurate setting up much easier, being fully calibrated and adjustable to a very fine degree. The small MS4 machine vice costs £16. I have seen some negative comments about this vice but it is adequate for the price; a better model will certainly cost considerably more. The hard-chromed steel column is solid and measures 280 high × 20mm diameter.

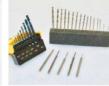
The table also features two holes, which allow the machine to be screwed to a bench or base. I made a wooden base with rubber feet to give maximum stability. I also sometimes like to hold the base in a vice to raise the working height.

You may also wish to consider the larger Proxxon TBH bench drill at £382, which is a more powerful machine designed for heavier duty work, but still in relative terms a small bench drill. Another option to look at, if you already have a Proxxon

hand-held drill such as the FBS, is to add the MB200 drillstand



The top casing is quickly removed to reveal the flat belt and aluminium pulleys



Suitable drills, burrs, polishers, etc. are made by Proxxon and other manufacturers with a 3.2mm or a 6mm shank, if used with the drill chuck



The machined die-cast aluminium table measures 220 × 120mm



With this combination of an FBS drill fitted in a dri stand, angled drilling is possible



The calibrated depth stop, which remains positive when set



The drill can be lifted with one hand so it is easy to put away after use

at EBB. The base and the upright column are identical to the TMB and the heads is designed with a 2Dmm collar to hold the wider range of Proxond rish. The vice and the compound table can be fitted as optional extras. In like the TMB, the whole headstock can be tilted through 90° to the exact ranger required using the califoration settings. It is a simple matter to remove the drill, which will reduce the height, and to store the stand away when not in use.

In summary

I think a bench drill is an essential tool for the serious hobbysit who wishes to drill accurate holes. Using a bench drill considerably reduces the risk of breaking drills and with the addition of rigis for repetitive drilling. It is quick to set up and operate. The TMB does not have a safety guard and it makes sense to wear protective glasses when drilling and to hold the material gridlled securely in a vice to avoid any mishaps. As always, the choice of equipment boils down to what it is to be used for and how much the budget allows. I found the Proxono TMB bench drill to be well made, solid and very acturate; it should give many years of reliable service. It is expensive but if don't know of any other bench drill off bits size that is particularly suited to the modeller, and if you shop around you may find a better price or deal. UR



You may also wish to consider the larger Proxxon TBH bench drill at £382, which is a more powerful machine



Another option to look at, if you already have a Proxxon hand-held drill such as the FBS, is to add the MB200 drillstand



The table also has two holes, which allows the machine to be screwed to a bench or base $\,$



It is easy to screw the ROHM chuck to the threaded drill shank in place of the collet holder

Specification Grits: 180, 240, 320, 400 & 600 Abrasive width: 25mm Abrasive length: 6.100mm

Typical price: £20.40 Web: www. planetplusitd.com

PROS

- Fast cutting
- Doesn't clog easily
- Sands on both sidesCan be used wet

or dry

CONS

• Metal tear off strip

isn't very durable

RATING: 5 out of 5

Planet Plus Ltd Turners Mesh

This excellent waterproof mesh abrasive from Planet Plus is ideal for woodturners, and especially those who are looking to impart a highly polished finish on pens and other such small projects

I remember once being told that a real woodturner achieves the desired finish direct from the tool and only sands as a last resort. Mere mortals such as myself reach for the abrasives a little more readily, and where acrylic turning is concerned

it's a must to work through a range of grits.

Keeping abrasives close to hand is definitely a good habit to get into, so this neat and compact little box appeals to me, especially as I end up with countless bits of abrasive scattered everywhere when I'm at the lathe.

Double benefit

I've always preferred (oth-backed abrasive when turning as it fleese well for contours and is hard wearing, but I've recently been using mesh abrasives, which are a step further up the ladder as the open weave helps prevent friction and heat build-up. This is especially beneficial when turning pen ists that invariable leave a fine venere over the tubes, which can easily succumb to heat build-up when sanding. This lox comprises 201 for mesh abrasive in each girl from 180 through to 600, so there's a good supply that should last at considerable time.



This box offers a double benefit over standard cloth abrasive as the mesh quickly cuts on either side without clogging as readily as a normal abrasive would, and I found it very durable on both timber and acrylic materials.

A good selection

Having a good selection in the box means that any timber turnings can be sanded ready to finish and any acrylics can not only be prepeted with dry albassive – the starting grit will also deal with any dinks or small chips – but you can also use it we before moving to ultra-fine polishing pasts. This certainly brings the finish to another level on acrylics and you can see any flaws more easily thanks to the polished surface it imparts. Although the box is cardboard, it looks heavy-duty enough to the total control to the sand to the degree on the degree on the degree on the degree on the degree of the total control the sand to the sand

In summary

small pieces off by hand.

Left close at hand next to the lathe it's a very worthwhile purchase, but I've opted to improve it by screwing the box to the side of a shelf unit so it's always where it should be.

To spread the load and prevent the screws pulling through the cardboard, I used a couple of small washers so now I'm geared up to turn to my heart's content without scrabbling around for bits of abrasives that are invariably buried under a pile of shavines — sound familiar? AK



The box has five separate rolls of waterproof mesh



I fitted mine close to the lathe for easy access



The metal edge on the box isn't the best for tearing pieces off



Used dry the abrasives cut very quickly and help to smooth out any blemishes



Use them with water and the finish on acrylics becomes very polished

Thomas Flinn & Co.

Saw & Hand Tool Manufacturer Sheffield, England



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Strictly CHAIRS

A twirl with a Thonet No.14 prompts Robin Gates to consider the qualities of a good dancing chair

y daughter Annie was in search of a bedroom chair, and I'd tagged along as porter in case she found something suitable. We were treading cautiously through the semi-darkness of an antiques store when I caught a glimpse of a familiar outline, an elegant Thonet No.14 Bistro chair

My first encounter with Thonet's masterpiece. launched onto the sitting public in 1859, had been in 1978. I was a back-packing student then. making one espresso last an hour on a Parisian boulevard, lost in the gold-washed tapestry of city life beneath the plane trees on a summer evening.

Now, overwhelmed by nostalgia, I felt the urge to sit down - then thought better of it. With one hand on its back and another grasping the seat, I lifted the lightweight chair and twirled with it across the shop floor to Annie.

Creaking floorboards betrayed my clumsy feet. First I met the disapproving gaze of the proprietor looking fit to melt the glass in his gold-rimmed bifocals, then Annie's mortified expression. 'Dad! Did you have to?' she breathed, as we scuttled down the stairs

Well, perhaps 'Yes.' This dancing with chairs may be in the genes, going back at least as far as my grandad, Harry Allen. In his youth he'd been fit and wirv as a clock spring, a prize-winner in a race to the top of Portsdown Hill, then a runner taking messages between the trenches in World War I.

I was five or six years old, and Grandad was in his 70s, when I saw him pick up a chair and dance with it. We were at a wedding reception in a village hall near Chichester. Gran suffered with painful feet, always bandaged, and this must have been Grandad's way of dancing without hurting the apple of his eye. He waltzed among the couples with a canteen chair as gracefully as Fred Astaire.

A nifty dancer

Fast forward some years, I'm a postgrad student in Adelaide, standing awkwardly on the sidelines of a college discotheque with Don, a fellow student from New Zealand, and we're shouting the key words of a conversation above 100 decibels of Bee Gees. Under the influence of a beaker or two of Australian beer, we swayed like a pair of slow-running metronomes. The situation prompted me to recollect that dance in the village hall, 12,000 miles away, and Grandad's answer to dancing without a partner.

Don considered this for a moment, drained his drink, then reached that tipping point of alcohol and nerves, which renders further thought redundant. Grabbing a chair from the shadows, he took to the dance floor with an energy that made John Travolta's performance in Saturday Night Fever look positively languid. Strafed by coloured lights, Don carried, cradled

and worshipped that chair, he spun and balanced it on one leg, he implored it, and he flung himself upon it. The dance was an emotional roller-coaster, and the chair which followed his every move was, of course, Thonet's bistro classic, dramatically elevated to the status of a dancing queen.

What makes the Thonet chair such a nifty dancer comes into focus when you consider the shortcomings of the rest. The typical Windsor, for example, pulls off an illusion of lightness with its tapering spindles and stretchers, but there's far too much weight in the seat, not to mention shin-cracking splayed legs. On the dance floor it's as nimble as a tree stump.

Your typical Chippendale, Hepplewhite or Sheraton appears a dignified choice until you consider the sheer bulk of the joinery, not to mention decades of dust in the upholstered seat. just waiting to be disturbed by sudden movement. For shape, an early Victorian balloon-back approaches the ideal, but it's still too heavy.

Certainly any four-square panel-backed seat imported from the local church or council chamber for a knees-up has 'slipped disc' written all over it; you may as well attempt a tango with your workbench.

The Darcey Bussell of dancing chairs

Michael Thonet dispensed with the chunky mortise & tenon frames, showy splats and swollen limbs of what had gone before and created not just a café classic but the Darcey Bussell of dancing chairs, Supple and springy, the No.14 is just a handful of timbers steambent to strong, easy curves, with a see-through seat of woven cane and an arched back as unobstructed as an open window. Rarely has art and craft been intertwined in one artefact. with such simplicity and finesse. ww



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