

# Shavings

DETROIT AREA  
WOODTURNERS



Volume 1, Issue 2

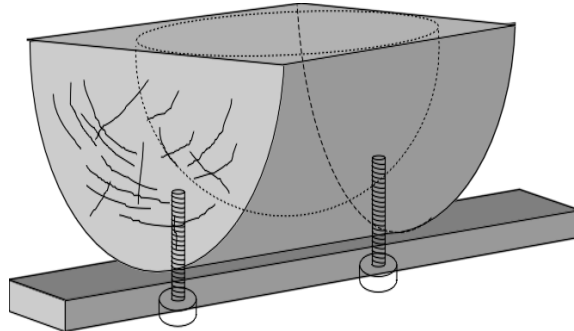
<http://members.aol.com/detroitareturn/>

October 19, 2003

## Green Wood - It's Free (Continued from last month)

Preparing a green log section for your lathe takes time, but care here saves time and wood later. I've been told you the log should immediately be split vertically into halves to release strain – thus it will remain intact longer, unchecked, before it is roughed turned. My favorite tools for working green wood are an electric chain saw and a B&W Workmate. My 12" Craftsman bandsaw is too small to handle the green wood, so the Sears \$40 dollar electric chain saw was the answer. The chainsaw was an experiment that worked well. Just remember there's metal and wood in the Workmate that you don't want to cut.

Plan how to cut bowls from the wood. For large pieces, I first cut the log section lengthwise. I then attach a cleat with lag bolts into waste area on the rounded bark side. The cleat can be clamped in the Workmate for safe, secure cutting. This leaves the flat side up for marking. For regular round bowls I scribe a circle on flat, cut top and make cuts around the circle perimeter to even the weight (this can be critical on a large bowl) and remove excess. It's fast and easy, and with an electric chain saw, can be done outdoors (big mess) or in the shop (bigger mess, but great when it's cold). If you're not turning the wood immediately – seal it. Once cut to size, it can begin checking in a couple hours. By now, you've exposed a lot of end grain.



Log Section Mounted on a Cleat for shaping

## President's Corner

Fall has arrived with some warm days and we all thought we would go right to winter. Now is getting to be a good time to get started with all those new techniques and concepts that you have been waiting for. The latest AAW issue of the American Woodturner has some great articles in it. The one by Alan Lacer on grinding and sharpening was a good refresher. Hope you all enjoyed it.

As you get ready for all your new projects, be sure and bring any new or special tools or fixtures you have made for "Tool Talk" and your latest work for "Show and Tell".

Several of the members and I will be at the Ohio Valley Woodturners Min-Symposium near Cincinnati Ohio. I hope we will be able to bring back some great ideas to share with all the members.

Bill Youngblood will be running the meeting and doing a demo on boring bars. So bring your questions as well as your processes for boring bar turning. See you at the November meeting

## Presentation at the September 28th Meeting

The Sep. 28th Detroit Area Woodturners meeting at the Shadbrush Nature Center was highlighted by Don Russell's presentation. Don, who presented at AAW Symposium this summer, gave a rapid fire presentation on segmented bowls and other items.

His approach to a segmented turning is a sequential process of segments into rings, rings into sections (base, middle and top) and sections into bowls. The systemic approach made a complex bowl look almost easy.

Surprisingly, he uses a radial arm saw for cutting. A more contemporary alternative to a table saw might be a quality trim saw.

A couple of hints included using veneer to set off the break between layers, Forstner bits for round holes into which unique inlays can be set, 3M Stretchable Packing tape as a better material to secure segments into rings for glueing (3M Item No. 8886 or 8884 at Staples, etc.) and finally he confirmed Bill Youngblood's recommendation to use Tight-Bond II to avoid glue distortion in turnings. Greg said: "I bought some of the 8886 stretchy tape, it is the heavy one and is very stiff, maybe someone else has the 8884 which is thinner. I got it at the Staples web site with free shipping."

## Teak Source

Greg reports a call from a company with a lot of "scrap" teak pieces left over from their boat building/repair operations for which they're looking for buyer(s). He says they'd like to get somewhere around \$25 for each 1/2 bushel of pieces. The POC is Jim Ault and his phone number is (810) 523-4987.

## Detroit NE Area Woodworking Stores

- Wood Craft, Sterling Heights, Sterling Place Shopping Center Van Dyke
- Rockler's, 29918 Woodward Avenue Royal Oak, (Woodward at 12-1/2 MI)
- Performance Tools - 26772 Dequindre, Warren, MI. (Just S. of 11 Mile Rd.)
- Butki - Saw and Tool, 26707 Van Dyke Center Line, MI (Just S. of I-696)
- Harbor Freight - 34900 Grossbeck Hwy, Clinton Township, MI (SE Corner of Grossbeck and 15 Mi.)

If you know additional woodworking sources, please forward to Shavings.

## Occam's Razor

Of two competing theories or explanations - the simpler one is to be preferred.... William of Occam.

Reducing speed will resolve turning problems more frequently than increasing speed.

### Next Meeting:

Date: October 19, 2003  
Shadbush Nature Center, Shelby Twp.

Highlights:

- Raffle
- Boring Bar Demo
- Tool Talk
- And More!!

Meetings are routinely scheduled for the 3d Sunday of each month.

### 2003-04 Scheduled Meetings

2003	2004
October 19	January 18
November 16	February 15

## Meaningful Quotes from the Internet

- "An amateur turner picks up a tool and starts to cut with it. A professional turner picks up a tool and sharpens it".
- "The brotherhood of the lathe must be almost unique in friendly encouragement".
- "When sharpening a scraper leave the burr on for course grained wood, remove the burr for tight grained wood".
- "There are two things that you must always do before you switch on the lathe: Make sure it is free to rotate 360 degrees. Make sure the speed is correct for the weight and balance of the wood between centers".
- "It's the satisfaction of being able to make things with real skill - the reward of daily practice - that enables old crocks to keep turning, to the encouragement of us all".

## DAW Member Participation

Bill Youngblood will be exhibiting his beautiful segmented turning at the Bayside Gallery and Framing. The location is at 35453 23 Mile Road in New Baltimore. Bill will be there October 25th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM for a 'Meet the Artist' day. His work will remain until after the Christmas holidays. If all goes well, he will earn permanent display space.

## "Woodturning Design" - A New Publication

American Crafts Publishing, Inc., has announced the start of a new woodturning publication. It will be titled "Woodturning Design." The first issue is scheduled for February, 2004. The editor is Joseph M. Herrmann. Magazine objectives include: Promote safe and efficient turning practices, expose readers to new techniques and products, focus on design and finishing, building new and innovative tools and accessories, provide a forum for developing innovative approaches to turning and provide readers an opportunity to connect with the entire woodturning community.

The editor seeks GOOD quality photos of turner's work for a Reader's Showcase." It will feature both beginners and advanced turners. I was told the editor may be contacted at 440 576-7697 or [www.latheturners@earthlink.net](mailto:www.latheturners@earthlink.net). I tried the URL and it didn't work. More to follow.

## DAW Logo Apparel

Another reminder - DAW can't place the order without a minimum of 4 or 5 pieces of each item. The set-up for the logo is expensive for just 1 or 2 items. Order now for Xmas!!!

Items	Prices
Hats & T-Shirts*	\$13.00
Sweat Shirts*	\$19.00
Golf Shirts*	\$26.00
Jackets	

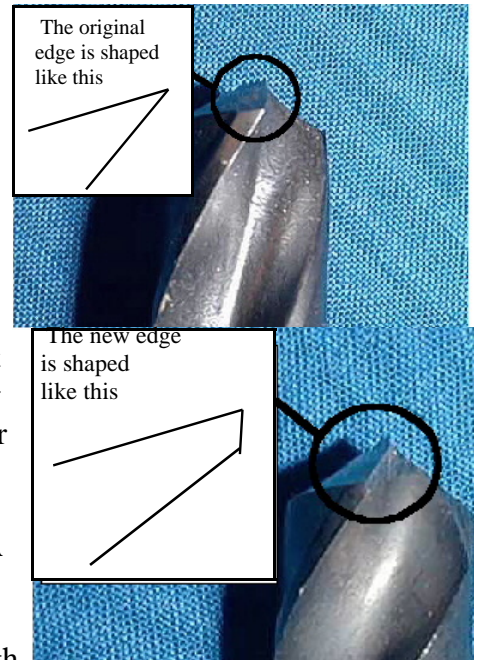
## DAW Officers - Here to Help!!

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## 'Got Tools and Materials for sale?

Be among the first to use the Shavings' Classified ads starting in the November "Shavings" issue. Get it to Chet ASAP. We'll run it for two consecutive months.

# Drilling Clean Holes in Thin Materials



For the most part, drilling a hole in wood is no big deal. Most times you simply grab the bit closest to the size hole you want and drill. However, there are times where this approach creates an imperfect result. If the hole you want is fairly small, 1/4" or smaller, there's usually no problem. Also, if the piece of wood you're drilling into is 1/2" thick or more, you don't have an issue. It's drilling a large hole into thin wood that poses problems.

First, a set of brad point drills will end most of your problems. A brad point drill cuts the outer edge of the hole first before the drill bit punches through at the point. This stops the "threading" issue, when the drill grabs and the helix of the drill bit tries to either pull the drill through the hole like a big screw or lift the piece your drilling up to the chuck. This can damage the piece you're drilling, yourself, or both. Brad point drills are good because they cut the edge of the hole before the drill bit can try to thread itself into the piece.

If you don't want to buy a set of brad point drills for the few times you do such work there's another solution. You can regrind a standard twist drill to do the job. Here's how..... Keep in mind that once you modify a twist drill, it won't drill into steel unless you restore the original edge. That said, here's what you do. The problem is the cutting edge at the tip; notice that the two cutting edges act to help pull the drill bit into the material. This is needed when drilling into metal because the metal is very tough and resists a hole. When you drill into wood the material is not nearly as hard so you don't need, or want, this "pulling" action. Carefully grind the leading edge of the drill flat, so that the cutting lip is parallel to the axis of the drill. "What the heck is he talking about" you say? The two photos to help you visualize this. It's easy once you see it.

The regrind changes the leading edge from a chisel to a scraper. The drill will now only advance with a force pushing it into the work. When it begins to break through the back side of the work it won't feed itself like a screw. This will produce a cleaner hole and won't damage the piece by trying to pull it up. This will allow you to drill a 1/2" hole into a 1/8" thick piece of wood without damage.

Another note - this regrind will also work well when drilling sheet metal or plastic sheet. If you've tried to drill Plexiglas with a standard drill then you know the result when the drill does its "threading" thing - it can splinter the hole edge or crack the Plexiglas. The regrind will make the drill behave nicely without the damage. On sheet metal, so you can drill a hole without warping the metal. You still need to back it up with a piece of wood, but you'll be able to drill it neatly. If you're a pen maker and have had trouble drilling into composites because the drill wants to "grab", do this to the point and your troubles will be over. Enjoy.

Dennis Montville

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**“Shavings” Needs Your Help - Share Your Knowledge**  
Send anything and everything to Chet at [chet.bisno@comcast.net](mailto:chet.bisno@comcast.net)

# Safety Sam Sez:

Everyone tries to be safe but occasionally gets lax, especially when in a hurry, and we tend to forget without occasional reminders. In the months ahead, I am going to provide a few safety reminders that might be familiar and maybe some that will surprise you.

Let's start with the obvious, one of the most dangerous aspects of woodworking; but a particular hazard for turners - wood toxicity. If you type 'Toxic woods' in a web search engine, you get about 60,000 sites. That alone indicates it very dangerous. It's not the wood that's hazardous - but the dust we create when cutting and sanding.

Sanding dust hangs in the air and will ultimately settle on every available surface. If you're like a lot of people, those surfaces only get cleaned when needed. Usually when you start losing dropped items in an inch or two of dust. Look at the dust piles and imagine how that must look like in your nose, esophagus, and lungs. Some dust irritates your eyes and skin simply by contact. I am not going to list numerous woods or their effects, but will highlight a few.

One of the worst is South African Boxwood. It can cause headaches, thirst, nausea, visual disturbance, drowsiness, anemia and hepatitis. Nice stuff huh? More common local species are Ash, Maple, and Pine that can diminish lung function. Birch, Bubinga, Mahogany, Padauk, Poplar, and Rosewood can cause dermatitis problems. And then there is good old Wenge. This wood dust can cause dermatitis, central nervous system effects, giddiness, drowsiness, visual disturbance, and abdominal cramps. Wenge splinters go septic to boot. Makes you want to run right out and buy some. This is just a sample what's out there. There are preventative measures that can be taken.

Dust control is extremely important in any shop. You can get dust collection systems from several manufacturers in various methods. There are single stage collectors that route dust through a pipe system to a collector bag or canister. There are overhead systems that continually circulate the air in your shop and filter it. You can get hoods that you wear like a football helmet with a small pump that draws in fresh filtered air and exhausts the carbon monoxide that you exhale. 3M makes a Power Visor face shield that seals all around your face and also draws in filtered air and exhausts the exhalants. The bottom of the line would be the paper filters with a rubber band that holds it reasonably close to your face. Even this is better than nothing.

My point is - **protect yourself**. I also recommend you look at some of the 60,000 internet sites and see for yourself about this demon called dust.

Bill Youngblood

## Do You Have Woodturning Questions?

Send them to my Email and we'll see about getting them answered from the vast DAW knowledge pool. 'No guarantees, but we'll do our best. I'll use a few each month as fillers.

## Signing Your Work

A signing option recommended at the last meeting was fine tipped white or black acrylic pens. For a more permanent mark, use a vibrating marker (for identifying property-Dremel makes one). You can then rub in the pigmented material of your choice, but it's usually not needed.

## Next Month in "Shavings"

More of the same and...

- An article on silver soldering
- Member Classified Ads
- Other new columns
- And your contribution?



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Stamp

