

Shavings

DETROIT AREA
WOODTURNERS



Volume 2, Issue 1

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

January 18, 2004

President's Corner

A welcome to all the folks interested in woodturning that signed up at the Woodworking Show. We hope you will come to our January 18th meeting and join with other woodturners for an afternoon of learning and fellowship. We will be demonstrating tool sharpening and discussing lathe cutting tool selection. If you have some problem tools, bring them along and we can discuss the shape of the grind, etc..

We are doing some forward planning for the remainder of the year and we will present it to the membership for additional input.

Many thanks to Dennis Montville for his demonstration of thin wall turning last month. Dennis makes one feel he/she can go home and give it a try because he makes it look so easy. We are fortunate to have folks like Dennis in the club. Also thanks to Dennis for serving as vice president for the last couple of years.

We are going to have another full day demonstration this year and hope many of you can come. The guest is Mark St Leger, an accomplish turner and teacher. We will have more information and dates available at the meeting.

Now is the time to be planning your woodturning activities for the summer, If you are interested in any of the craft/art schools do not wait as they fill up fast.

The AAW National Symposium is scheduled for July 23-25 in Orlando, Florida.

- Three days of terrific demonstrations by international, national and regional turners recognized in the field
- Panel discussions
- An Instant Gallery of those attending and Chapter Collaborative Projects
- The annual AAW banquet and auction for the educational fund.

The AAW National Symposium is the complete woodturner's trade show.

Greg Smith

December Meeting Notes

If you haven't yet responded to your dues letter, please do so.

Gary Smith did a great job with the rotating bowl - Ray Babin will apply the next operation.

DAW officer nominations were opened for the next meeting. General agreement supports continuing with current officers. However, Dennis Montville is unable to continue as 1st VP, so that position at least must be filled by vote.

Other highlights included a thin wall turning demo by Dennis Monteville and two options for power sanding discs (see page 2).

The Nov. Meeting Can Festival

was a great success. Members provided \$55.00 from door prizes and \$56.00 in canned goods. A DAW check was mailed to Macomb County Meals On Wheels and the canned goods were donated to ST. Vincent De Pauls Food closet. Thanks to all participants.

Bulk Purchase Report, Average of 16% Savings – Len Kraska

The November Bulk Buy from the Woodturner's catalog exceeded \$1800 – well over the \$1000 needed to qualify for the 10% discount. Those who purchased tools and information items (books and videos) got the largest savings, upwards of 30%. On the average, participants saved 16%. Only one member did not get any savings as all the items ordered were on sale. Thus the 10% discount does not hold for all items ordered by the club; savings are based on the status of individual orders. On the whole, the DAW benefit was excellent – we will order from them again. **The next Bulk Purchase will be in February...plan ahead!!**

A couple of members went to Woodcraft and did comparison shopping. They found their items were more expensive at Woodcraft, even if shipping were not free (as it is on our orders).

Next Meeting on Jan. 18, 2004

at the Shelby Shadbrush Nature Center, Shelby Township, MI, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The nature center is located off Ryan Road between 21 and 22 Mile Roads.

Meeting Highlights will include basic tool selection and turning tool sharpening.



December Meeting Demo by Dennis Montville:

Thin Wall Turning



The December meeting was highlighted by Dennis Montville's excellent "thin walled" bowl turning demonstration. Dennis used DAW's 12" Jet lathe and a scroll chuck. He emphasized the sharpest tools possible to prevent tearout. He strongly recommends a full face shield as the thin wall, turning at high speed, can fly apart at any time.

Either cured or green lumber can be used. If using green lumber - it must be completed in one short session. Thin green wood walls distort quickly as they dry.

The bowl is first trued to the lathe at low speed and the external wall completed. The internal bowl is turned out leaving about a 3/8" wall. Dennis then reduces the 3/8" wall to about 1/8" to 1/16" in sections. Each section is cut into the bowl about 3/4" deep. Each section of the thin wall must be almost complete before moving on to the next lower section. The incremental technique insures the uncut lower portion of the thick bowl wall will support the thin wall section as it's cut. Deeper thin wall cuts would enable the longer thin walls to flex....with resulting catches. Once a section is cut to finish thickness, all that remains for that section is light sanding.

He used a 1/2" bowl gouge angled about 90 degrees to insure the bevel was aligned with the wall being cut. The tool rest was positioned just below the bowl centerline. Again, he recommends frequent sharpening. He then uses a bright light on the exterior of the wall to gauge a uniform wall thickness. Backlight passing through the thin wall attested to its delicacy CB

Pneumatic Sanding

After Greg's comments regarding both the utility of pneumatic sanding and low tool cost, I visited Harbor Freight. I caught a sale and purchased a straight "mini air" die grinder for \$7.49 (on sale @ 50%) and an angle die grinder for \$19.99 (reg. \$29.99). Both items are on sale through Jan. 19.

These tools (@ 90 PSI) rotate at 20,000 RPM. My first effort shot the hook and loop sandpaper across the shop. I added a variable regulator to slow it down. Harbor has a regulator on sale for \$3.49 (half price), but it broke instantly. They offer a Campbell Hausfield for \$13.99 that appears more durable. I've been told a technique is to put the paper in contact with the wood before squeezing the air trigger to control speed.

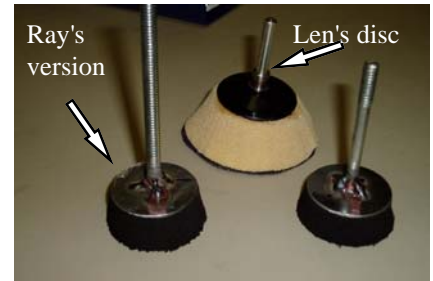
I wouldn't recommend Harbor Freight for production tooling, but they have some solutions for home turning. CB



Power Sanding Discs

The December meeting generated active discussion regarding power sanding discs on quarter inch shafts for power drives. The price for these high use discs from speciality woodworking sources is prohibitive for many of us.

Len Kraska explained his initiative using available hardware from Performance tool. He purchased 2" PSA discs for about \$3.50. He added foam to create the discs.



Coincidentally, Ray Frase also came prepared with his solution to the high cost of small sanding discs. Ray used carriage bolts secured to fender washers for his discs. Both solutions use closed cell foam from the Foam Factory on 16 Mile Rd (just W of Van Dyke). If you seek a quick solution, Len's got the answer. If you're more interested in saving money, Ray's solution may be best.

Discs will again be discussed at the January meeting. Also, 1/4" shaft disc kits will be sold at that meeting. CB

Got Wood Turning News or Good Information?

You can share it through Shavings with all the members. Just send it to chet.bisno@comcast.net

Wonderful Magnets

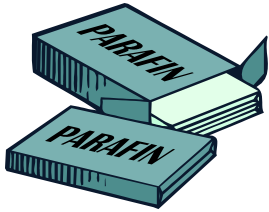


Magnets have numerous uses in the shop. Here's one: fix a six inch rule to your tail stock with a strong magnet and it'll always be handy.

If you have good uses for magnets - sent them in. CB

DAW Officers - Here to Help!!

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Wax as a Finish

From the Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild

Wood finishing has got to be one of the very demanding tasks of wood turners. Most of our finishing is based on finding a way that works after frustrating series of trial and error attempts.

Pastes, liquid and semi-liquid waxes can be applied in many hand and machine assisted ways. Traditionally they are applied by hand with cloths, or bristle brushes. Liquid waxes can be applied by hand or by spray guns. In addition to hand waxing the spinning object, those waxes can be applied by power buffing wheels. Sometimes the wax can be heated until liquefied and the piece can be dipped into the hot liquid wax. Cold wax emulsions can be brushed on and are much easier to handle.

Which wax one chooses depends on the piece to be finished. One has to consider the shininess required, so a satin, semi-gloss or high gloss as well as whether the piece will contain food or liquids. To achieve an ultra high luster the surface should be sealed with a penetrating sealer. Thin cellulose sanding sealers, spirit sealers and shellac as well as some thin oils have been used. For high luster burnishing waxes like Arbortech's Arborwax burnishing wax or U'Beaut's EEE Ultra Shine should be used after the sealer has dried.

Surface preparation is all important. Waxes can magnify the surface flaws. The glossiest of waxes will not raise a 240-grit surface much beyond a satin finish. For high luster one needs to sand to a 600-grit or a 1200-grit level. If after the sanding to these higher grits the bare wood is glowing, its overall reflective quality can only be enhanced by using finishing wax.

The surface of raw wood should be free of dust and abrasive residue before applying wax. Compressed air will clean the residue from the pores. A tack cloth can also be used. Some turners use naphtha or white spirits prior to application of the wax.

Waxes can be applied over any finish, but the finish should be cured before applying the wax. Check to see if the finish was water based as it is important to choose a wax that has a mild solvent such as white spirit versus harsher solvents like toluene which could damage the finish.

For hand application the most effective way to apply paste by hand is to use a cotton rubber (dauber). This can be made from 5-6 inch strips of clean old T-shirts. Place the lump of paste wax in the middle of the cloth. Grab the edge of the cloth and twist to form a small ball around the lump of wax. Secure with string. Gently knead the cloth till the wax comes to the surface of the cloth. Apply in very light coats onto the piece. When the solvent in the wax flashes off, it will turn hazy in appearance and is ready to buff. If buffed too early, the buffing may remove wax from the surface. For buffing, use soft cotton or a lamb's wool pad. Don't wait too long after the solvent has flashed off or it may be difficult to remove the excess. Some microcrystalline specialty waxes recommend buffing immediately after application.

A few tips: Because waxes are inert they can last indefinitely. If the wax has hardened and cracked it can be refreshed by adding more solvent. Check the tin or use a generic solvent like mineral spirits or white spirit. Watch out for toluene as a solvent it can damage previous finishes.

Note 1: Microcrystalline waxes, refined out of oil and sold as "Renaissance" brand have a crystalline structure much finer than natural waxes such as carnauba and beeswax. This property is a highly efficient moisture resistance and is widely used in museums. More at www.restorationproduct.com

Greg Smitl

Selling Your Work

By **Bill Youngblood**

Note 2: I found "white spirits" on the internet but couldn't get a clear definition - appears to me to be the same as mineral spirits. But that's inconsistent with the last paragraph of the article
CB

You say your house is filled with your turnings? 'Your kids houses are filled with your work? 'Your friends and neighbors houses are filled with your work? Maybe you should try selling some of it.

If you don't quite know where to start - let me help.

The first thing people ask is how to price their work. As an unknown artist, \$10.00 an hour would be a good starting point. If you think you have too many hours in a certain piece to get that kind of price, you can adjust. I have just about given pieces away many times just to get my name out there.

You should have your work critiqued by an artist with a reputation of doing quality work. You must be open to friendly criticism and not have your feelings hurt. That is the best way to learn and improve.

Two of the main outlets are the art and craft shows and gallery sales. I will discuss the art and craft shows this month and the gallery sales next month.

The art and craft shows are exactly that. Arts and crafts. The key word there being crafts. Many woodworkers sell crafts but not all sell art. You should know the difference. Craft work does not demand the same price as fine art. You must decide which category your work falls into.

The club purchases an annual directory (www.michigancraftsow.com) listing almost every art show in the state each year. It

(Continued on page 4)

Safety Sam Sez:

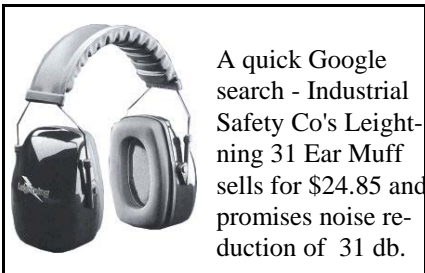
Nearly 36 million Americans suffer from a discomfort called *Tinnitus*. This is a ringing in the ears that can range from a low roar to a high-pitched whine or squeal. It is both annoying and distracting. It is usually accompanied by various amounts of loss of hearing in one or both ears.

Tinnitus is generally caused by exposure to loud noise, although there are other causes such as high or low blood pressure, thyroid problems, and diabetes among others. Since we are in woodworking, I will review the loud noise causes.

I spent most of my life in the construction industry primarily in auto plants, foundries, stamping plants, and power houses. Until about 20 years ago, noise was just one of the byproducts of industry and you learned to live with it. Then OSHA stepped in and forced employers to provide ear protection in high noise areas. For some of us it was too late.... the damage was done. There is little to nothing that can be done for tinnitus.

Today, there are many types of ear protection. The most common are the ear plugs made of a soft sound absorbing material that is inserted into the ear and shapes itself to each individual's ear canals. One case of inserting plugs pushed ear wax into the inner ear and cause severe pain and balance problems.

I recommend a good set of ear muffs. An inexpensive set is available for less than \$20 that will drop the decibel level about 20 points. About \$30 will buy you a set that will



A quick Google search - Industrial Safety Co's Lightning 31 Ear Muff sells for \$24.85 and promises noise reduction of 31 db.

cut 30 decibels. I recommend you get the best that you can afford. It is a cheap price to pay for preserving your hearing for the rest of your life.

Bill Youngblood

Woodworking & Tool Sources in NorthEast Detroit

- **WoodCraft**, Sterling Heights, Sterling Place Shopping Center Van Dyke
- **Rockler Woodworking**, 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.)
- **Abrasive Brokers**, 1695 Rochester Road, Troy, Mi (Just N of Maple Rd)
- **Wholesale Tool**, 12155 Stephens Rd, Warren, MI 48089 (S of 10 Mile, E of Hoover Rd.)
- **Glenn Wing Power Tools** 33656 Woodward Ave, Birmingham, MI 248-644-5790 (discount to DAW members)

(Continued from page 3) Selling Your Work

gives locations, dates, the type of show (fine art or art and craft), and entry fees. Some are reasonable; others are expensive. It also explains what types of pictures are required. Some want slides and others will accept prints.

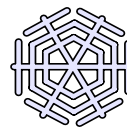
Make sure your pictures are done by a professional photographer with product lighting experience. Don't use a wedding or portrait photographer. You need the best photos you can get.

Additional requirements include a state sales tax license, a tent with an attractive display of your work, and you should ultimately be able to handle credit card sales.

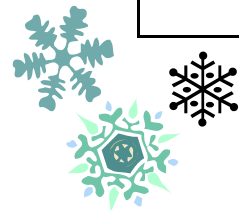
Art shows are a lot of work, and require investment to get started. They do, however, have the largest sales potential. If your work is moderately priced, it is likely to sell. People who attend art shows are willing to spend money.



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Stamp



HAPPY NEW YEAR