

Shavings

DETROIT AREA
WOODTURNERS



Volume 2, Issue 3

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

March 21, 2004

President's Corner

As you read this I am sitting on the beach in Southwest Florida enjoying the sun and am sorry (ha ha) to say I will not be chairing the March meeting. Our great line up of officers will easily take over that job. The discussions regarding setting up a shop should be educational and informative to all. Be sure and share your experiences from the open house shop tours and are able to take back some good ideas to use in you own shop.

I hope you are enjoying the last days of winter and coming of spring. This last month has been busy for the Detroit Area Woodturners. We received an Educational Opportunity Grant amounting to \$760 from the AAW. This grant will be used to purchase a new club lathe and accessories. This will help us promote woodturning both in our chapter and community at events like the Shadbush heritage day and other events. We have ordered a lathe and expect to have it by the April meeting and ready to use for the Mark St Leger Demo on April 25th. We are still looking for a home for the lathe, we need a member who can get it to the meetings, and in return has the freedom to use it in-between. We selected a Delta 46-715 because of its ease of disassembly and variable speed.

The executive committee has put together the Mark St Leger Demo as an all day event to assist all our members in increasing their turning knowledge and skills. We have organized the event using the Nature Center in order it make it accessible to all members. Take advantage of this opportunity and sign up at the March meeting. If this event is successful we will try and have at least one event like this each year.

See you in April.

Greg Smith

DAW Logo Apparel Available at Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting on March 21, 2004

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

Meeting highlights include member 'Shop Visit' discussions.

Sign Up for the April 25th Mark St. Leger Demo!!

DAW will host Mark St Leger as our first Guest Woodturner for a full day of demonstrations on Sunday April 25, 2004, at the Shadbush Nature Center. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for coffee, with the demonstration beginning at 9:00 a.m.. The full day costs only \$40.00 - lunch included. Attendance is limited 30 participants, so be sure to sign up at Sunday's meeting. Or you can call Ray Frase, (248) 673-1022, for advance registration

As a lifetime member of the Blue Ridge Woodturners Club in Virginia, Mark has served as vice-president, president & activities coordinator along with hosting their club meetings, at the high school shop, on a monthly basis. He is also a member of the American Association of Woodturners where he has served as a member of the board of directors.

Mark has been an active demonstrator and workshop leader for turning clubs, along with demonstrating at many regional and national symposiums. He is currently on the faculty list of Arrowmont School of the Arts in Tennessee, and the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. Mark also finds satisfaction in teaching woodturning courses for a local college. His work has been shown at many venues and is in private collections.

Known for his sense of humor and ability to effectively teach a variety of age groups and skill levels, Mark's teaching techniques are easily followed

Mark specializes in small-scale turnings, off center work, and boxes, as well as thread chasing and tool making. He thoroughly enjoys sharing what he has learned from others throughout the years.

Basic techniques and more

Tippy Top - a spin top that flips over as it spins.

Skewed Egg - an exercise in skew techniques.

Eccentric Box - eccentric turning between centers.

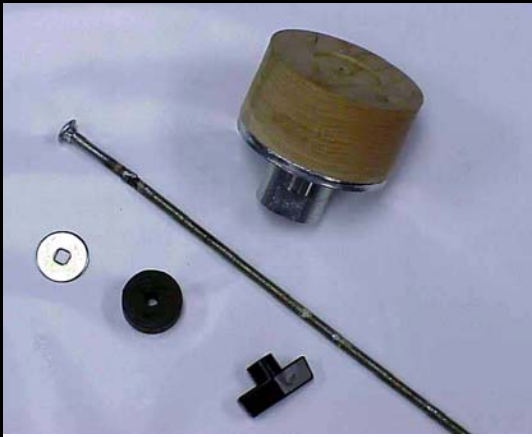
Threaded Box - hand chasing threads.



A Different Jam Chuck

by Jim Meier

<http://www.wnywoodturners.com/articles/jimjamb/jam-chuck.htm>



I often turn small oil candle holders that hold glass confetti oil bottles. These usually require a 1 1/2" diameter hole for the glass insert. After turning and parting off the holder, I like to reverse chuck the piece and finish turning the bottom. One method of doing this is to use a "jam chuck". There are other methods that could be used to hold the work piece for this including using various jaws available for a scroll chuck. But I don't want to take a chance of marring the now almost completed piece. Vacuum chucking would be the ideal

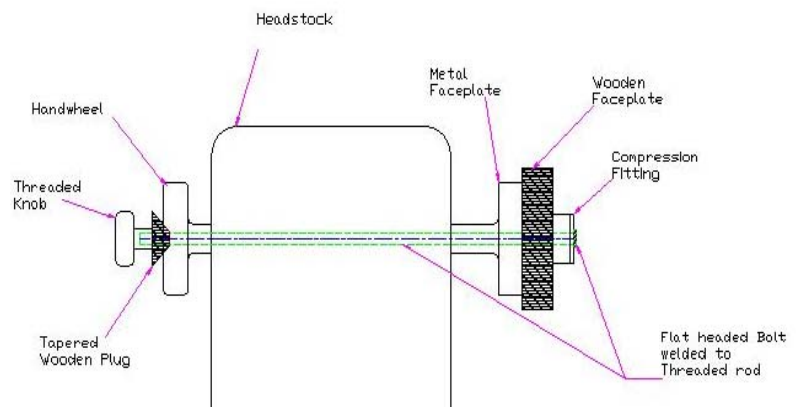
way to hold the piece. The problem is that there is only a small opening on the object. This presents problems because of the available surface area. Another problem with vacuum chucking is that I prefer to turn pieces that often include bark inclusions and small voids. These make a more visually stimulating lamps but presents major problems with vacuum chucking.

I have begun using a different method for jam chucking which allows me to avoid having to turn a jam plate for each individual piece. This method uses a rubber compression fitting – commonly available at the hardware store in either automotive or plumbing departments. These plugs come in various sizes and as they are compressed in thickness, they expand in diameter, creating a snug fit.

I screw a 1" to 2" wooden scrap piece to a faceplate. Hopefully, you have a few extra small faceplates allowing you to dedicate one of them to this function. Turn the wood piece round and square off the face. Next, taking the bolt from the compression fitting, I had a piece of threaded rod welded onto the end. I made it long enough to easily pass through the wooden faceplate, metal faceplate, and the headstock, leaving a couple inches out the outboard end. I have a hand-wheel on my lathe, and the center is tapered slightly. I turned a wooden plug to fit that taper, and extend out about a 1/2". The threaded rod should be just long enough to pass through this plug by about a 1/2 to 3/4" when the compression plug is "uncompressed". The faceplate and plug are center bored for the diameter of the threaded rod, centering the compression plug when in use. A threaded knob is threaded on the rod as it extends through the handwheel side tapered plug.

To use the jig, mount all the hardware in place. Fit the work piece over the compression fitting. It should be just slightly snug at this point to just sliding on. Bring up the tailstock with a revolving center to support the piece and hand turn to test the piece to make sure it is centered. Reposition as necessary. Once the work piece is centered, tighten the knob, compressing the plug. This expands it on the inner diameter of the work piece, giving it a firm hold. I start the lathe off slowly. Once I am sure the piece is revolving accurately, I can ramp the speed up to my desired working speed. The bottom of the piece can now be finished with ease.

With most pieces, I can withdraw the tailstock and completely finish the bottom once I have made most of the heavier cuts. I use the compression chuck idea for many of my reverse chucking needs. Care must be taken not overtighten the chuck. Too much compression of the plug has the potential of splitting a thin-walled object, such as a goblet



DAW Officers - Here to Help!! Don't Hesitate to Call

President -	Greg Smith	(248) 649-3565	gregsmith@aol.com
1 st Vice President -	Bill Youngblood	(586) 727-9655	billandbon@ails.net
2 nd Vice President -	Ray Frase	(248) 673-1022	tableau-2@msn.com
Secretary -	Bill Schrodt	(586) 446-9539	bschrodt@ancorinfo.com
Treasurer -	John Fitzpatrick	(248) 608-6972	ECFJDF@aol.com
Librarian -	Steve Sharp	(586) 713-2612	
Len Kraska	Retail Chairman	(248) 649-3923	fishkiller@hotmail.com
Editor -	Chet Bisno	(586) 254-7605	chet.bisno@comcast.net
Photographer -	Joe Comunale	(586) 336-0461	joecomunale@comcast.net

Why Tools Get Dull

Turning tools require a lot of sharpening. If you think it through - it's easy to understand.

For example, a six inch blank turning at 2000 RPM has a linear speed of .6 mile per minute. In 10 minutes cutting you've had 6 miles of tool contact with the turning.

Basic Rules that bear Repeating and Repeating.....and Repeating.

Extract for the Sydney Woodturner's Guild site at: <http://www.sydneymwoodturners.com.au/site/articles/techniques/torn%20grain.html>

Although the purest will tell you that there are no rules to turning there are a couple of rules we should follow very religiously. These are:

Rule 1 - Rub the Bevel. If the bevel of the gouge does not stay in contact with the wood being cut the tool is being used as a scraper and it leaves a very bad finish.

Rule 2 - Sharp tools are Paramount. This one is very straightforward. When it comes to your final pass with the gouge, insure your cutting tip is sharp. Many professionals have a gouge they use solely for doing their finishing cuts with. If you don't have a chosen finishing gouge, give the tool a quick lick on the grinder before you do the last cut.

Rule 3 - Speed Kills - Here I am referring to the speed of travel of the tool as it shapes the bowl. Let's call it assent rate. If the tool travels too fast up the wood, you don't give the bevel time to do its work and tear out the wood instead of cutting it. Please don't confuse this with bowl rpm; the speed of the bowl revolving is not what we are after. It is the time it takes for you to cut from the foot of the bowl to the rim. The advice is, on your last pass; slow your assent rate right down, for the best finish.

Rule 4 - Cut in the Right Direction. Believe it or not there is a right and a wrong direction to cut wood. Face work - You should always cut from the smallest diameter to the largest on the outside of a bowl, call it uphill if you like. On the inside you should cut down hill from the largest diameter to the smallest. This might help explain why when we make a bowl we start with the outside first, because it helps us attain a better finish off the gouge.

And more - **Spindle Work**- Cutting rules for spindle work are exactly opposite to face work. Here you should cut from the largest diameter to the smallest or down hill.

February DAW Meeting

Greg Smith opened the meeting with confirmation that the Mark St Leger demonstration was deferred from April 18 to April 25. He directed folks to the sign-up list, and announced the cost was \$40 in advance. St Leger is a professional grade woodturner whose presence offers a rare learning opportunity.

The DAW Mentoring program was announced. Eight learners and seven mentors signed up to participate, all for basic turning. Mentors were aligned with learners based on proximity. The program recommends 45 days with two to four visits at either person's shop. The objective is twofold. First to establish relationships and welcome new members into the club. Second to share the vast pool of expertise resident in the club. If all goes well, mentoring relationships will be active by March 1st.

The new DAW Treasurer, John Fitzpatrick was introduced. His contact information is available under the list of officers elsewhere in this publication.

Greg reports the paid membership is up to 60. With average attendance of about 40 that speaks well of the club.

Greg reported a grant request to defer the cost of a new club lathe was submitted to the AAW. The response was positive and the lathe has been ordered. Further activity to pay for club hardware includes a program for members to turn bowls for later sale at area craftshows. Five large cherry blanks were issued to get the ball rolling. Bowl dimensions and a template can be downloaded from the DAW website. The site URL is at the mast head of "Shavings."

Henceforth, coffee will be available at DAW meetings. Marty Mangold will brew the coffee. Whether it will be gratis or require a fee remains to be determined.

For turners that desire to display and/or sell their work, the library includes an annual book with dates and locations of craft shows.

How I Nuke Wood

Len Kraska

This is how I microwave bowls to dry them for turning.

I first rough turn the green blank to about 3/4 of an inch thick. I then place the blank into a plastic bag (the grocery store type works well). Insure there's no opening or tear in the bag and squeeze any excess air out of the bag. Twist or fold the bag closed; do not use a metal tie or twisty. Put the package in the microwave for 2 minutes at full power. The bag will expand with HOT water vapor.

Remove the package from the microwave and OPEN CAREFULLY - the opening away from your face. STEAM will be set free as soon as you open the bag and could burn exposed skin.

Using hand protection such as oven mitts, I place the package on a cutting board, turn it upside down and shake the bowl out,. Let the bowl cool an hour or so. I'll repeat the process, usually about four times, before the plastic bag no longer fills with HOT water vapor, When that happens, the bowl is done.

Yes, I've browned some bowls, but through the learning curve I've learned how much time is necessary to drive the moisture out. Every piece of wood is different. the only truly dry bowl is one that is burnt to ashes.

I've seen Gary Hoover put a roughed out bowl in a microwave, cook it for three minutes, cool it, then microwave it again - and that's it. Voila! No measuring with a meter or anything. The warpage on his products is minimal.

I still believe that sealing a roughed bowl, then setting it aside for six months or more is the best way of drying it. This is what I do with all my larger bowls and vessels.

Hope I've been of some help - if you have questions contact me at 248 649-3923.

Join the American Association of Woodturners

Safety Sam Sez:

Got a Fire Extinguisher in Your Shop?

This month the message is short and to the point. Fire safety. A wood-working shop is a prime candidate for a fire. Wood dust and chips can be like a bomb looking for a place to explode. Smoking is bad enough for you; but if a lit cigarette or cigar drops onto a sawdust covered floor it could spell disaster.

Leaving rags soaked with finishes lying around is a time bomb. They can and do start burning via spontaneous combustion.

In visiting shops, I rarely see fire extinguishers and almost never see smoke detectors.

Every shop should have a fire extinguisher with the A-B-C label. That will handle any kind of fire be it wood, paper, chemical or electrical. They are very inexpensive and if you ever need one, it could be priceless.

Smoke detectors are an absolute necessity in a home basement shop. 'nough said about that.

Keep your shop clean and have the proper fire fighting equipment handy. Happy turning.

Bill Youngblood

Tool Repair Centers in Detroit

- **DeWalt** Factory Service., 27035 Van Dyke Blvd, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 756-6711
- **Ryobi** - Electric Tool & Service Co, 19442 Conant Ave., Detroit, MI 48234 , (313) 366-3830
- **Bosch** Factory Service Center, 24405 Halsted Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48335 , (248) 476-7788 or <http://www.repairclinic.com/0070.asp?Brand=129>
- **Craftsman** - Sterling Heights. Service. 34650 Mound Rd., Sterling Hts., MI 48310, (586) 826-3871
- **Porter Cable/Delta**, Service Center, 30475, Stephenson Hiway, Madison Heights, MI 48071, (248) 597-5000
- **Makita** - 23 S. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341 (248) 335-7100

Screw Top Containers

Sydney Woodturners Guild - <http://www.sydneywoodturners.com.au/site/articles/techniques/torn%20grain.html>

Rather than cutting threads in timber for screw top lidded boxes which is tricky and not too successful on softer timber, use a leftover screw-top plastic container and turn a suitable outer wood cover. The plastic container is inserted into the wood cover and fixed with silicon adhesive..

Suitable plastic containers are often thrown out or kept for storing screws etc.



Spice or cooking stock containers can have a second life as something useful. The boxes shown in the photo uses Cooking Stock containers which are solid and well made. Beware though, many of these boxes have double start threads so if your grain doesn't line up, rotate the lid 180 degrees before pulling it to pieces (yes, that's experience speaking!)



3232 Essex
Troy, MI 48084

Stamp

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

