

*more*

# WOODTURNING

Volume XIII, Number 3

March-April 2008

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Allan Schwindt's Bottle Stopper Display.



Above: Hal Johnson coring with the Oneway System.



Black Flight by Marco Berera



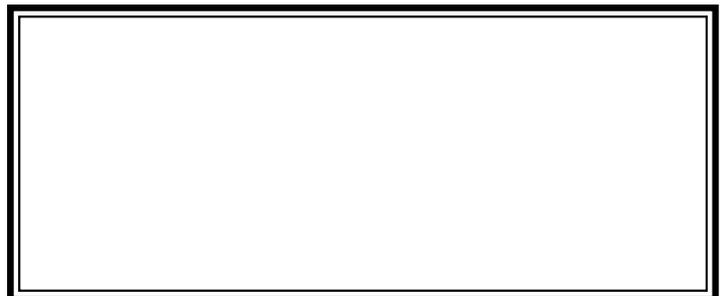
Shoe-ing-off II by Marco Berera



Fred and Mildred Holder's Stuff.

*In This Issue:*

**An Exercise in Coring  
Elbo Hollowing Tool  
Marco Berera and his work  
The Pen Turners Corner**



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## About the Cover:

Our cover this time is made up of pictures from stories in the issue or from extra photos that did not fit into the space available for the story. Several are of Marco Berera’s work. Two are from the IWCS meeting in January and one is of Hal Johnson coring a bowl with the Oneway Coring System

# EDITORIAL

After eleven years of producing More Woodturning with Pagemaker, I felt that it was time to upgrade. Unfortunately, Adobe has quit upgrading Pagemaker and came out with a new program called InDesign. This issue is done with that program. It has many features that are new to me and there are many ways of handling other material that differ from Pagemaker. One example is The Market Place. The different advertisements would not separate with lines as I’ve been using for years. Each advertisement is therefore begun with boldface for the first few words. I hope this will not make it too difficult to read. I’m sure that as time goes by, I’ll gradually master the part of InDesign that I need for this magazine. It appears that there is much more capability available than Pagemaker was providing. Plus it will handle more new file formats that Pagemaker would not accept. I hope there will not be too many glitches in this issue to make it hard to read.

**Fred Holder, Editor and Publisher**



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# An Exercise in Coring a Bowl

By Fred Holder

A few times a year, the Seattle Chapter of AAW has a sawdust session at Jack McDaniel's shop. Jack has a shop to dream about with all of the tools he needs plus enough space to host a demonstration or events like the sawdust sessions. At most sawdust sessions, there is some sort of demonstration by one of the more experienced turners in the club. One specific demonstration done last year was on coring bowls and was done by Hal Johnson of the club.

In this demonstration, Hal demonstrated the three major types of coring systems on the market: The McNaughton center saver system,

manufactured in New Zealand; the Woodcut Bowl Saver, manufactured in New Zealand, and the Oneway Coring System, manufactured in Canada. Of these, the McNaughton Center Saver and the Woodcut Bowl Saver systems have been around for several years. The Oneway system is a newcomer on the block. The McNaughton system is more difficult to use, but provides the greatest flexibility in the shape of the core being removed. Both the Woodcut and the Oneway systems cut a circular arc into the bowl blank and therefore remove a spherically shaped core. All of these systems work best with a lathe having about a 14-inch swing and a motor with more than one horsepower. The Woodcut Bowl Saver can be used with a 12-inch lathe and a motor with less than 1 horsepower.

I found this demonstration of considerable interest, because I have owned the Woodcut Bowl Saver since 1997 when I purchased at the AAW Symposium as a special from Craft Supplies USA. At the time, I had a Record Power CL-3 lathe with a 12-inch swing and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  horsepower motor. It did work on that lathe, but works much better on my Nova DVR Lathe today. I also have the McNaughton Center Saver system and have much less experience with it. It was nice to see someone else use it.

The rest of this story will be mostly photos and captions. I took 58 photographs of this demonstration and have selected only 22 of those photos for this story. I hope this story will give you a better understanding of these three systems

and whether they are worthwhile for you.



**Photo 1. Hal Johnson began the demonstration by mounting a roughly shaped blank on Jack's Oneway 24-36 lathe and prepared to turn it round.**



**Photo 2. In this photo Hal is defining the shape of the outside of the potential bowl. It is very important to turn the outside to near final shape before starting to core because this helps in the selection of which of the cutters to use for the first core. This is especially true if you are using the McNaughton Center Saver System.**

## *more* WOODTURNING

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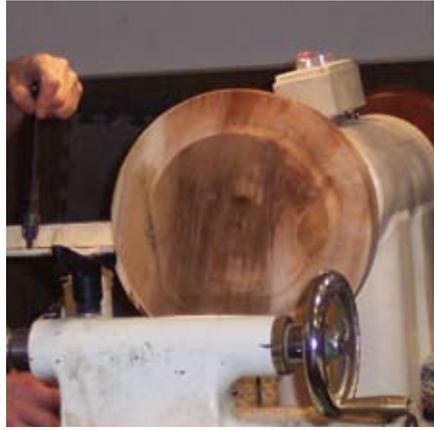
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**Photo 3.** Here Hal has finalized the outside shape and is finishing the tenon (foot) that will be held in a chuck during the coring process. It is important that the foot on the bowl be at least three inches and preferable four or five inches on larger blanks. My experience with making only about two inch tenons is that they lead to disaster. Every 2" tenon I've used has resulted in a dismantled blank while coring.



**Photo 4.** Hal has now mounted the blank in the chuck in preparation for coring. Note the portion in from the rim that was turned while turning the outside to define the rim of the bowl.



**Photo 5.** Truing the face of the bowl blank in preparation for coring. It is important for the face of the bowl to be smooth and flat for best coring operations.

*[Continued on Next Page ]*



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## Coring Continued from Page 5



**Photo 6.** Although the center of the smallest bowl to be cored can be removed with the coring tools, Hal indicated that his experience was that it was easiest to simply turn away the center of the smallest bowl, unless the wood was a very expensive exotic wood that you would want to create a very small bowl to use all of the wood possible.



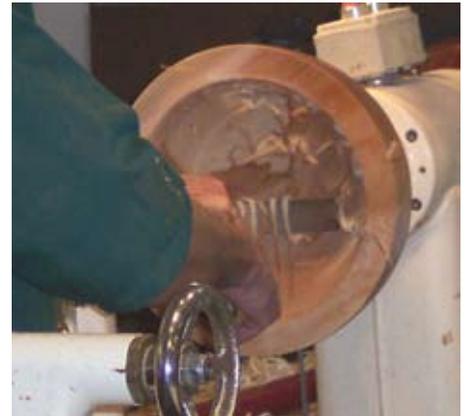
**Photo 7.** Hal said that his experience with the McNauthton system indicates that it is best to remove the largest core first, because the largest bowl is the most valuable. Working from the center out, it is possible to accidentally ruin the large bowl by cutting too deep on the other cores. Since this bowl blank is freshly cut wood he is leaving a wall thickness of at least 10 percent of the diameter, which will generally leave enough wood for final turning after the bowl has warped when drying.



**Photo 8.** Here Hal is continuing to deepen the cut toward the center of the bowl blank. It is important to stop as the cut begins to approach the bottom to see if the core can be moved. It is often better to break off the tenon of the core rather than have it cut loose and be thrown somewhere. Although one can continue to cut until the core actually comes out on its own and it will generally fall on the far side of the lathe.



**Photo 9.** This photo was taken just after the core had been removed. Hal noted that he likes to clean up the inside of the bowl before removing it from the lathe and setting aside for drying.

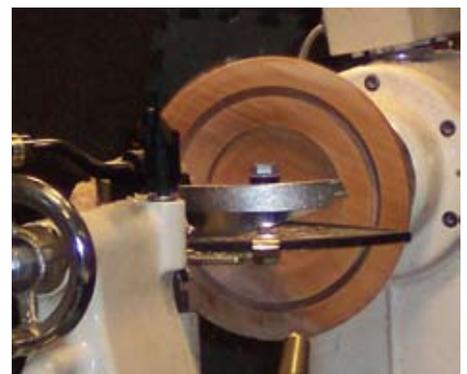


**Photo 10.** Here Hal is making a final pass on the inside of the cored bowl.

This process makes a smoother inside of the rough turned bowl and makes it a bit easier when it comes time to final turn the piece.



**Photo 11.** In this photo, the core from the previous bowl has been mounted on the lathe for truing up the outside and turning a new foot for this bowl.



**Photo 12.** At this point, Hal changed over to a Woodcut Bowl Saver to demonstrate the simplicity of operation of this tool. The person who owned the Woodcut tool did the demonstration, unfortunately I can't remember his name. He showed how you could core using

just a finger to move the handle. This tool is the least fearsome of the three tools, but is also more fiddly to set up because it required the tailstock to help hold the tool steady.



Photo 13. Hal started with a new blank that had been trued and had a foot turned for the chuck. In this photo, he is setting up the Oneway system. He is positioning it to remove the smallest core first. With the Oneway system, the cutter swings in an arc so that it is fairly easy to determine how deep the tool will cut and there is less danger of ruining the largest bowl.



Photo 14. Here the coring tool is starting to cut the smallest core.



Photo 15. The coring on the smallest core is nearly done. Hal cut it until it started to wobble and then removed the core with his hand.



Photo 16. Starting the next core out. Using this system it is fairly easy to maintain the wall thickness of the cores that are being removed.



Photo 17. This photo was taken just as the second core was cut loose and popped out of the bowl

blank. Hal hadn't really planned for that to happen because of the number of people watching the demonstration. But that one little cut resulted in a loose blank, which simply fell to the floor.

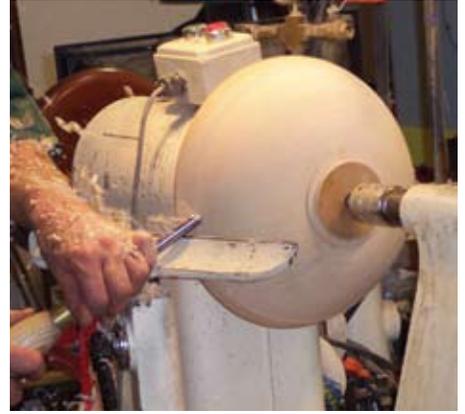


Photo 18. At this point Hal mounted a dry cored blank on the lathe to demonstrate the final turning operations. Here he is finalizing the outside and the foot of the bowl.

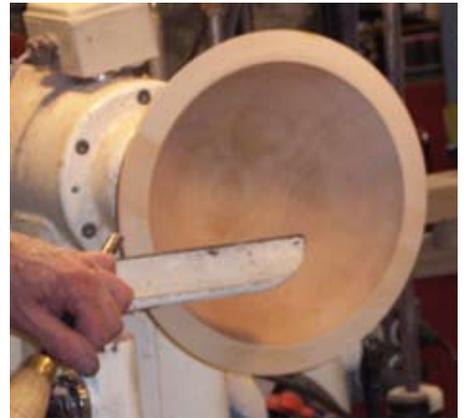


Photo 19. The bowl has been mounted in the chuck and the top of the rim is being final turned to remove all traces of the warping from drying.

*[Continued on Page 12]*

# Elbo Hollowing Tool-A Review

by **Chuck Willard**

I like hollow turnings. I enjoy the result but - the hollowing itself? Not so much.

Up to now I have done all of my hollow turning “by hand”. Holding the cutting tool as it rattles and chatters its way through the rough, knotted interiors of various woods, soft or hard, course grained or fine, wet or dry, punky or good -- well, you get the picture. Not a happy experience for aging arthritic hands. And then there’s the constant checking to make sure that the vessel wall thickness is uniform. And then there’s the unhappy experience of putting the tool through the side wall of the vessel just as you’re making that final cut. It’s enough to make one swear off hollowing - if it weren’t for the anticipation of the final result.

So I was looking for something to make hollowing a little more tolerable.



**Stan Townsend demonstrating his ElboToo**

At the 2007 Desert Woodturning Roundup in February, Stan Townsend was demonstrating his ElboTool.

The ElboTool is Stan’s invention. It is his approach to taking a lot of the strain out of hollowing. There is also a laser accessory to help with judging vessel side wall thickness. So this looked like a promising possibility for easier hollowing.

The ElboTool consists of three rugged steel bars bolted end to end to form “elbow joints”. The bar on one end is mounted securely to the quill of the lathe tail stock. The bar on the other end contains the cutting head and sits on the lathe tool rest at the centerline of the work piece. You use the tool by grasping the front steel bar and guiding it along the tool rest so that the cutting head enters the wood in a controlled fashion.

I watched the demonstration for a while and thought “this looks too easy”. Stan invited me around the other side of the lathe to give it a try for myself. I was impressed with the amount of steadiness and control that the Elbotool provided. But the wood being used for the demonstration was not like the wood I use. This was nice uniform wood with no knots or checks or squirrely grain or punky spots.

I call my turnings “Natural Turnings” (see [www.naturalturnings.com](http://www.naturalturnings.com)) and I use “fog” wood (found on ground). So I try everything from red pine to Osage orange, mesquite, juniper, apple, walnut - whatever comes along. It can be soft, hard, course grained, cracked, knotty, punky, you name it, I’ve attempted to turn it.

So while I was impressed enough to order one I was also a little bit skeptical, and anxious to see for myself whether the ElboTool would work for me.

I have a short (24 inch) bed Nova DRV 3000 lathe. Until recently the ElboTool would have been too long to be workable on this lathe. But Stan has recently come up with a bed extension device that is adaptable to the Nova. After a couple of phone calls to clarify what I needed, I ordered the ElboTool.



**Packaging of the order was impressive.**

It arrived by Priority Mail from Oklahoma a few days later, neatly packaged in a professional looking box and encased in foam packing material.



**The parts ordered are shown here.**

I ordered the following parts and accessories: Basic ElboTool assembly, laser bracket base with metal clamp, laser, lathe bed extension assembly, 1/2 inch nano carbide bar, 1 inch cutter, extra 1/4 x 1/4 inch cutter (one comes with the basic



**First trial with the new Elbo tool on my DVR Lathe.**

tool), 1/2 inch adapter. This came to \$459.99 including packaging and shipping. (The basic ElboTool itself is \$249.99)



**Close up of the tool hollowing in the small vase.**

I decided to try out my new purchase as soon as it arrived. As a first test, I turned the outside of a small (about 6 inches in diameter) walnut log that was a cut-off from a lamp base I had just made. This piece was dry and knotless but was full of splits on the end and so provided an added stability test for the ElboTool. Once the outside was turned and a 2 inch hole bored in the

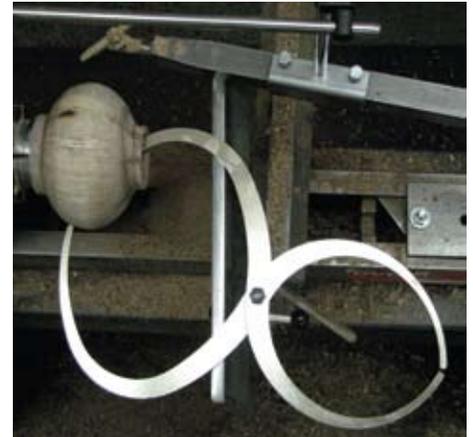
end with a Forstner bit, I was ready to mount the ElboTool.

I had to go to the ElboTool website (ElboTool.com) to copy down the installation instructions. Once this was done, it didn't take long to set up the ElboTool on my Nova. (It would have saved me about a half hour if these instructions had been included in the package.)

Using the ElboTool on this piece of walnut was as smooth as I

remembered it from my trial at the Desert Wood Turning Roundup.

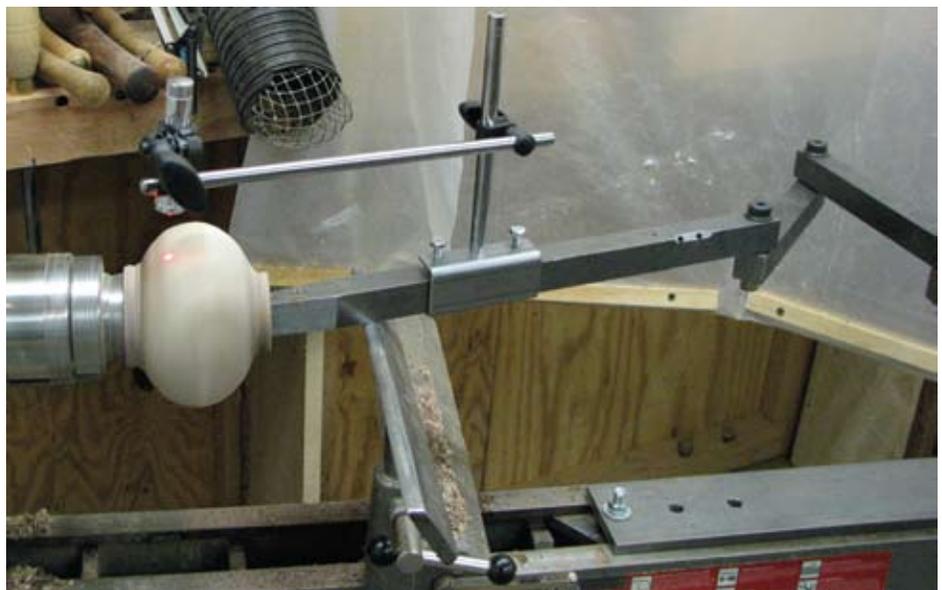
When I got the piece pretty much hollowed out, I mounted the laser for the final quarter inch or so. My goal was a uniform wall thickness under 1/8 inch.



**Measuring the wall thickness.**

As you can see, this was achieved, resulting in a nice little walnut pot, which sold quickly at a craft show.

*[Continued on next page.]*



**Here the setup has been changed to add the laser with a goal to get the wall thickness down to about 1/8 inch.**

**Continued from Previous Page.**



**The finished pot.**

I found that the laser accessory worked very well on this small (5 inches in diameter x 4 inches high) pot. And that the ElboTool provided a distinct advantage over hand hollowing, in stability, control

and in absorbing a lot of the stress that would otherwise go into by my hands and arms. The cutting tools supplied with the tool give a smooth, uniform, easily sanded finish when used with appropriate care.

Next, I tried a bigger challenge, a piece of wet and wormy red pine full of knots. This gave considerably more chatter than the the docile walnut. If I got too aggressive with the cutting edge, the elbow tool bucked and chattered on the tool rest. I tightened the connecting bolts a little and backed off on the size of the cut. I was getting pretty good results and got the wall thickness under 3/8 inch.

Time to mount the laser and finish up. Here is where I ran into my first problem, but not with the ElboTool itself.



**Second project underway.**

It was that the length of the laser mounting rod was too short for the laser light to reach the bottom of the pot. I did as much as possible until I reached the farthest extent of the rod. I got a very acceptable and relatively smooth wall thickness of under 1/4 inch. I demounted the laser at this point so I could finish the pot sans laser guidance. Big mistake! In my haste to finish up, I caught the tool on a low knot and blew up the pot. Too bad. It would have been a pretty little pot, especially with the light of

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a votive candle shining through the translucent amber knots. A friend of mine says he runs his life by the twin principles of persistence and patience. I've got the persistence down pat but I'm still working on the patience.

The next day I went to the hardware store and bought a 3/8 inch diameter rod to replace the short one that came with the ElboTool. The ElboTool rod is .39 inches or 10mm, but my hardware store only carries 3/8 or 7/16.



**Trial Number 3 went well and is already sold.**

Trial number 3 went more smoothly even though the piece was just as challenging: Red pine again, wet, ant-eaten and rotted. Objective, a 3/32 inch wall vessel. Success. Here it is. Already sold.



**Another test with the tool.**

So all in all, I'm very satisfied with the ElboTool. I only have three suggestions for Stan Townsend: Put the installation instructions in the package, go to a longer laser support rod and finally, keep inventing. You can contact Stan at staninvent@cox.net. Give him my suggestions. Tell him I said hi.

**Chinese Ball Tools**

I have recently become a dealer for the Crown Chinese Ball Tools and have an inventory of sets and extra handles on hand for immediate shipment.

A set includes one handle, four cutters, a tool to make a tapered hole, and a pamphlet written by David Springett. These are priced at \$125.00 for each set.

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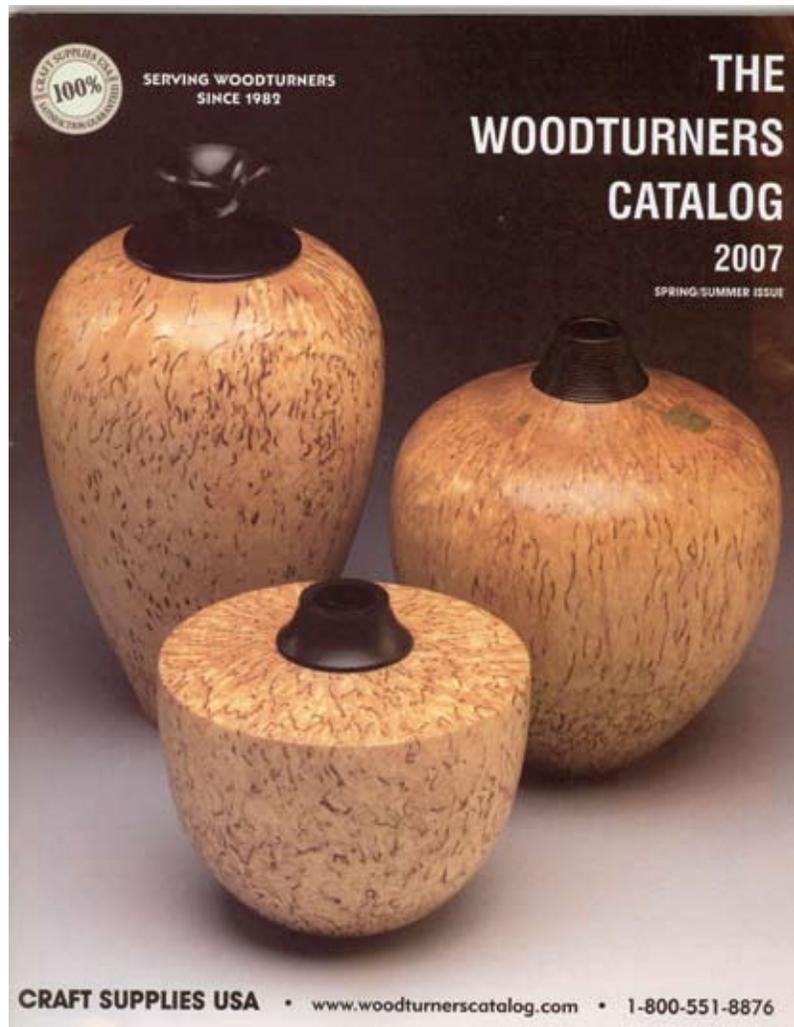


**Photo 20.** Here Hal is finish turning the inside of the salad bowl with fairly aggressive cuts.



**Photo 21.** Carefully he makes the final cut to the center of the inside of the bowl. This is the cut in which you can tear out a chunk requiring additional passes to clean up the bottom, which can be very bad if you've already turned the wall thickness to the planned final thickness.

Over the years, we've had articles on all of these coring systems, but this is the first demonstration that I've seen where all three were demonstrated. It was an excellent demonstration and we again thank Jack McDaniel for making his shop available for these demonstrations.



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# Questions and Answers from the Internet

## Computer to Design Shapes

**Question:** I found recently that turning to exact specifications can be a real exercise versus the usual go with the flow turning. It’s fabulous for making you learn tool control. So, I wonder if there’d be a way to “economically” use the computer to generate some designs and print them out to use as guides. Note the “economically” as I know that there are programs to buy that can even generate Lord of the Rings. Primarily I’m thinking of flowing curves rather than complex designs. —Tom Nie

**Answer:** I understand you not wanting to buy anything if possible;

however, what you want to do is best done with a program called “3D Design Pro”. This program lets you create shapes and even import digital images as the starting point. You can print out your final design and take it to the shop. If you also have Woodturner PRO, you can import your design into it and create the plans for creating your design as a segmented vessel. I don’t remember the web address exactly, but I believe that you can get there at this address: <http://www.woodturnerpro.com/>.

The program isn’t very expensive, as I recall, but it is very powerful as a design tool to do things like you are talking about.

—Fred Holder

## Finishing

**Question:** My usual finishing process on my bowls is two coats of Formby’s Tung Oil > Finish (dry 24 hr between coats). These are hand-rubbed. After the second coat dries, I lightly sand with 400 paper and add another coat. Then I do a 4th coat and sand with 600 wet or dry paper. My main question here is for these final finishing steps, does anyone know the relative fineness of the following materials: Liberon 0000 steel wool, white fiber mesh type pads, Rottenstone, pumice, 400 mesh paper.

—Bob,

[Continued on Next Page]

## Continued from Page 13

**Answer:** Seems to me you are working awfully hard to get a high gloss finish. I've found that sanding to 320 or 400 grit, then applying two coats of Formby's Tung Oil with a sanding in between and, then when dry, a buff with the Beall Buffing System accomplishes the same sort of finish without all of that work. Since I don't use the finer and finer mesh stuff, I can't comment on them.

It was several years ago, after I witnessed Soren Berger of New Zealand turn a bowl and sand to 220 grit, apply one coat of Formby's Tung Oil (Soren said that he normally applies two coats and allows them to dry before buffing), wipe it off and then buff with the Beall Buffing System, that I went home and ordered the Beall system, I've never been sorry.

Incidentally, you get two very fine grit buffs with the Beall system and a high gloss finish with Carnuba Wax. I don't use it all of the time, because I normally just use Walnut Oil on my bowls, which can be buffed if one wishes when completely dry.

—Fred Holder

## Circle Cutting Jig

**Question:** I just built the circle cutting jig you described in your July 2007 issue. It works like a charm. I had been cutting half logs free hand only to jam my bandsaw and create lots of frustration. My first effort flew through the bandsaw and came out a real circle. Since I like to turn natural edged bowls, do you have any advice on finding the true center on the bark side of the circle, that is the opposite side from the fulcrum

used in turning the circle? I enjoy your magazine.

—Alan Gilburg

**Answer:** I always start my bowls between centers. If starting a natural edge, I would use the hole that I sawed the piece round as the tailcenter and would simply eyeball the center of the bark side at the headstock, but only let the point barely sink in enough to hold it in place. Then I would check first for balance; i.e., turn loose of the blank and let it swing if it chooses. I would then correct a bit on the headstock end and repeat until the bowl didn't turn or swing down when I released it. I would then snug it a bit and check with the tool rest to determine how close it was running to true. You can still make some minor adjustments at this point. Next, I would check the high points and the low points of the bark and make any adjustments until these were balanced. When both are balanced, I would snug it down and turn the outside of the bowl including the foot for mounting in the chuck. This is the way that I do it.

If you are using a recess for your chuck, you can simply use a Forstner bit to drill a hole on the center of the flat side, using the hole that you cut the blank round on. You can then pop it into the chuck and check for the high and low points of the bark. It will take some shimming to correct these properly in case they are out. I still prefer the above between centers method. I start all of my bowls between centers and turn the outside and the mounting tenon while mounted between centers.

Hope this helps. It is not rocket science, but it works for me. Let me know how it goes.

—Fred Holder

## Need Help Hollowing End Grain Boxes

**Question:** I'm new to wood turning so far I love it. I've been turning pens. It's time to move on and I'm trying to turn a box, the wood I have is maple (4x4 piece) I found from work that we use to keep material up from the floor for the fork lift. I'm trying to hollow it out with a 5/8 bowl gouge but its getting caught (kick back) I don't want to give up but don't know what to do. Am I using the proper tool? What am I doing wrong???

—Jose

**Answer:** First thing, the Bowl Gouge is not a tool to hollow end-grain. (That said, there are a number of experienced turners who do use a bowl gouge to hollow end-grain pieces, Stuart Batty is one such turner. He uses a bowl gouge for just about everything, including spindle work.) A fingernail ground spindle gouge of 3/8" or 1/2" will work fairly well. Start by drilling a hole in the center almost to the depth that you plan to hollow. Then make cuts with a fingernail ground spindle gouge from the center up to the left toward about 10:00 O'clock on the face of the box. Use a sort of scooping type of cut and don't take too big of a bite at any pass. You should be cutting just to the left of the tip of the tool. As you get deeper, roll the gouge on its side with the flute toward the outside and use a pulling/scraping cut to smooth and straighten the sides of the box.

A narrow square end scraper will also work fairly well. You use this tool by pushing straight in with the tip of the tool slightly down and on centerline of the wood. A straight in push toward the outside of the

box, move toward the center and repeat until the entire surface has been lowered a bit. Then, repeat going down only about 1/8" or less at a time. I often grind these out of an old Carpenter's chisel or a new one purchased from Harbor Freight.

The Box Tool sold by Crown Tools is a 3/8" piece of round stock with a grind on the top almost to the center of the stock and then a bevel on the bottom side of about 50 or 60 degrees with a slight taper on the end of a couple of degrees to the right. You can make a fairly serviceable copy out of a piece of drill rod of about 3/8" diameter.

This tool works quite well, especially on harder close grain woods. It is used about the same as the small square end scraper I described above.

As I mentioned in a recent post, the Hunter Tool and the Eliminator Tool are both excellent end-grain hollowing tools. They use round carbide cutters that are very sharp. When they dull, you loosen the screw and rotate the cutter. When it is all used up you throw it away and buy a new cutter. The cutters last a long time.

Another tool that works great for hollowing end grain is the One-way Termite Tool, which is a small ring tool (about 3/8" in diameter) that work very well for hollowing end-grain. It is subject to catches in the hands of an inexperienced turner. It works similar to a gouge with the handle put on at 90 degrees.

—Fred Holder

## New DVR Lathe

**Comment:** I got a call this morning from a friend in the States. He picked up my lathe at Woodcraft in Sacramento and is on his way down!! My wife and I spent all day rearranging the shop. Put a lot of non-shop stuff away, made other stuff more compact, even turned her "break area" into a work station for her wood burning. The ol' Jet is 4 feet closer to a wall now and there's a huge open space near a 220v outlet for the Nova XP.

—Mac

**Answer:** I've used Teknatool lathes and chucks for many years. When I got my Nova 3000 several years ago, I mounted it on the stand that I was using for my Record CL-3 lathe. The mounting was a 2"x12" flat board. Cleaning out the chips under the bed was a pita. When I built the actual stand for the Nova 3000, I used two 2" x 6" boards for the top of the base. They were spaced apart about 2" so that the shavings could fall through the lathe bed and right

on down below. I keep a box top under the opening to catch most of the shavings. My whole stand is built of 2" x 6" boards, making the legs approximately 5" square as they touch the floor. It has a box built in about a foot off the floor that I filled with railroad spikes that I had on hand. The stand is solid and the lathe never even sways. When I got my DVR it simply replaced the Nova 3000, an extension was necessary because I also ordered a bed extension with the new lathe. I've never been sorry. That lets me get the tailstock out of the way when turning on a faceplate or a chuck. Good luck with the new lathe. I think you will love it.

—Fred Holder

*[Continued on Page 16]*



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# Trouble with Endgrain

**Question:** I'm relatively new at turning. I turned a bowl in high school woodshop 10 years ago, but the lathe is not a tool that has found it's way into my home shop until Santa brought me a Jet midi 1220. I have a nice set of 8 Crown chisels that cover the basics of turning. I have found that none of the chisels I have are very good for cutting out the middles of little coffee cups, wine glasses, goblets, etc that I have made to wet my feet again with the lathe. Granted, I'm using scrap hardwoods that I have glued back together to make practice blocks, so I am guessing hollowing out oak and maple isn't the best way to start out. But its what I have kicking around in the shop so it's as good a practice piece as anything. Anyone out there has any advice on how to properly cut and/or what type of chisels I should be looking for to make nice work of the end grain and the insides of bowls, cups, etc.? Are the hollowing out tools that are in magazines and websites worth looking into? What size cutter would be best for the smaller projects I would be working on?

—**Marc**

**Answer:** Coffee cups, wine glasses, goblets, etc. are not the projects to start honing your turning skills. End grain is the most difficult part to cut with turning tools, unless you have endgrain hollowing tools. The best tools that I've used for simple endgrain hollowing such as you are trying both have round carbide cutters: The Hunter tool which is available from several locations

now comes in three different sizes, I have the one with a 3/8" cutter and the one with a 1/2 inch cutter. They are excellent. The other one is the Eliminator Tool sold Packard Woodworks, Craft Supplies USA, and others. It has a heavier shaft with flats ground on the shaft to make it easier to apply the cutter at the right angle. It is available in a 1/4" cutter (a sweet little tool), a 3/8" cutter, and now, I believe with a 1/2" cutter. I have the first two sizes and they are awesome end-grain hollowing tools.

However, I think you would have better luck with your Crown tools doing spindle work. Also, if you are trying to use them as they came out of the box, they will not be sharp. New turning tools are ground, but almost never sharp. You can hollow end-grain with a spindle gouge (3/8" size is good), but it takes a lot of tool control that a new to turning person will not have. Try turning some of that scrap wood into little spindles, until you have excellent control of your tools. Actually, my choice of an object to turn to learn turning skills is spinner tops. You have end-grain cutting and cutting of thin spindles for the stem.

Try turning something more simple to begin with. I started turning 20 years ago with a bunch of chunks of firewood. I would turn them round. Then I would make beads their full length. I would make coves in the beads and then turn everything away and start over with beads until the wood became too thin to turn. This gives one tool control and practice in sharpening the tools.

—**Fred Holder**

## Question on Glue Blocks

**Question:** I have been reading your book on holding work on the lathe and found it most informative. I have been making glue blocks by epoxying a nut inside of a block of wood. In making face plates you specify that the nuts (3/4x16, 1x8, etc.) and washers that get welded together ought not to be plated or hardened because they won't turn or weld nicely. If you epoxy a nut into a peice of wood, does it matter whether the nut is plated or Grade 8, etc??

—**Bernie Feinerman**

**Answer:** When you are gluing the nut into a block of wood to make a glue block or faceplate, it doesn't matter what type of material it is, unless you wish to cut a recess into the nut so that it will fit over the smooth part of the spindle and allow the nut to register firmly against the shoulder of the spindle. If you don't do this, every time you screw on the glue block (faceplate) it will register differently. I generally bypass this need by having some machined washers on hand that can register against the shoulder of the spindle and then the nut can register against the washer. However, if you screw the nut with the glue block onto the lathe, turn its face true for the mounting, glue on the wood to be turned, and don't remove the nut and glue block until the turning is completed, it will not make any difference. Is that thoroughly confusing to you. It really needs a picture and I don't have one.

Incidentally, Craft Supplies is now selling spindle taps to thread wooden blocks and glue blocks to screw directly onto the lathe spindle

skipping the need for a nut. I purchased a 1" x 8 tpi and a 1-1/4" x 8 tpi taps to cover our lathes. They work great, but you do need to drill an oversize hole the depth of the unthreaded portion of the spindle before you drill the hole to be threaded. They work great and eliminate the need to glue in a nut to make a glue block or faceplate of wood. The taps are made by Beall.

—Fred Holder

## Squaring the End of Blank for Perfume Atomizer

**Question:** I sell a few of perfume atomizers and try to keep an assortment on hand, but have a problem squaring the ends with the tube. These are the ones with the 15mm tube. Too large of a diameter for my pen mill and the disk sander squares it to the blank, not the tube. Anyone come up with something effective, so I don't have to re-invent the wheel?

—Mac

**Answer:** I've never turned any of perfume atomizer projects, but with the problem you describe, I've turned many things that need to have the end squared as you describe. I mount a blank of hardwood in a chuck (or on a faceplate) and turn a tenon that will just fit into the brass tube and go clear to the bottom of the hole. Then slip the blank onto the tenon, bring up the tailstock and square the end with a skew chisel or parting tool. This technique has worked very well for me on a lot of different projects and should work on this project. In fact, you can turn

the outside of the wood and finish it while mounted on the tenon.

—Fred Holder

## Where to Get Woods Grown in England

**Question:** I am interested in making several bowls from English Oak. My family ancestry is English and I would like to make some gift bowls from wood that comes from England. Can you connect me with

a source for bowl blanks from native English trees.?

—Tim Luttrell

**Answer:** In 2004, we visited John Boddy's Fine Wood and Tool Store Ltd in England their e-mail address is <info@john-boddys-fwts.co.uk> and their web site is: <www.john-boddys-fwts.co.uk>.

In 2001, we visited Turners retreat and they had lots of turning blanks on hand. Their e-mail address is <sales@turners-retreat.co.uk>

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and their web site is: <[www.turnrs-retreat.co.uk](http://www.turnrs-retreat.co.uk)>.

We also visited Craft Supplies Ltd in England in 2001. They have physically moved, but their e-mail and web addresses should still be the same. Their e-mail is <[sales@craft-supplies.co.uk](mailto:sales@craft-supplies.co.uk)> and their web site is <[www.craft-supplies.co.uk](http://www.craft-supplies.co.uk)> We have purchased wood at each of these locations, but I never checked on English Oak.

—Fred Holder

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**ROBUST**

## PenTurner's Corner

by Don Ward

### Penturner's Meetings

I am often told by other penturners I meet that they wish they could visit with other penturners to share and learn. I hear from these penturners that most of the members of their local wood turning clubs are casual penturners at best. They make mostly slimlines and cigar pens but do no modifying or embellishing. Well there is a solution. Several groups of penturners are forming and holding meetings on a regular basis. Some meet once a year. Others meet more often. And, some meet on a regular basis.

Where do they meet? How do I find out about these meetings? Well, you've come to the right place. I have the inside scoop and will now tell all I know. Probably the most well known group meets in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and has a clever name for the meeting place as well as the group: Bubbasville. We meet regularly in a member's shop and occasionally meet at other's shops. Meetings are held on one Saturday each month along with one Tuesday evening. Turners attend from up to 100+ miles away as often as possible. We have demos that are both scheduled and impromptu. Dvd's of the demos are made and made available to those who were not able to attend. Heck, we even have webcams and broadcast the meetings via the internet. What a great time!

Other Bubbasville groups have been started in several places. Groups are now meeting in the Houston area, the east coast area, New England, and the south east

(Atlanta). Some groups are more active than others. Complete Bubbasville information can be found at <http://www.bubbasville.com>. No group close to you? I encourage you to organize one and publicize it on the penturning groups. I would bet that several penturners will show up. Think about it!

A couple of years ago I made arrangements with the Woodcraft Store in Ft. Worth to use their classroom/shop for a penturning meeting. I picked a Saturday when they had no classes scheduled and the store was very accommodating. They even offered 10% off for all penturning supplies purchased that day. I announced the meeting on the penturning forums for 2 months prior to the big day. I provided all of the information I could about the meeting. I had demos and also invited any who attended to do demos. We had 30 penturners attend. Some stayed all day; others came and went as time allowed. One guy coordinated the meeting with a visit to his parents. He traveled from Arkansas. We had a great time. Plan a meeting. Publicize it and see what happens. "If you plan it they will come."

Another group is going strong and will soon be having their annual meeting. The Midwest Penturning Group will meet on March 29, 2008 at W Springfield Ave & S Duncan Rd in Champaign, IL. For more information, check out the meeting forum at <http://s3.excoboard.com/exco/index.php?boardid=1737>. Several excellent penturners will be attending and doing demos. I've looked at pictures of this event and read reports. They have a full Saturday and they have fun. If you live close enough to attend, this meeting should definitely be written on your calendar.

If you are attending the Utah Woodturning Symposium, then make plans to attend the Craft Supplies Super Wednesday. There will be 3 penturning demos at CAUSA that day. Afterwards attend the 2008 Penturner's Rendezvous that evening. This will be the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Rendezvous and is worth the effort to attend. Check out the details of the 2008 Penturner's Rendezvous on the Penmaker's Guild website at <http://penmakersguild.com>. Also, pictures and reports of the last two year's rendezvous are also available.

Take the initiative to organize some kind of penturner's meeting at one of the local or regional symposiums. Your efforts will be rewarded and your penturning skills will improve by just talking with others on penturning issues. Maybe you will be able to watch how it's done if someone does a demo.

### **Penturning Without a Mandrel**

Yes, it can be done. Yes, on your lathe. Yes, a pen can be turned between centers without using a mandrel. In a previous article I made reference to turning a pen without a mandrel and promised more information at a later date. That day has arrived.

Although not a new idea, turning pens between centers has gained a following in the last several months. Threads are started each day on the penturning forums about turning pens without a mandrel. A few penturners started using this method and touting its advantages. Others have gotten onboard. One guy is even making special bushings to use. I will give more information on these specialty bushings later.

Turning pens between centers is accomplished by using a dead center and a live center along with the pen blank and bushings. **See figure 1.** The blank is prepared as usual with the bushings in place. The blank and bushings are mounted between centers with the dead center and live center points inserted in the holes normally used for the mandrel. The dead center is in the headstock and the live center is in the tail stock. **See figure 2.** Lathe speed is set and the pen blank is turned as usual. Use just enough tail stock pressure to keep the blank from slipping.

Why turn pens between centers? One of the recurring nuisances of turning pens is the 'out of round pen', or a pen whose ends are not concentric with the brass tube. Or, the pen ends are oval shaped. These conditions and their solutions have been dealt with in other articles. Turning between centers is reported to solve the out of round pens. As long as the head stock and tail stock are in alignment, turning between centers may solve this problem. I've been investigating turning pens between centers and here are my findings, both pro and con.

### **Bushings**

Some kit bushings are suitable for turning between centers and others were not. Those that worked best for me were the ones that had the shortest distance from the outer end of the bushing to the blank. Those that were longer tended to make the set up less stable and the blank wobbled. The sierra bushing was one of the stock bushings that I found to be unsuitable. Most others worked fine. But, I have only tested those kits and bushings that I frequently make. The slimline stock bushing will not work. Check this link for custom

bushings made for turning between centers: <http://tinyurl.com/232o75>. These bushings are made using CNC equipment and are amazingly accurate. These bushings will not work with a mandrel. But, slimline bushings are available for turning between centers. If I decide to begin turning pens between centers, then I will definitely begin to acquire these bushings. I hope I have a metal lathe soon so I can make my own. .

Another consideration for using stock bushings is to insure they are in good shape and that the hole is centered. If a set of bushings are performing acceptably on a mandrel, then they should perform equally well between centers. In my shop bushings are for reference only. The parts of each pen I make are measured with calipers and the blanks are turned to final size using these measurements.

One drawback to turning pens between centers is that only one barrel can be turned at a time. Some think their pens look better esthetically when both blanks are on the mandrel at the same time. Others say that it takes more time turning one barrel at a time. Reports from those who are using this new method are that they thought the same thing. But, turning one barrel at a time has not changed the appearance of their pens nor has it added any appreciable time to the making of a pen. And, turning one at a time is not the nuisance they thought it would be. Those who routinely use this method are enthusiastic with the process and the results they are getting.

As I continue to read and investigate turning pens between centers I have made another discovery:

*[Continued on Next Page]*

## Continued from Previous Page

sanding and finishing using this method is getting as much attention as the turning. When finishing pens between centers, the bushings are removed and the live and dead centers are placed right into the ends of the tubes. See figure 3. Apply enough tail stock pressure to just hold the blank for sanding. Sanding this way achieves several purposes. First, metal dust from sanding the bushings no longer contaminates lighter woods with darker discolorations. Secondly, by not sanding on the bushings wear and tear on them is minimized, if not eliminated, so they last longer. Thirdly, finishes such as friction polish, CA and lacquer no longer build up changing the bushings' diameters. This is an advantage to those who do not use calipers to determine the final dimension of their pens. If your pens are getting appreciably larger in diameter than the pen parts, maybe your bushings are being enlarged with layers of your finish. Conversely, if your pens are getting appreciably smaller than the pen parts, then maybe your bushings are getting smaller due to sanding.

Is turning pens between centers for everyone? I would say probably not. The casual turner of pens may not want to invest in the special bushings. They are expensive. Using the stock bushings may prove satisfactory for many penturners. But, for the serious penturner or for those who make pens that sell for a handsome price, turning between centers may be the springboard to take those pens to the next level. The feel of a pen made from an exquisite piece of wood and where the wood and pen parts meet with



Figure 1

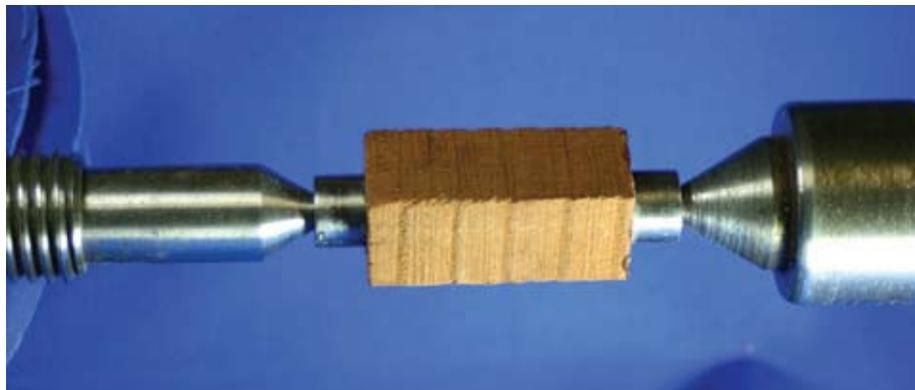


Figure 2



Figure 3

no noticeable transition is real joy to behold.

Give turning pens between centers some consideration. Try it out. You may find that your pens are better this way than with the mandrel.

I will be at the Utah Woodturning Symposium in May. I look forward to meeting new penturners. Email me if you are going and want to spend some time talking pens between the demos. I look forward to meeting any who are interested.

Remember, I would like to hear from those that find these articles

helpful or from any who need more information on any topic related to penturning. Email me at [don@RedRiverPens.com](mailto:don@RedRiverPens.com).

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# News in the Trade—What's Happening in Woodturning

by Fred Holder

**The Las Vegas Association of Woodturners** is hosting a one day demonstration of turning techniques by Stuart Batty on March 15, 2008, to be held at The Woodworker's Emporium (See advertisement on Page 15 for contact information and location). Information: Brent Ross, 702-458-7979, or, [brent@ross.bz](mailto:brent@ross.bz).

\* \* \*

**A Don Geiger Woodturning Event** will be held on Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be a one hour lunch break at Noon. The event will be held at the Pembroke High School Auditorium, Routes 77 & 5 in Corfu, NY, 14036. From I-90 take exit 48A, go ½ mile south on Route 77. The event is sponsored by the Lockport Woodworkers & the Pembroke Woodturners Guild.

\* \* \*

**IWCS Southwest Regional Meeting** will be held in Mendocino, California on 10 - 11 May 2008. This meeting will be held at the Sequoia Vista Tree Farm (several sawmill demonstrations, woodcraft, sample exchange, pygmy forest walk) and Sunday at the North Coast Botanical Garden (logging and botany lectures).

Fee for lunches, entrance, etc., \$40. Suggest attendees check out Google lodging for the "Mendocino Fort Bragg Area". There will be scores of possibilities from well under \$100 to much more. Numerous restaurants at all prices in Fort Bragg and Mendocino. Contact Bill Tarleton for registration prior to April 15. [Btarl@comcast.net](mailto:Btarl@comcast.net) or by phone at 925-939-8052.

\* \* \*

**The 2008 Utah Woodturning Symposium** will be held May 22-24 at Utah Valley State College in Orem, Utah. By the time you read this, they should have their web site updated for the symposium. Check their website at: <http://www.utahwoodturning.com/site/page/pg1205.html>.

\* \* \*

**The 22nd Annual National AAW Symposium** will be held on Friday June 20 -through Sunday June 22, 2008 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond Virginia. For more information on this symposium check the AAW website at: <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2008/>

\* \* \*

*Note: These are the events that we know about. If your group is planning an event with people outside the group invited, please let us know enough in advance to give you some publicity.*

**The fourth session of wood and wood products conference** will be held April 6-7, 2008 in Shanghai, China. The conference is sponsored by [www.mujiiaohui.com](http://www.mujiiaohui.com) and this will be its fourth conference since its founding in 2006. The conference attracts many well-known enterprises and wooden products purchasers and suppliers from the US, Canada, Burma, Britain, Germany, New Zealand, Laos, Russia, Mozambique, France, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore as well as Hong Kong, Taiwan and local areas. For more information check out their website: [www.mujiiaohui.com](http://www.mujiiaohui.com)

\* \* \*

**Segmented Project Planner Segmented Version 2.6** is now available for segmented wood turners. Specifically included are:

- Automatic downloading of program updates. It's no longer necessary to remember to visit their site to stay current.

- Segment painting improved by requiring fewer mouse clicks for color revisions.

- Incorporated global segment color changing, making it easier to make significant color changes to an existing design.

- Modified Segment Designer to preserve color assignments across changes in the number of rows or columns. This means less pain and strain in developing new mosaic layouts.

According to Bill Kandler, creator of the software and an accomplished segmented turner, "These changes will make segmented project design even easier and faster and enable Segmented Project Planner users to painlessly stay current on program versions."

As always, this new release is free to existing program customers via a download from their web site (<http://www.segmentedturning.com/upgrdspp.exe>) and pricing remains at \$39.95 for the installation CD. For more information or to order, contact: Bill Kandler at Telephone: (805) 489-5309 or by Email: [bkandler@segmentedturning.com](mailto:bkandler@segmentedturning.com) Website: [www.segmentedturning.com](http://www.segmentedturning.com)

# An Unusual Tool: Using [YouTube.com](http://www.youtube.com) to Improve Your Woodturning & Widen Your Reputation

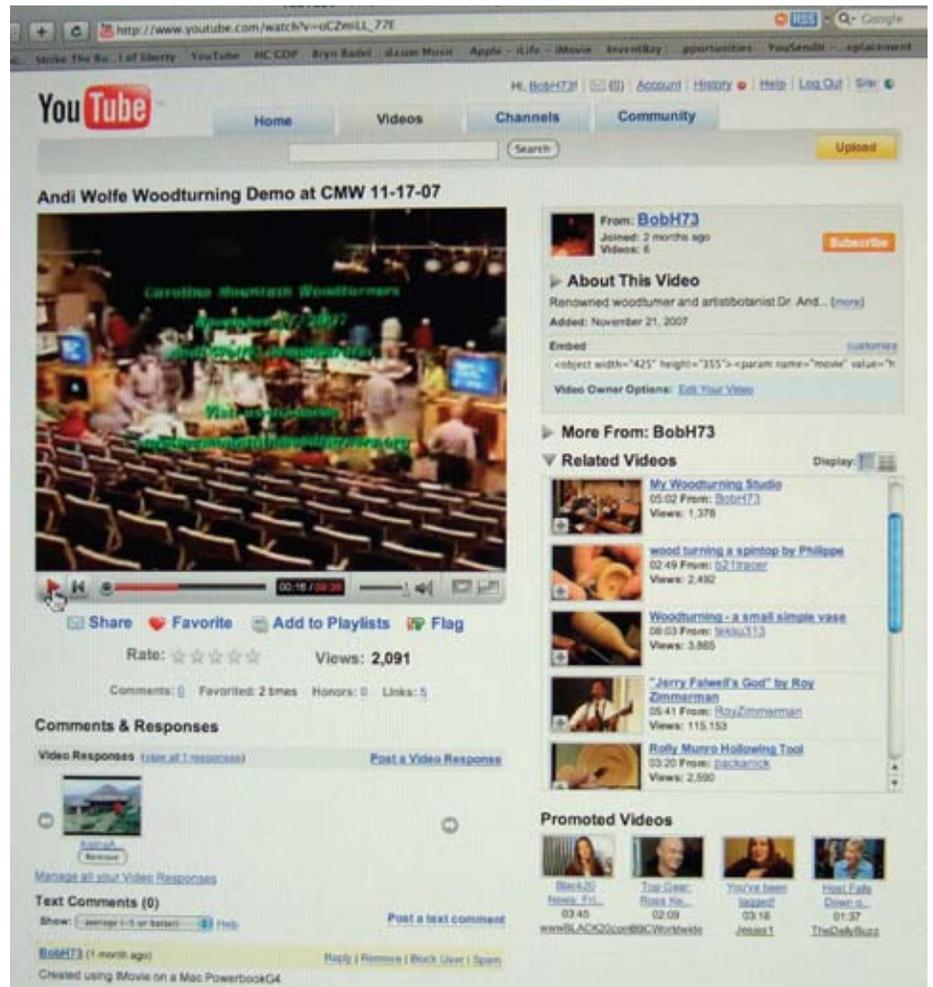
by Bob Heltman, CMW, AAW

If you go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) on the Internet and search on the word “Woodturning” you will be surprised, as was I, to see the many interesting, short videos. On January 15, 2008 such a search produced “about 252” hits. Next day it was 256 and the trend is for more.

If you sort on “Relevance - views” you will see that the most viewed video “Blair Davis - Turning Trees Inside Out” got over 40,085 views since it was posted 1 year ago. I wonder how many woodturning books or DVDs get checked out of woodturning clubs or town libraries to such a degree?!

In short, [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) is a new learning tool for woodturning. It is also a fun tool for the amateur woodturner to use by taking a home video about woodturning and posting it on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com). This is free and easy to do by just following the steps shown on the web site. Some videos are short, just a minute or so. Many run around 5 or 10 minutes and cover a key aspect of woodturning. Some videos are nearly a half hour long. Clarity, called resolution, varies, but the points to be made in the videos are sufficiently evident.

A quick count, that will most likely be out of date by the time you read this article, shows a half dozen videos by clubs, 3 or 4 are of woodturning collections, some are historical (like da Vinci’s lathe, a replica in action), a couple are



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humorous, most just show how to make some or all of an object, like a bowl, honey dipper, etc.. Some cover sharpening, others feature new products like special chucks or new lathes. The great majority are in English, but a handful are in Spanish, German, French, even an Oriental one.

I was also astonished to find "big names" featured: Ron Kent, Andi Wolfe, Bonnie Klein, Hans Weissflog, Mike Mahoney, William Hunter, David Ellsworth, Rudi Osolnik, Jack Vesery, Christian Burchard, Ray Allen, Chris Ramsey, and so on. Some are profiles, some are short demos.

A number of new things I learned include: Turning Flowers, Captured Ring Goblet, Homemade Hook Tool, Wooden Spoon, Finger top, Robin Hood bowl, Fiona's Miniatures, Double Rim Vessels, Spin Top in France, Floating Ring Honey Dipper (mostly by skew!). The beginner could learn a lot more, especially if residing in a remote

location with no woodturning club nearby. The intermediate or experienced turner can always pick up a few new ideas.

These videos will not replace a DVD of a several hour demonstration by a top-notch woodturner. Turn to your woodturning club's video/DVD library for those. But, there is a lot of learning on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), with more to come. Making your own video is getting about as easy as digital still photography. A good video camera can be had new at around \$325. Add a tripod, and some editing software like IMovie06 or, better,

Final Cut Express 4. You can even add background music through such software. I have posted several woodturning videos on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), with more to come.

Have fun and keep on turning and learning!

# Letters

## In the last issue:

I note your bit on 1000 Legni Woods. I have some wood here that floated in on the sea from somewhere to the west. There is a long story which would be good to know. Maybe Gianni can help identify it so I have asked him for a postal address.

I note in your Questions and Answers that Dave asked about drilling pen blanks "Why the concern about [pen blanks] being centered initially". I don't think you really answered that one. My answer would be that this is important only for the middle faces of a two part pen. If the hole does not start at the same place on these center faces then the grain will not match when the pen is finished.

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# Tool Holder for Tight Shop/Studio

by Bob Heltman, (c) CMW,  
AAW

I've got plenty of room in my studio. So much so that I keep crowding it with more "necessary" stuff. This, of course, causes a shortage of space. That led to designing a standing tool holder; it uses vertical more than horizontal space. By placing it on casters that lock, I can move this rack away from the drill press when drilling is required. The picture, Figure 1, shows the front which faces my lathe. I stand between the rack and lathe.

As you can see above, the rack is full to overflowing. Tools are kept apart by a series of 3" finishing nails across the wood strip reinforced top of the 1/2" plywood back. It angles backwards somewhat so the tilt of the tools keeps them in place. Tool bottoms rest on a 1x3" shelf. Two small shelves fit below between 2x4" angled braces and the 2x4" uprights at each end. I keep adding holes and holders!

Protruding screws and more holes hold wire wheels, sanding discs, polishing brush, gauges, etc.. Some longer tools even stand on the foot supports under which are locking casters (below, including dust).

Figure 2 shows the tool rack snugged up against the drill press. My apron hangs on the rack's back, and my face mask on the 2x4" upright at the near end. The round plywood at the top has Velcro(c) strips across the face that hold 2" dia. wavy edged sanding discs.

There are neat shops with nary a shaving on the floor. I started out that way. Now I sweep up when I hear crunching sounds under my feet. At least I vacuum collect dust



Figure 1. Front view of the Author's mobile tool holder.



Figure 2. The tool rack is backed up against the drill press.

when turning and use a dust stopping face shield. Very little debris gets upstairs, which creates domestic tranquility. ?

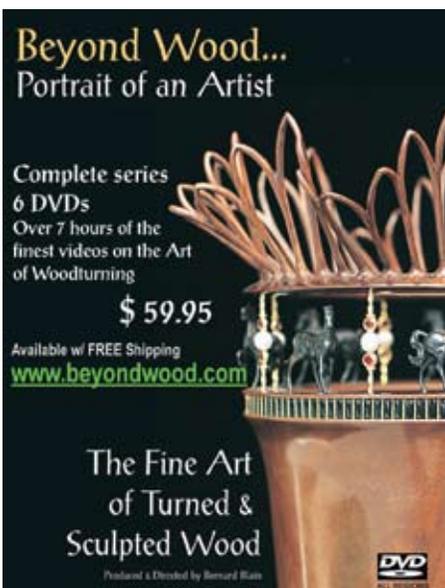
This tool rack is about 5 feet wide and 4 1/2 feet tall. The support feet are 18" long, of 2x4s. The round sanding disc holder at top is 2 feet in diameter.



Figure 3. This view shows the type of caster used on this tool stand.



**Figure 4. This angled view shows the left hand end of the tool holder stand as it is backed up to the drill press.**



## Woodturning Books For Sale

We are pleased to offer the following books from Linden Publishing for sale through More Woodturning.

Here are the titles we are offering:

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- 500 Wood Bowls \$24.95
- Beyond Basic Turning: Off-Center, Coopered, and Laminated Work,  
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- Segmented Turning: A Complete Guide, by Ron Hampton \$19.95
- The Art of Segmented Wood Turning: A Step-by-Step Guide,  
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# Marco Berera and His Work

by Fred Holder

I first saw some of Marco Berera's work at the Puget Sound Woodworking Center's Symposium in 2001. Marco had his large Saturn box on display in the Instant Gallery. It was very likely the most impressive piece in the gallery. I was very impressed with his work. It was not until May of 2004 I actually was able to see him demonstrate. Until he retired from Canadian airlines, he didn't have the time to travel around and demonstrate at clubs other than his own Greater Vancouver Woodturning Guild in British Columbia, Canada.

Marco was born and raised in Switzerland. He was trained as a pattern maker and spent a good share of his life making patterns for castings and moldings. He says, as a pattern maker, you never used cutting tools to shape the pattern everything is done with scrapers.

When he started to turn as a hobby, he learned to use gouges, skew chisels, etc. I would suspect that a lot of his work is still done with scrapers. Marco does some rather unique turning, such as his lattice top boxes; he also makes a lot of the small tools that he uses.

Recently Marco sent me some photos of his current work and gave me permission to print them in More Woodturning. Two of the photos that he sent were taken during a demonstration at his local club recently. One is Marco holding the Saturn piece that I previously mentioned and another is of the jig he had built to allow the offset for turning pieces such as this. I believe his normal demonstration is a lattice top box.



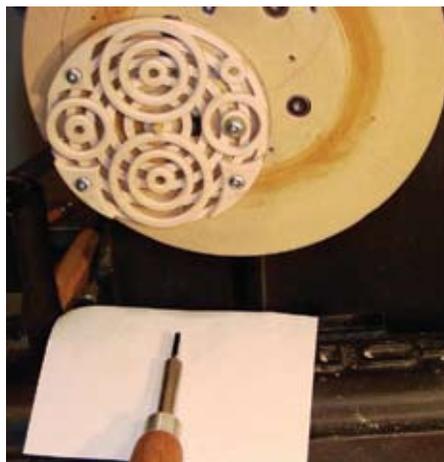
Marco Berera showing his Saturn Box during a demonstration at his local club.

At least, in the two demonstrations that I have seen, the lattice top box was the project.

Marco does a very interesting demonstration and explains everything in very simple terms. He also tells some funny stories which he intersperses as he goes along. Marco is a very dynamic demonstrator exhibiting great skill with his work.



Close up of the Saturn Box that Marco is holding above.



The photo at the left is a shot of a trivet on a faceplate with cutting tool below. This was a demonstration piece.



These two views are of a piece that Marco calls "Lincoln". The entire piece is shown on the right and a close up of the face is on the left.



Shoe-ing-off is spalted fiddleback maple with Ebony heel pad and stem with black paint. Stand is made up from cut out pieces from the shoe. The piece is 10 inches tall and 9 inches in diameter. Photo at left is a shot of the center of the piece.



These two pieces are called Courtship. They depict a love dance of the grouse. They are made of maple that has been torched and ebonized. The overall size is 17 inches by 9 inches by 6 inches. The pieces can be moved about to get a different look to it.

The photo on the right shows the project called WASAK, a Swiss Army Knife made from a spruce 2 inch by 4 inch by eight foot board. All wood was used up. The cheese is made of left over sawdust and glue. Overall 24 inches long. Lathe and bandsaw fit into the knife.



# Northwest Chapter of IWCS Winter Meeting 2008

By Fred Holder

The Northwest Chapter of the International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS) held their Winter 2008 meeting in the Truck Museum of the Antique Powerland Museum in Brooks, Oregon. This was a bit different from some of the previous meetings and provided a comfortable place for the group to meet.

This was also the meeting where the "Lesser Known Species" woods would be distributed to the members wishing to try them and be willing to donate one of their pieces to the "Friends of the Carpenter" who had furnished the wood for us to try. The Friends of the Carpenter will use these items in their annual fundraiser in the fall of this year. Each person wishing to participate paid \$5.00 and the line of people then rotated until the wood was exhausted. The woods this year were: African Canarium (*Canarium schweinfurhii*); Mkanati (*Erthrophleum guineense*); Berlinia (*Berlinia acuminata*); Australian Cypress (*Callitris intratropica*); Copaifera (*Copaifera mildbraedii*); Baillonella; and White Dhup (*Canarium euphyllum*).

A representative of Antique Powerland gave a brief talk concerning the history of Antique Powerland, which is a 62 acre parcel of farm land that was set up to host the annual event known as "The Great Oregon Steam-Up." A number of organizations have been attracted to include museums on the site. The building we were using for our meeting was the Truck Museum and across the road was a

steam-powered sawmill which was demonstrated for us after lunch.

After lunch break at about 1:30 PM, the group moved to the Steam Powered Sawmill for an interesting demonstration. They had one large boiler that was supplying steam to run the saw and also an edger, which was converting the slabs sawn from a log into 1" x 4" lumber. There was also a smaller steam engine next to the bleachers whose purpose was to extract the sawdust from the sawing operation. It had a conveyor belt charged with removing the sawdust. Unfortunately, it did not fully do its job and the operators had to dig loose backed up sawdust and finally had to shut down the saw for safety sake. It took a fairly large group of volunteers to operate this sawmill, but it did the job of converting a log into flat boards.

**Right: A close up view of the saw blade in the steam powered sawmill.**



**One of the most interesting show and tell items was Allan Schwindt's bottle stopper display unit. It was a sphere with holes drilled in it to accept bottle stoppers. The sphere was mounted on a turntable so that it was easily rotated.**



**In this photo the log is just moving into the rotating saw blade. This was an impressive demonstration of how wood was milled at the turn of the last century. A large wood fired steam boiler provided the steam to run the saw, move the carriage, operate the slitting machine and all of the other machines in the sawmill. A small steam engine on the left, but not showing, was charged with carrying away the sawdust to keep it from building up and causing problems. Unfortunately, it didn't do its job as well as it should have because they had to shut the saw down to clean out the sawdust that was building up underneath of it.**

# Tom Thumb's Tops (or Tom's Thumb tops)

by Bob ("Tom for now") Helman, CMW, AAW

Every year our remarkable club, Carolina Mountain Woodturners ([www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org](http://www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org)), invites members to produce dozens and dozens of ornaments, some of which are little tops, to be used to decorate a Hospice Christmas Tree. The tree has been purchased by Klingspor's (The Sanding Catalog - [www.klingspor.com](http://www.klingspor.com)) and the money given to a local Hospice organization. The CMW club ALSO has a major Tops for Tots program, with dozens more tops of many different types donated to kids in need.

Well, I found some very different types of tops than I had ever seen or heard of before, on the Internet. First and foremost, credit for such tops, which spin on the tip of one's finger, goes to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDBprGjCrxE>. I came across these neat little tops by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching on "woodturning." There were 259 hits on 1-19-07, and probably many more as you read this article now. A great French top show is on: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulx13ohwsqM> where you can see a top spinning on top of another top, camshaft top, pear shaped top, a square one, LED lighted top, multi-axis top, one with small ball bearings within a recess on top of a top, one with a siren sound, another propelled via a straw blowing along side, and numerous amazing top tricks. Lots of ideas for Christmas 2008!



Finger Tops.

The secret to these tops that spin on one's finger (or thumb, as shown here) is that the point is recessed about 1/4" to 1/2" under the rim! The picture with 6 tops shows the set back points in red. Many designs are obviously possible. I used Bonnie Klein's chatter tool technique on a couple, felt tip pen coloring, friction wire burning in a groove, and so on. A drop of thin superglue on the small turning point will give it strength and long life.

One of the fun tricks that will keep the top spinning is to use a soda straw and blow strongly along the lower side of the top. The side should be the one spinning away from the straw's tip. The current of fast air makes the top go faster and faster! FUN!!

I wondered if cutting little nicks in the top's side (lower left in photo) would help catch the air, and whether a smooth friction rubbed finish (lower right) would impede speed by just allowing the air blast to slide by and not have any effect.



Spinning on the Thumb.

Both tests proved nothing. The tops all spun about the same.

I used some slightly spalted FOG wood (FOG = Found On Ground) that once was fairly close grained to make the pictured tops, and they ALL work! Of course, it would be better to use kiln dried rock maple, dogwood, or a similar even textured and close grained hardwood.

Look up the resources shown on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), make yourself some of these fun tops. Keep some on hand for kids of all ages too.

## Meet Gianni Cantarutti of Italy



Gianni wrote an article that we published in the December 2007 issue of More Woodturning. In that article, he mentioned that the Culturalegno organization would be participating in an upcoming fair. The Associazione Culturalegno was constituted in Udine in 1990 by Gianni Cantarutti with six other founder members.

At the Domuslegno 2007 fair, the members of Culturalegno presented an exhibition entitled Idee Sostenibili (Sustainable Ideas) to promote the rational use of wood through certification by the Forest Stewardship Council, which has been invited by Culturalegno to contribute to the event. After the event was over, Gianni sent me a picture of himself and his book 1000 legni woods, which was mentioned briefly in the February 2008 issue of More Woodturning. I thought you might like to meet him.

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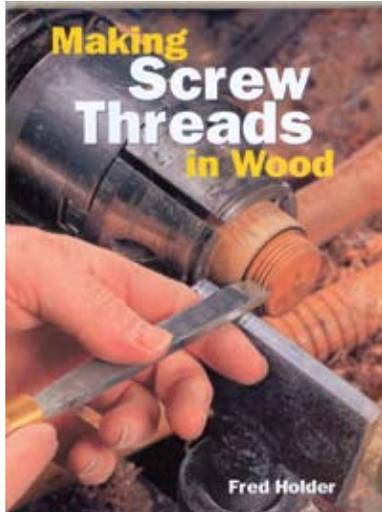


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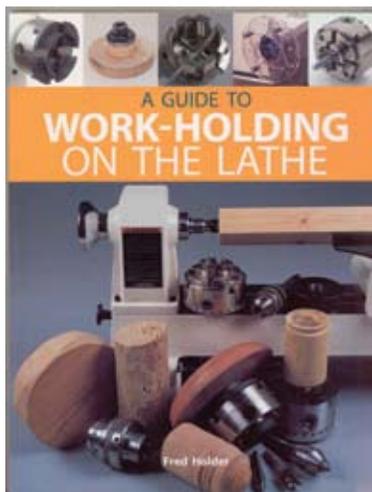


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## Editor's Books for Sale



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Price: \$27.00, plus \$5.00 s/h

These books seemed to be missing from most US Sources. So I have purchased 25 of each book for resale. If you haven't had an opportunity to purchase one, this is an opportunity to get a signed copy. Books will be shipped by Priority Mail.

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**Making the Chinese Ball, Revised 2007**, by Fred Holder. The revised booklet outlines Fred's trials and tribulations in attempting to conquer this project. Tells how to make the tools needed to use the Crown Chinese Ball Tools. Booklet now contains 60 pages of information. Order from Fred Holder, PO Box 2168, Snohomish, WA 98291. Price is \$10.00 including shipping. Telephone 360-668-0976.

**Chinese Ball Tools**—I have recently become a dealer for the Crown Chinese Ball Tools and have an inventory of sets and extra handles on hand for immediate shipment. A set includes one handle, four cutters, a tool to make a tapered hole, and a pamphlet written by David Springett. These are priced at \$125.00 for each set. The handles include a wooden handle and a metal piece to attach the cutters and ride on the ball. These are priced at \$36.20 each. I recommend three additional handles. Note: If you order the set of tools and three extra handles, I'll throw in one of my booklets on Making the Chinese Ball. Total price for this deal is \$233.60/ Fred Holder, PO Box 2168, Snohomish, WA 98291, 360-668-0976.

**Woodturning classes** – Satisfaction guaranteed. Call Larry Miller 360-412-1583, Olympia, Washington"

## Balancing System



This balancing system is especially designed to be mounted on the outboard side of your lathe and is suited to do out-of-round off-centre work.

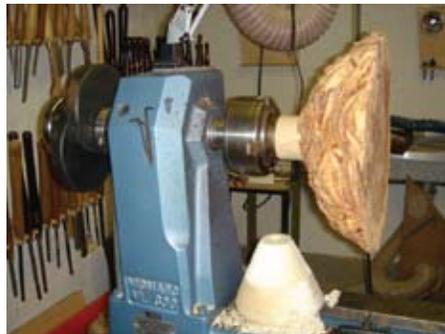
When using this system it will allow you to work at a higher RPM.

Part No.	Description
V01404	Balancing System 1 1/4" x 8
V01403	Balancing System M33 x 3.5
V01402	Balancing System M30 x 3.5

To counteract out of round weight distribution.

Balancing System Specifications	
Diameter	200mm
Thickness	25mm
Net Weight	7.7kg
Gross Weight	8.9kg
Insert Carrier	M33 x 3.5

As stock is removed you need to rebalance your work simply by undoing the grub screws and turning weight to desired spot.



*For your nearest Vicmarc® dealer please contact us:*

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