

WOODTURNERS GUILD OF N.S.W.



By hand and eye

NEWSLETTER NO. 2/84

APRIL, 1984

OBJECTIVES

- a) To promote the craft of hand woodturning in N.S.W.
- b) To bring together individuals interested in woodturning.
- c) To exchange woodturning ideas and knowledge through such avenues as :

Discussion
Seminars
Demonstrations
Recurring Education
Competitions

- d) To encourage interest in woodturning through the display of turned articles at exhibitions, shows, fairs, etc.
- e) To inform members of the availability of turnery timbers and associated items. Where possible to arrange purchase at prices advantageous to members.
- f) To seek and exert a progressive influence on the design and techniques of woodturning.

NEXT MEETING: 29th June 1984.

Subject: Drying the Microwave Way
Bruce Leadbeater.

All correspondence to: THE SECRETARY,
WOODTURNERS GUILD OF N.S.W.
21 WOODBURN AVE.,
PANANIA. 2213

• Newsletter material to: THE EDITOR
WOODTURNERS GUILD OF N.S.W.
31 ADAMS ST.,
FRENCH'S FOREST. 2086

GENERAL MEETING

Was well attended and again we welcomed visitors from the Hunter Valley Woodturners Association.

Unfortunately Mike Darlow was unavailable at the last minute, but his place was taken by Bruce Leadbeater, Snr. Lecturer, Industrial Arts Dept, Sydney Institute of Education who exhibited bowl turning and the use of the expanding face plate chuck which he has developed and is marketing through the Woodfast Machinery Company.

Also Burnie Axford was not able to attend and his demonstration of woodturning tool types and grinding will be given later. Consequently John Ewart showed the technique and equipment for auger boring.

AUGER BORING. (John Ewart)

When turning articles with a hole on the axis, such as a standard lamp, it is normal practice to rough turn the timber, bore the hole through the centre and to ensure concentricity, use the bored hole as a centre for the detail turning.

The job is held in a cup chuck and shorter pieces can be done with the outboard end free standing and bored right through from one end. Longer pieces are supported at the outboard end using a special steady and to ensure that the bored hole is accurately centred at the ends, are bored half the length from each end. Consequently rough turning of shorter pieces must include a tapered length at one end for insertion in the cup chuck and longer pieces must have both tapered section at each end for the cup chuck and a parallel length to suit the steady.

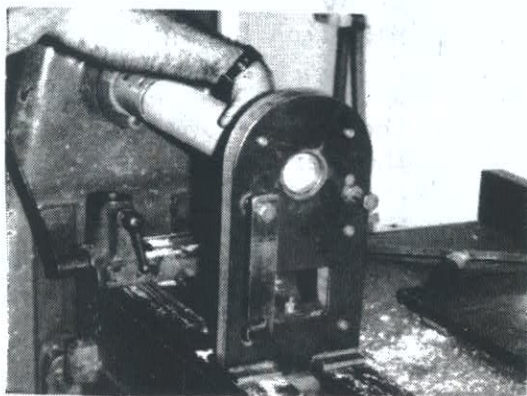
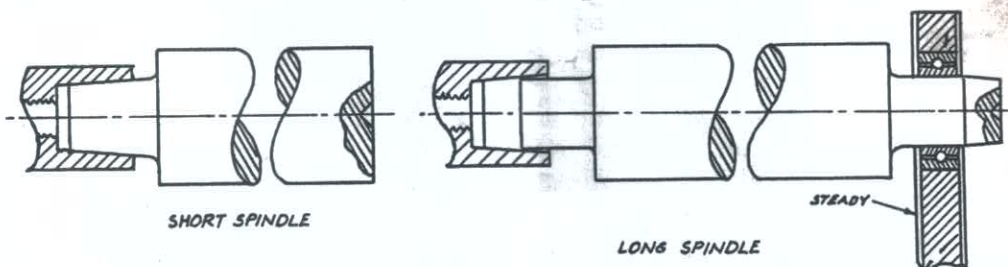
Having trued the piece in the cup check, the outboard end is dimpled with a skew chisel adequately deep to ensure that the auger starts accurately on the centre.

It is not necessary to use a guide or rest when using the auger as the spinning action tends to keep the auger centred as it passes through the timber. (Reversal of the longer pieces should not really be necessary unless only a small amount of timber is available for finishing). Mineral oil is used as a lubricant and the auger is withdrawn

frequently to remove the cuttings and avoid jamming. The socket for joining the sections of a standard lamp is made by boring to an adequate depth with successively larger diameter augers, first opening the end of the bored hole to the same diameter as the larger auger to enable an easy and accurate start to be made. In the absence of a series of different sized augers the techniques of turning a straight sided pill box are applicable, but of course require accuracy. Various styles of augers are available and each has its own adherents.

The steady used in this procedure is simply a ball race sealed into a suitable support (a sealed ball race would be preferable). The hanging bar which appears on the steady in the photograph forms a convenient rest for dimpling the end grain and is swung out of the way when boring.

For driving the work when finish turning a pin centre is used.



FACE PLATE CHUCK (Bruce Leadbeater)

A pamphlet describing the chuck is enclosed with this newsletter.

Special features are that the expanding action is produced by screwing the chuck onto the special faceplate and a safety feature of internal restraint which prevents the chuck jaws flying off should the lathe be started without the workpiece on the chuck.

It is impossible to reproduce Bruce's delightful narrative style here, but we will have the pleasure of his company again on 29th June when he will describe the method he has developed of drying timber in a microwave oven.



REEDING AND FLUTING. (George Hatfield)

On a vertical drill.

The demonstration George gave showed how easy this is -- if you have the equipment which he has developed to make it so.

This consists of a stand to hold the work piece horizontal but free on the drill table including an indexing head and a toolholder and guide secured in the drill chuck. The beauty of this latter device is that various cutters can be made easily and ground to different contours for different styles of reeding or fluting and that the depth of cut can be adjusted in seconds.

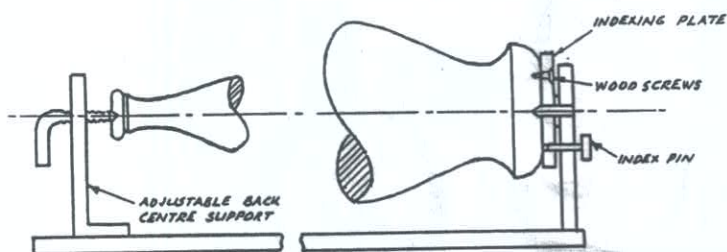
Points to watch:

The cut should be made down the grain as is normal in woodturning.

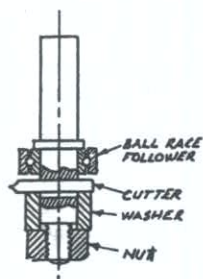
The guide marks soft timber, so when setting the cutter for fluting make the cut slightly deeper to allow for final cleaning up with abrasive paper.

The ball race guide should be as small diameter as practicable to allow it to follow sharper concavities in the shape of the job.

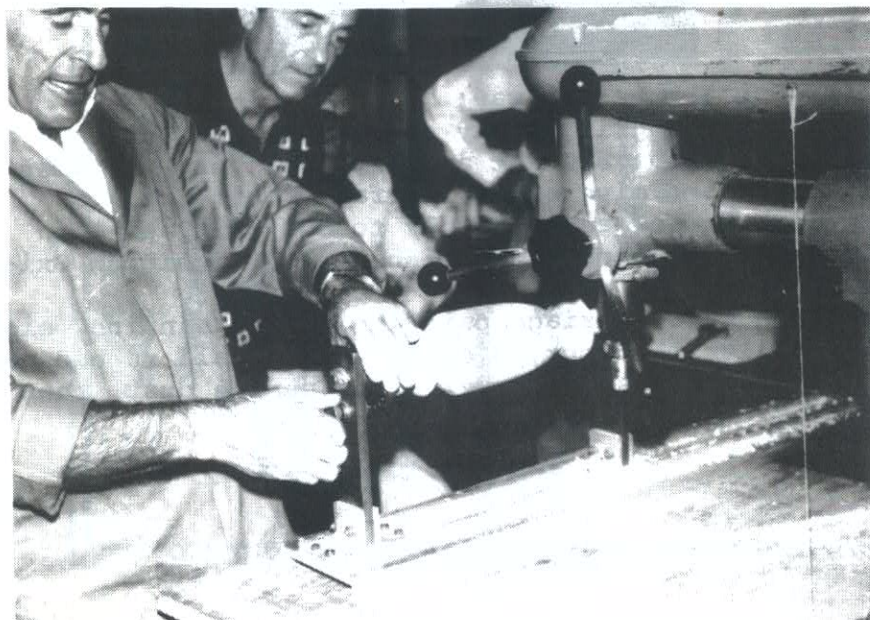
Care should be taken in the design of the reeding/fluting to ensure that the ball race will have an original surface to guide from on the complete periphery of the job.



SUPPORT & INDEXING ATTACHMENT
FOR FLUTING & REEDING



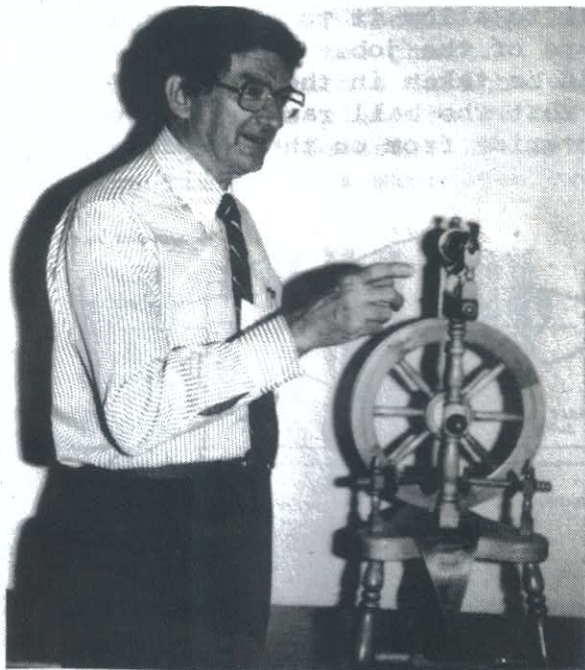
TOOL HOLDER & FOLLOWER
FOR FLUTING & REEDING



MONTHLY (?) COMPETITION

The Pennant was won by Mac Knowles with a fine example of a small spinning wheel in Huon Pine.

The quality and numbers of entries returned to their previous standards. Tom Bartie was high in the running and another entrant with a bowl and wooden fruit showed that Tom's perfection of finish can be achieved by others.



Finishing the Tom Bartie way:

Sand to about 360 grit, apply single pot polyurethane and rub down with about 280 wet and dry (wet) enough times to fill grain and give smooth surface about 6 coats. Final coat cut back successively to 600 grit and then water rubbing compound and polished with Aluminium Oxide powder.

Compare with 1880 carriage painting; after sanding, eight coats of filler & colour, 6 coats varnish all rubbed back between coats. Finish with very fine pumice dust, then oil, then flour on fine flannel.

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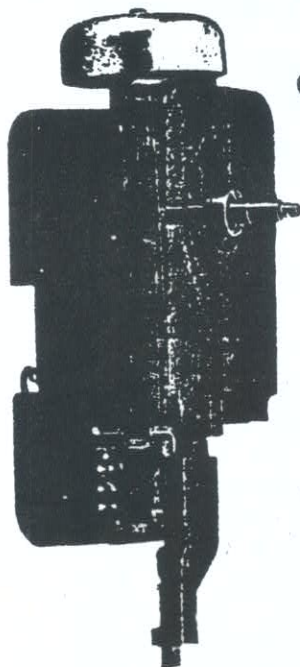
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CLOCK MOVEMENTS

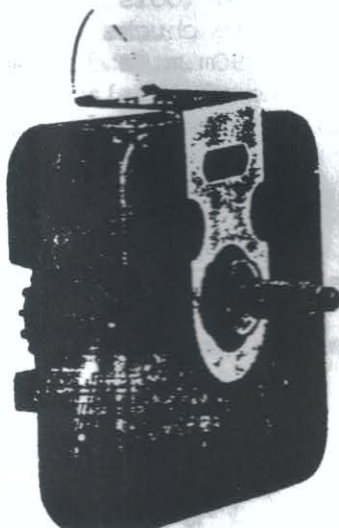


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CORRESPONDENCE in reply to the letter in the February Newsletter.

Sir,

Regarding Palmer's Plight:

I would like to ponder Richard Palmer's preponderate predicament published in the February Newsletter. Well Dick, you stated there are three ways of learning woodturning. I will elaborate on those three ways in which you can't learn and suggest a fourth way you can't learn woodturning.

1) Prolix Tech course.

The three year course offered at the Tech College is designed to educate woodturning apprentices. In effect apprentices are expected to receive their training from their place of work. I have served an apprenticeship, worked for a number of years in the trade, taught woodturning for 17 years, and I am still learning about woodturning. It takes practice and patience for a prolonged period.

2) Private lessons.

Contemplate for a minute how long it takes to learn the skills of woodturning and educational communication to a level where one is professionally qualified to teach. Then add the cost to supply a building, lathe, other machines, power, timber and time. Now ask yourself if the charges are a reasonable cost for private tuition. By the way, when was the last time you paid for driving lessons, golf lessons, private remedial school lessons or even paid for anything? Then consider the pennance paid by the private pedagogue in the pursuit of pecuniary persuasion.

3) Professional woodturners.

Why should a professional woodturner spend time (in which he can be making money to support his family and needs) to give away information it has taken him years to learn? Have you ever asked an off duty doctor what is the remedy for the pain you have? He too will prevent pillaging people from peeking to preserve his particular prestigious profession.

- 4) Procuring knowledge from books.
A book can tell you how to turn, but it can't tell you what you are doing wrong or how to correct the particular mistake you have made. In other words it is not possible for a book to perceive the probable persistent malpractice performed by puzzled pupils.

In summing up Dick, anybody wanting to learn woodturning has to be patient, persistent, perceptive, precise and prepared to pursue perfection.

George Hatfield.

.....

Sir,

I would like to congratulate Richard for his ambition to become an expert woodturner, this attitude is certainly the right approach for success. However, in my opinion I am sure that there is no quick or easy method to achieve this goal.

The three year Tech course is well worth the time and effort, as you will learn all the basic techniques. The next alternative is the twelve month Craft Course, if this is available in Sydney. (Not at STC.Ed). I think you would realise, from the above that if a woodturner were to attempt to teach you properly to achieve your goal, it would take a lot of time and an awful lot of practice on your part.

I hope to complete the three year course this year and have no hesitation in recommending it to you as the best way to learn the skills necessary for successful woodturning.

I hope that this reply is of some help and wish you every success in this most rewarding craft.

Chris Medlicott.

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Dear Editor,

I read with amazement the letter which appeared in the February Newsletter written by a Mr. Richard Palmer. It appears that the writer is completely ignorant of the skills, time, patience, guidance and perseverance necessary to become just a woodturner let alone become an expert.

From the tone of the letter it would not be hard to imagine why a professional woodturner would not devote the time necessary to pass on the various aspects of the trade (I presume Mr. Palmer regards these as trade secrets) I am sure he could not criticize the 3 professional woodturners who are in the Guild as George Hatfield, John Ewart and Burnie Axford are always willing to pass on the knowledge they have gained over the years.

Also had the writer been aware he would also have noted from the advertisement that the Woodturning Centre at Mosman do teach rank amateurs at a cost more than comparable with other types of private tuition.

Dear Richard I really think your talents should be directed towards maybe brain surgery which you may be able to learn overnight whereas woodturning will take considerably longer.

Allen Reay

.....

Sir,

Regarding my experiences as an amateur woodturner seeking training, various avenues have become apparent:

1. Trade Course at STC.

Not available to the hobbyist because you now have to be engaged in an affiliated trade to get in, which left me out.

2. Week End Courses in Blue Mountains and other locations.
Not available because personal commitments did not allow me to be away at the weekend.

3. Adult Education Classes.

I attended at Castle Hill and found these good for the beginner with no experience or equipment. Here I learnt the basics but then it was more or less up to me to choose projects and gain experience. A number of people always demanded the teacher's attention. Those least experienced needed more of his time, leaving little for those who wanted to advance further. Classes went in 10 week terms, one night a week for two hours and cost \$32 a term.

4. Private Classes.

The Woodturning Centre runs classes in modules e.g. faceplate, between centres etc. either of an evening or on Friday or Saturday daytime. These modules are a more

Another answer in lighter vein.

You'd like to be a turner but you haven't got the brass,
Nor do you have the insight to get up off your arse.
Your view expressed I understand is honest and with clarity
But to me it looks as though what you want is charity.
There might be some who'll help you, who'll rally to
your call,
And if my memory is right the're called St Vin de Paul.
With all your glowing attributes, so ready, willing, able,
If I were you I'd pack it in and contemplate my navel.

(Brought out by various speakers at the Queensland Woodturners Society Seminar.)

Rough turn and cover with wet bags to retard drying. Note that this can encourage growth of fungus which is active when the timber contains between 20% and 30% moisture.

Placing the rough turned articles in a box of dry sawdust results in slow and even drying. The sawdust must be replaced regularly.

on Friday or Saturday
faceplate, between
The Woodturning Center
Private Classes, and

Oil/Wax Bath.

Bruce Leadbeater has experimented with this method and although he considers microwave drying superior, has dried turned articles in this manner. He has found that non-pored timbers (softwoods) do not respond well to this method. Distortion occurs with both methods and the article must be turned oversize for later finishing. Obviously, articles not suited to a wax finish should not be dried in this way.

For safety a double boiler should be used and preferably indirect heating (no open flame).

To one gallon of olive oil add $\frac{1}{2}$ lb beeswax and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb carnauba wax (obtainable from Illawarra Stationery at Carlton). Heat in the double boiler until all the wax has melted and the temperature has stabilised.

Place the articles in the mixture and the moisture will be seen to fizz out as steam. When the fizzing slackens off the article is reasonably dry.

Distortion may give rise to difficulty in rechucking but the chuck and cutter developed by Bruce are suitable for use for articles which have been turned with a recessed bottom.

Timber Availability.

Next issue we will list commercial outlets of suitable timbers but in the meantime be aware that the Forestry Commission at Pennant Hills has limited quantities of suitable green timber available from time to time at reasonable cost. A good opportunity too for a quiet family walk through the associated forest reserve.

Editorial Note:

Non urgent articles and information for publication or suggestions for the Committees consideration are welcome at any time.

Since the Newsletter is produced by voluntary workers it would be appreciated if copy for the forthcoming issue could reach the Editor no later than 4 weeks after the general meeting.



Vice President
Bert Britton.

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