



WEST SUSSEX

WOODTURNERS

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

An Associated Club of the AWGB

Before the main attraction of the day the Chairman made a couple of very important announcements.

We have resubmitted the Charity application, which has been acknowledged and we are now waiting with bated breath to see if the raise any further queries.

The AWGB have a new representative, Richard Peers. Don't hold your breath as another will probably be along shortly.

We have another Kids Activity days at Amberley on the 19th of April. We have a further event on Saturday 27th April when we will be hosting a load of Scouts. If you can help out, please contact Colin Smith.

Next month we have a competition on Involute turning. I've put it up here in case no one reads beyond this point.

Last but not least there are still tickets available for the Annual Evening Bash contact Steve Savage, but you need to do it quickly.

I need to thank my daughter, Beth (aka The Interloper), for taking the notes needed to produce the Newsletter. She won't be here for the June meeting as she will be off canoeing and camping in Finland. So the Newsletter for June will revert to being the usual rubbish, and about half the length it might have been.

In other news Colwin Way has apparently left Axminster but will be running a YouTube video channel from 2nd May at 4.15.

Thus we came to the reason for being out and about on Sunday. A demonstration by Richard Findley (Thanks go to Tom Bradbury for pointing out the spelling error in last month's newsletter. It's good to know someone reads it.)



Richard's main work is as a production turner. He started out as a carpenter working for his father but then decided he needed something to do during their long lunch breaks, so he started turning.

The first item on the agenda was to be a bedside lamp.

The base was a 2" x 6" bowl blank and the upright was a 2" x 10" Spindle blank. To start the base, drill a hole in the middle to mount on a Screw chuck. Richard was using Tulipwood, which is a fairly softwood used mainly for furniture and joinery. He used a 3/8" Spindle gouge to round off the blank and to flatten the face he used a draw cut as it tends to be less bouncy. The next step is to create a recess in the base and a small bowl shape for the cable. Make sure it's clean and crisp with no fuzzy bits. Next decide where you want the hole for the cable, remember that end grain will give you a cleaner hole. Richard used a lip and spur drill. Now sand and finish with Red Webrax to burnish it.

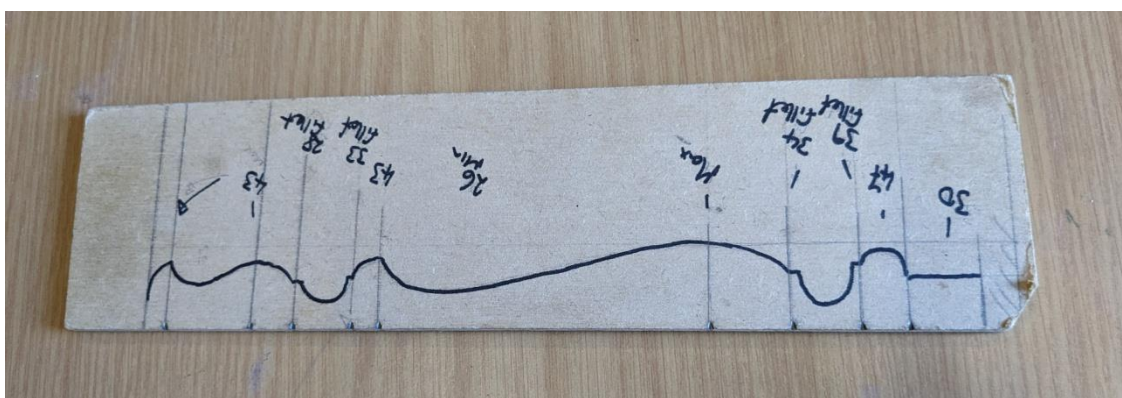


Now turn the piece round and flatten of the face. Richard uses what he calls storyboards to mark off the shape for repeatability.

Mark the top and side and remove the sidewall creating a top hat shape. Remember that with faceplate turning the curve is different to spindle turning due to the grain direction. You will cut from the top to the base as you would when carving. A light and gentle cut will give a much better finish. You can apply some finish to the wood to stiffen the fibres. Richard used an aerosol Sanding sealer.

For the bull nose curve work to the base and for the bottom edge work up so no wood splits off. A fillet is the edge between a sweeping curve and a bull nose curve. Richard used a skew as a scraper to sharpen the edges. The tenon in the top needs to be straight and if there are any rough patches, hand sand them.

Next is the upright piece you will need to drill a hole, all the way through. Put the timber in the chuck and make a small divot in the centre with a gouge. Drill the hole halfway through, now turn the piece round and repeat the above process and hopefully the holes will meet up. Richard used a long series drill from Wealden Engineering, which he had in a gouge handle.



This is the storyboard for the upright I missed the one for the base. You may be able to see that it has notches on the edge for the detail, so the pencil goes in the notch for matching details. Marking out is very important.

Richard uses an Axminster Cone or Ring centre when turning something with holes in it. It's preferable to have a tool rest longer than the work. Richard was going to use 3 tools for this, a Spindle Roughing gouge, a chunky Beading/Parting tool and a Spindle gouge with a fingernail grind. Richard has a 35-degree bevel on his Roughing gouge, on the Spindle gouge he has removed the heel.

Using the Beading/Parting tool he was going to create the various depths using his calipers. Putting a small incision at the edges will help to stop any feathering. Richard describes this process as blocking out. It's best to do all the blocks at this stage before proceeding.

When creating a bead put a pencil line down the middle, use the tip of the tool if using the Beading/Parting tool. If you want to use the Spindle gouge it's all with the tip.

For the coves it's all about taking gentle cuts and getting the entry right.

If you want to make planning cuts using a Skew mark a line in the middle of the blade and the cut needs to be made below the middle. You need to relax when making any cut and use nice flowing moves. When cleaning up the fillets either use the Beading/Parting tool or a small Skew. Always trust your calipers don't adjust them in case they are wrong. If you do enough of this kind of work it may be advisable to get some measuring fingers. These come in a variety of sizes.



If your tenon is too loose you can put a small V cut in, which will provide a extra mm or so. If it's still loose create a small feather. When assembling the pieces put the glue in the hole not on the tenon. You can use a cable tie to prevent the cable from moving. You will only need a 3amp fuse and Richard suggests about 3 metres of cable.



The finished article.

The second item of the day was to be a lidded box with a screw thread. Ideally for a really good screw thread you need to use a really hard timber such as Box or some of the exotic timbers, but Richard was going to use a relatively soft wood.



16 to 20 teeth per inch is but in soft wood you may want to use larger teeth.



The outside chaser and the inside chaser.

You need to have a flat edge but the chamfer the top edge. Richard finds about 320 rpm is about the best speed to work. Work in a circular motion start with the middle teeth and use some wax to lubricate the tool. The inside thread is worked in much the same way.



Richard used a scraper, which had a flat top and a bevel edge. Use with the handle slightly raised.

A Negative Rack scraper has a double bevel. The angle should add up to less than 90 degrees. Richard uses 35 degrees as it makes it more friendly and can be used horizontally.

When doing the box draw a line on the lid and base to match the grain. If the lines don't match take a little bit of wood off below the thread until they are within an inch of each other. Now hollow out the box then look at lining up the grain.

Richard used a Beading tool to make the edge round the top of the box.



You can now sand the box. Richard recommends that you remove the dust between grits. His preferred method is to use a shaving brush.

If the grain still doesn't match take a little more wood off the bottom of the thread.

To finish off the base, make a jam chuck with a screw thread.

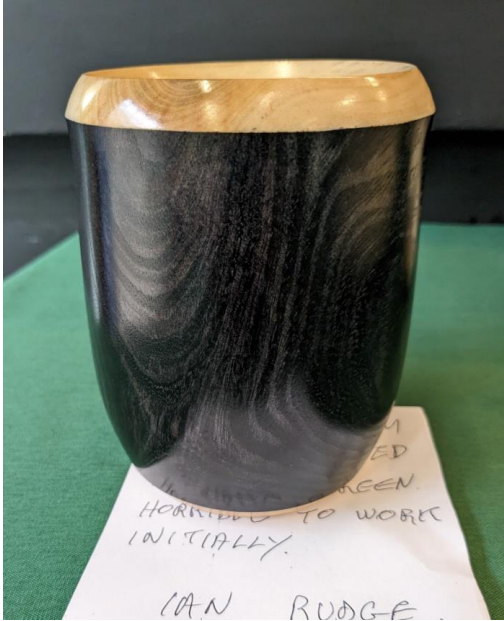
As he had finished the main demonstration slightly early Richard was going to discuss sharpening.

Richard uses a 35-degree angle on his Spindle gouge and 50 degrees for Bowl gouges. He will also go to 65 degrees for the bottom of a bowl.

Sharpening is important for the woodturner. You should not be removing much metal sharpening should just be cleaning up the bevel. Honing can mess up the shape if you are not too careful. So you can use occasionally but not as a way to sharpen all the time.

Having a concave wing on a fingernail gouge is best. With a Negative rake scraper the top is the bur so sharpen that first then the bottom.

MEMBERS SHOW AND TELL TABLE:



This rabbit was by Terry Hooper. He said he hadn't labelled it as his name was on the bottom.



2 walnut bowls by Guy Viney



An off-centre bowl by Tony Trigg

NEXT MONTH:

A hands-on day on Work holding and lathe maintenance plus

A competition for an Involute turned object.