

Tips:

Roller blind tip by D.Hall Deacon Way, Oxon, UK.

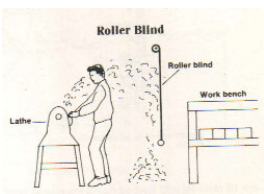
I have come up with a method for keeping the woodturners workshop user-friendly.

Simply get a 1525mm wide roller blind and fix it to the ceiling or roof rafters of the shop. Then pull the blind down whenever you are roughing down or whatever you are turning.

The chippings and shavings go over your shoulders, hit the blind and drop to the floor in a straight line for easy sweeping up.

I am sure this tip will prove very useful to people with small workshops and who have lots of tools hanging around and do not want to have to move them all when tidying up.

(Gavin's note: When I do my roughing down with the 1 1/4" Record Spindle roughing gouge, I have my left hand over the flute of the gouge so that the shavings do not go all over the place, until the spindle is round then move my hand down to the normal position).



This tip is from the book "Practical Tips for Woodturners" the best from Woodturning magazine.

What's On:

Club Meetings:

> Club Meetings are held at Hudson Park High School Woodworking Room on the 4th Wednesday of every month (**Not the 5th Wednesday**). Members gather from 17.15 and proceedings usually commence by 17.30.

Meeting officially end by approximately 19.00, but members are welcome to chat for a while while thereafter (while they assist with the tidying of the venue!)

Beginners classes for members new to turning are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. Please contact Andy Knight at Club meetings.

Details of content of forthcoming meetings is as follows:

> 28th November - Judging of the November competition by Rodney Offord for the Mortar and pestle. Please take a ticket for the raffle to win a piece of American spring steel to make a tip for a chatter tool. We will be having the Lasange supper, bring your beers or cold drinks.

Activities and Notice Board

> Ulrich still has 1 Large and 2 Xtra large club golf shirts left. See Ulrich at club meetings.

> **Your club fees are now due and payable: R75 for Workers. R50 for Students. R50 for Retired people. Please see Ulrich at club meetings.**

> If you are a pensioner or a retired person, did you know that you can have a cup of tea or coffee and cake and cocktail sausage rolls served by Gloria or Joan at Builders Express on the 1st Wednesday of the month?

> The annual Gents Evening will be held at Builders Express on the 29th November. This is the biggest event that they put on, plenty of demos, specials, curry and rice and refreshments. The guild will be there doing demos also.

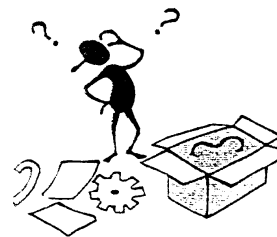
> The "Art in the Home" show will be held on the 24 Nov. at the Beacon Bay N.G.K. church run by the Bonza Bay Rotary Anns. The guild will have their usual tables there and maybe a lathe or two.

> The 12th national congress of the Association of Woodturners of South Africa will be held on the 4th to the 6th July 2008 at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg. Start saving for it **NOW**.

> The balance of the guilds accounts as at 12/11/2007 was R1744.37

Wanted or for sale:

Claude Millar(a very good machinist) from 8 Rochdale Rd Sunnyridge has 2 Rockwell Tauco lathes for sale @ R2000 each. If you want one with a variable speed control, it can be added for an extra R2000. Contact Claude on 043-736-2172



This column is for any woodworking/turning item which you would like to sell or buy. Please contact me (see below)

See next months newsletter for more on Simon.

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East London Woodturners News

November 2007

Editorial

There are two things that is going to happen to our guild in the very near future. One is that the Hudson Park High school (where we are currently having our meetings) is going to close down their wood work room and change it into a technology centre. So we will have to look for a venue for our meetings. At our last committee meeting I have offered the guild the use of one of my workshops at my house. The other thing is that Roly Pattle (our chairman) is relocating his family down to Port Elizabeth of all places. We will have to coerce one of the committee members to take over the chair until next years AGM. I am now starting to wind down my jobs in preparation for the christmas season. I have just finished doing a lovely bathroom set in white (vanity chest/mirror with a matching basin cupboard underneath with an open shelf beneath) for a log cabin in Vincent. I am busy making a life size crucifix (1,7m high x 1,2m arms) out of white Beech with 12 x 24mm Imbuia trim around the edges for our church hall. This crucifix must be installed above an arch about 12 meters above floor level at the end of this month in time for the ordination of one of our churches deacons into a priest. As I have had such a busy time for the past four or five months I have bought myself a number of early christmas presents, a JET JMS10 10 inch mitre saw that has got a laser light for material set up, a Dremel 400 series digital motor tool set with 80 accessories and 3 attachments including a flexible shaft and a useful carry case, a 1400 watt Triton router (my third one, the other two being a small Bosch in a verimark table and my Elu 96E still going strong) and a Dremel work station (vertical drill press, horizontal tool holder and support for flexible shaft).

At this months meeting Elliot gave us a demo on the making of buttons. He showed us some jerseys that had buttons made by him attached. A piece of boekenhout is held by its spigot (because you are going to turn on the end) in the Nova chuck and turned to a cylinder. A series of cuts are made with a thin parting tool. The design of the first button is made on the end. Elliot showed us a tool that had the design of the button ground on it. This tool is used scraper fashion to cut the face of the buttons. The first button is then parted off and sanded. Once all your buttons are made the holes have to be drilled. → → 2

Elliot showed us a small round jig that he uses to drill the holes. There are 2 holes drilled in the jig with a centre hole that can be used to push the button out again. The buttons are pushed into the jig, the 2 holes drilled with your fancy (Dremel drill) and pushed out again. Elliot also made a button that had a small spigot on the attachment end so that one hole could be drilled to attach the buttons to the jersey. There were 14 members with a visitor Guy Beaumont at this meeting. The show table had almost nothing on it, just a completed fishing rod that had one of my butts fitted made by the factory in Arcadia that I had brought along to show to the members.

If you have any metal machining that you want done and are looking for Bruce at Metal Wizard, he has moved to 29 Magnolia Rd, Braelyn. I can recommend Bruce as he had done some jobs for me, making backing plates so that the 3 jaw chuck from my metal turning lathe can be fitted on my Record 3's spindle and also the JET's spindle. He also has made a 100mm long x 22mm dia spindle with a 2 Morse taper that can hold the blanks for the rod butts that I make for the Beacon Bay factory. The planning for next year's congress is coming along nicely, it looks like they have organised Nick Arnall (a U.K. turner who does a lot of embellishing of his work) to come out for congress (just right for all those who have bought fancy Dremel machines. Ed). The new book that Bonnie Klein donated to the guild is at last available from that library. After last month's meeting Chris Flanagan (an ex newsletter editor) gave me 17 volumes of Practical Woodworking magazines from 1974 to 1994 that were donated by an ex member, Derrick Mager.



Here is a picture of one of the wall units at the engineering firm in Berea. So until next year keep woodworking or is it turning, or cabinet making, or shop fitting, anyway have a happy Christmas and New year, Cheers *Gavin Knowles*.

I had everything I needed to become a woodturner, apart from natural talent or aptitude for the craft. I turned then as I swim now, with no natural ability but lots of brute force.

It worked for me, and I was getting results that pleased me, which encouraged me to turn more. Looking back at some of the stuff I'd made then, I wouldn't be too pleased if I was producing the same quality of stuff now, but I thought they were brilliant and everybody I knew said they were good.

Then again I was turning for non turners which is an entirely different bucket of slugs to turning stuff to show to turners, who seem to have fixations about flowing lines, even curves, torn end grain, even wall thickness and an unblemished satin smooth finish. I'm fairly sure a turner would have turned his nose up at my hastily-finished, lumpy, bumpy, varnish-coated, straight sided bowls with self-adhesive, jaggedly cut, green baize bases.

Spindle work

Harry Middleton was still teaching me. He was fairly insistent that I learned to spindle turn; I knew it was a skill I needed so I humoured him. I never had much trouble with the skew chisel, probably because I'd never met another turner except Harry, nor really read any magazines or books. Videos on the subject were almost non-existent, so I hadn't seen any of them either. Nobody had told me I should be frightened of the thing. I did find out that you really ought not to use it as aggressively as I used a gouge, and that if I hit the timber with a corner point or lifted the bevel from the wood, it would cut a huge screw thread mighty fast, scaring me witless.

Dig ins, with any tool, were still fairly regular; however, they were becoming less frequent yet more spectacular which is a bit worse. When I started I expected them; they now didn't happen as often, so made me jump more.

Harry had advised me that each time it occurred I should stop the lathe and have a look to find out what had happened.

If you understand why the tool was snatched from your hand or fathom out what caused your bowl to go whistling over your shoulder, sending you diving for cover, then at least you're still learning and you'll know what not to do next time.

Practice and patience

As far as I could see, spindle turning ought to be a doddle. There are only three things you can do: flat bits, inner bits and outer bits. Flat bits are easy, as are inners - coves. Outer bits - beads - are a little trickier and frustrated me for ages. I thought it was just me that couldn't do them, but of course it isn't.

They take lots of practice and patience as, no matter what tool you decide to use, everyone seems to have the same problems.

The first ones you do will be pointed with two straight sides, then you manage a curved side and a flat side then, after months of practice, you may occasionally manage a half-round bead.

Managing to turn all these shapes to a decent standard takes months, then all you've got to do is manage to actually turn them where you want them. When you manage to get one spindle how you feel it ought to be, try making forty like it and you'll realise that there's much more to it than bowl turning.

As a beginner, I was definitely a bowl turner, it's easier, faster and more impressive. I don't ever remember coming upstairs with a spindle and anyone saying how wonderful it was, whereas it was easy to get an 'ooh, aah' reaction with a turned bowl and, looking back, part of the enjoyment of being a turner was impressing others with my new skills.

Naive

I said I had everything I needed to be a turner, but there is a difference between what you need and want. I had a couple of lathes, a chuck, tools and was fetching wood home from the golf course.

I turned just about anything that blew down and anything that I'd been given. I thought that I'd never have to buy wood.

In fact I swore that, along with never staining, carving, texturing and scorching my work, I would never buy timber.

Naive or what? I really could have done with a bandsaw, I was cutting wood at Harry's, but if I had to do it at home it meant sawing corners off large blanks with a blunt handsaw. I was exhausted before I started. I had become an obsessive turner, snatching any time I could I'd be at a lathe, sometimes just making a mess on the floor for the fun of it.

A time came when the floor wasn't big enough for the mess I was making and I decided to move from the small cellar I was working in into the bigger, lighter one that was filled with all the other household rubbish.

With this in mind, we started tipping most of it so that I could have a large, light, airy, empty new workshop. It took a long time but we got there.

Wood everywhere

People started offering me wood and I, maybe foolishly, never turned it down. All sorts of stuff either appeared in the garden or got brought home, I didn't mind, I could turn anything and did. Wood built up everywhere, lots of it was useless. I was speaking to some workers from the local council and somehow got on to the subject of woodturning. They said they had a bit of cherry in their yard and did I want it?

I said I did and they promised to bring it round the next day. I would of course be at work, so I paid them a paltry amount and asked them to leave it on the doorstep.

I arrived home the next day, I couldn't see the doorstep, nor the path, nor most of the front garden.

In fact, to get in the house as I hadn't brought a back door key, I had to climb over this treacherous mountain of cherry logs. I wasn't pleased at all.

Yes, I had lots of wood to play with, but I wouldn't be turning for a while as a pregnant Marilyn was not likely to be too keen on climbing this mountain while I slowly turned my way through it.

Apparently, according to the neighbour, three blokes arrived in a 71/2-tonne wagon and unloaded the lot that afternoon - there must have been two tonnes of the stuff. It took me two nights to shift it all into the cellar I'd just emptied. I was absolutely shattered.

There are a lot of steps down to the cellar and some of the logs were pretty big and very green, and in some cases fairly slimy, and quite long and difficult to manage.

Obviously moving this amount of lumber through the house had some effect on the carpets and decor. Marilyn was not overjoyed with the green skid marks down the length of the hall, even when I reminded her that it was she that wanted it out of the garden, and had got me into this stupid hobby in the first place.

It looked like I wouldn't be changing workshops anytime soon. Next week another load of the stuff came.