

Tips:

Sharpening those scraper tips that fit the Sorby, Stewart, Hamlet, and other tools can be a nasty business as they are small, difficult to hold, and heat up quickly.

I borrowed and modified an idea to make a handy little scraper tip holder. It took about 45 minutes to whip up.

A two-inch stainless steel box hinge holds two pieces of 20mm plywood together. The thickness of the two wings of the hinge separates the pieces of plywood far enough so that the gripping angle is good for several different thicknesses of scraper tips. A bolt is counter-sunk and super-glued into the bottom piece. The hole in the top piece has to be a fair bit larger than the bolt to allow the top piece to swing up on the hinge, so I use a large washer below the wing nut.

The overall dimensions are approximately 75 x 75 x 50mm. This size provides a large and stable enough base to move the device around comfortably on the grinders tool rest. As can be seen in the photograph on page 4, the forward section of the plywood pieces are narrowed to allow for grinding around the sides of a curved scraper tip.

Denis L. Bourke, M.D.
John Hopkins School of
Medicine, USA.
This tip from a recent issue
of Woodturning Magazine.

What's On:

Club Meetings:

> Club Meetings are held at the workshop of Timber Warehouse SBDC Commercial Rd on the **4th Wednesday of every month (Not the 5th Wednesday)**. Members gather from 17.15 and proceedings usually commence by 17.30. Meetings 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:

> 26th March

- Our acting chair Ulrich Schnitzler will be turning a goblet with a captive ring (or rings).

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 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**. Only 3 months and 28 days and counting to go.

> The item to make for the May competition is a three legged small stool. Get busy.

Wanted or for sale:

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

March 2008

Editorial

Last months meeting was attended by 15 members (attendance coming up, chaps) and two visitors Willem Westraad and his son by the same name. Willem owns a joinery works and also a solar kiln in Beacon Bay. The demonstration for the evening was the turning of a clock with a convex face by Elliot Murray in the absence of our secretary, Rodney Offord, who was out of town. Strips of Badge tape was applied to a prepared meranti blank and was held on a large face plate. The face plate and blank was compressed in a vice. The face of the blank which is the back of the clock was trued up using a bowl gouge. Measure the size of the clocks movement. Transfer the measurement onto the blank using dividers. Elliot's tip when using dividers is to put the front leg of the dividers on the blank, then the back leg. Turn out the hole for the movement with the bowl gouge. Scrape out to the bottom of the hole with a straight box scraper making sure that the movement fits into the hole and that there is enough meat for the movement spindle (Elliot was using a short spindle). (When I make clocks I use a large WM Ridgeway expansive bit held in a drill press to drill the hole. Ed). As Elliot does not do any sanding while demonstrating, he would at this stage sand and apply the finish.

He then mounted the blank by the movements hole on the Nova chuck after removing the stop screw on the chuck so that the jaws could go beyond the stop. Drill a 8mm hole for the movements spindle. Turn the outside of the clock with a convex shape with a small bead on the outside edge. Elliot showed the new omers the power sanding method of sanding using the velcro system. Mark a circle with a pencil where the studs or numerals would be. Divide the face up into 12 equal points.

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(I use the inbuilt indexing system on my Coronet 3 to do this.Ed). He then made a stud out of stinkwood. Make dowel part with a dome on the top. Part off from blank. Drill a small hole at the right place and insert the stud. Assemble the clock. Finish off the rest of the clock at your leisure at home. The "show table" or is it router table had a number of items on it. Marius Cloete had an open bowl made from stinkwood and also a smaller open bowl made from Blackwood. In response to last months demo 4 members had made salt and pepper shakers. Leon van Rensberg made a set out of Blackwood. Ulrich Schnitzler (our acting chair) used Wild olive in his set. Our King member Rusty Scherwitz had a set made out of Umzimbeet. Elliot produced a nice set out of Rosewood that fitted in a caddy. Andy Knight had two clocks on the table, and I also had two of my laminated clocks, one made from Kiaat and the other made from Purple Heart and Pau marfin on the table. I am inserting an article of how I made these clocks into randomly selected printed copies of this newsletter. My good friend and fellow woodturner Brian Taberer and his wife is selling their property and is moving into one of the old age homes. He is busy clearing out his work shop and he gave me a set of Warren wobble washers that is used to make grooves or dadoes on the table saw. He also gave me two powerful extractor fans and his supply of bowl turning blanks, Jacaranda, Juniper, cork Oak etc. He also had a number of lengths of steel from Macpherson struts and hatchback back door struts which he gave to me to give to the members of the Guild. Thanks Brian. Now onto matters of the Congress. Winston French the treasurer has asked me if I can try and get some of our members to attend Congress. If he can get at least 2 or 3 more of our members to attend, he will be happy as I am the only one who is going so far. The new comers are the ones who get the most out of Congress, as they see and learn things at Congress that they will not at guild meetings. The instant gallery is really an eye opener as you will see turnings from some of the best turners in the country. And if you get talking to these turners they can give you some very god ideas and tips. I have just bought my third JET item, an AFS 500 air filtration system, the other two being my Jet mini lathe and my Jet JMS 10 -10 inch mitre saw. I do not only do turning, so until next month -----
Turn- Turn- Turn *Gavin Knowles.*

In this months edition of Simon he offers a subjective view of the competitive side of the woodturning world.

Competition time in woodturning is never far away. Be it a local agricultural fair, a county show or even a magazine-backed, sponsored to the hilt international event, odds on, there'll be a woodturning competition. The question is, should you enter?

You have to ask yourself whether your turning is up to that of your peers, are you prepared for an "expert" to place your masterpiece two places below that of your nearest rival? Is woodturning supposed to be a competitive sport anyway?

All the above could make you decide against entering any competition ever, but there are also many pluses to balance this equation. You could, of course, consider that the large and, to be fair, not so large prizes, are well worth having. Over the years I've managed, through various competitions, to purchase tools that I just wouldn't have spent the money on otherwise, but if you've won it, you feel justified to blow more cash on an extra chuck, a pillar drill you don't need or a deep hollowing tool you'll never use anyway.

Entering a competition, if you're good enough, just plain lucky or willing to spend that extra couple of hours making that good piece brilliant can be very rewarding in the tool ownership stakes.

I know many top turners who'll tell you that all the prizes in the world fade into nothingness compared to the flutter of nerves and racing heart as you're called up, in front of your peers, to shake the hand of the bloke giving out rosettes and certificates.

The feeling is brilliant. However, not quite as brilliant as seeing the photo of the aforementioned occasion in an international magazine.

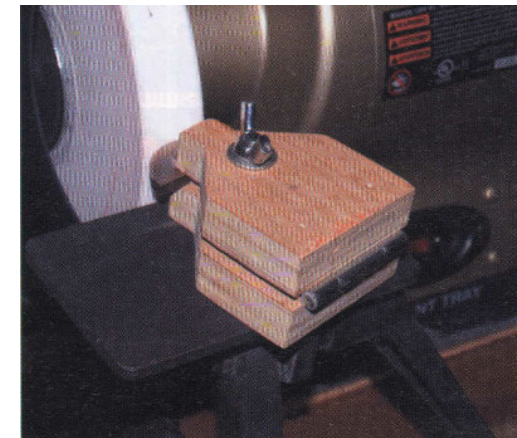
If that's not your barrow, consider this. Forget the money and the spotlight. Enter a proper competition, as opposed to one judged by the vicar's wife, and you'll work that bit harder to create the best work you possibly can.

A group of proper turners assesses your product and gives it a mark, you get feedback and find where they think you're not getting things quite right.

You go home, maybe with nothing, but knowing what to change to get it right next time. Free advice from the country's top turners, brilliant.

On the other hand, you may be absolutely disinterested in competing. You're happy with what you make and really don't care what others think of it, so what if it doesn't live up to high-flying professional turners' ideas of what is right?

You really don't care, so why enter? Easy, get the piece there and you get a free ticket to the show! Even if there's a competition entry fee it's usually peanuts in comparison to the price on the door. See, you can't lose!



This is the picture for this months tip.