



MID WALES WOODTURNERS

www.midwaleswoodturners.com

a branch of

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Newsletter : November 2020

From the Chairman

Here we are Wales coming out of a two week lockdown and England going into a four week lockdown. It gets a bit complicated for those of us who live near the border. as you may guess. It was last March when we last met with the demo by our Treasurer Les Symonds showing one of his scorched and waxed vessels. It looks like there will be a relaxation of travel etc. for the Christmas period which is likely to trigger a further peak of the virus in mid to late January, therefore it is unlikely we shall have a meeting (*this is to be confirmed after Christmas*)

We are at the end of the financial year therefore the Committee has to make arrangements for the financial audit, subscriptions and AGM for 2021. By the end of November you will be receiving an extra newsletter with full details.

A present to make for Christmas

Victorian cotton reel holder

This project was featured in the 335 edition of Woodturning magazine. This could be made from one wood or the spindle sections could be a contrast which does look good in the finished item. The base will hold 12 standard cotton reels and the top 4 longer reels.

Materials

Two discs, one is 7 inches, the other 5 ½ inches diameter and about one inch thick. The stem is 4 inches long plus what is needed for two spigots. The top finial is about 3 ½ inches long plus a spigot. Lastly a length of 8mm dowelling.

1. To hold the discs I use Axminster mini spigot jaws which have a depth of only 10mm, the Record and Nova versions are 20mm deep (*you could use a ply washer to reduce this depth*). All require a drill diameter of 35mm .

2. Place the larger disc in the chuck, true up the edge to the finished diameter of 165mm, then turn the bottom and form a recess for your usual 2 inch jaws. Sand and polish

3. Turn round, true up this top surface, turn a bead shape on the upper edge. Now work out the position of the dowel holes for the 6 cotton reels. Remove from chuck and drill the holes [be careful here as the dowel needs to be a tight fit] Return to chuck sand and polish.

4. The same process is repeated for the upper disc. The hole for the small chuck jaws was drilled all the way through .True up the base, sand and polish, then turn

around to complete the top surface, drill the dowel holes then sand and polish.

5. The bottom stem is really basic spindle turning with an accurate spigot of 35mm diameter on both ends. There is plenty of scope for your own design, beads, coves, burn lines etc.

6. The top stem which also serves as a handle is similar in design. Remember this will be used to pick up the holder so a fine slim finial is not practical. A small mushroom top works well

7. Glue in the dowelling then assemble all the other parts

8. Now who is going to be the lucky person to open this surprise on Christmas day?

This was a very enjoyable project for me to make as it involves a lot of techniques and allows plenty of scope for variations of design as long as you stick to the basic measurements

Best wishes and keep safe - John



Christmas Cards

by Colin Panter

For the last few years, rather than send conventional christmas cards to close friends and family, I have turned a novelty christmas decoration each year, starting with a christmas tree, then a snowman, and so on. This years idea is a winged bowl in oak, with a robin perched over the bowl.

Nieces will have a bowl filled with bath bombs (*whatever they are, although I am assured they are currently on trend*), adults some snowball shaped chocolates, and so on. The photograph shows the first 6 bowls, one containing dark chocolate mints as an example.

I originally made a sample to test the idea, and found the bowl needed to be larger to suit the smallest robin I could get (the ones I used are made in felt, specially plundered early from christmas stock by the helpful ladies at No. 1 High Street gift shop in Newtown). I also refined the turning operation and made the total number required, ten, in operational sequence.

To turn the outside, I used a screw chuck to hold the work, and started to form the bottom of the wings. Personally I prefer to use a bowl gouge in a push cut against the grain, taking successive light cuts to the bottom of the wing. Although I could use a pull cut so that I am cutting with the grain, I find this more difficult to control and more likely to leave cutting marks that have to be removed by hand sanding, and careful final cuts with a sharp tool against the grain leave a good finish.

Although the wood blank is rectangular, it is symmetrical and balanced and so I cut at a reasonable speed (around 1250 RPM) so that I get a good ghost image of the wings which helps judge the starting point and stability of the cut. For the first one I brought up the tailstock in case I had a catch and the screw chuck didn't hold, but soon realised it wasn't necessary and didn't have a single catch. Once the bottom of the wing was formed, the outside of the bowl was shaped and a tenon cut on the base to act as a foot for the finished bowl, but also for mounting in a chuck when turning the top.



This process was repeated for each of the ten bowls, by the last one it was very quick and accurate, if a bit boring!

The top/inside of each bowl was then turned, mounting the tenon in 35mm jaws, and the same process used, cutting the top surface down to the wing thickness required (4mm in my case), leaving enough wood to form the bowl rim with the top of the bowl made to look in line with lower bowl beneath the wing. To get a sharp corner between the top of the bowl and the wing a spindle gouge ground with a shallow angle was used, the lower wing also acting as a scraper to remove any ridges left on the top of the wing. I only "scraped" the solid wood section around the bowl though, scraping wings seems fraught with danger to me and I haven't tried to do it even with light cuts.

The final operation was to hollow the bowl in the conventional manner, and finally I used a shear scraper to remove any toolmarks and minimise the subsequent use of abrasives.

The finish applied was three coats of oil, which I used to bring out the figuring in the oak, with a top coat of wax. I didn't use food safe finishes, but will make sure that all the edible bits in the bowl are individually wrapped just in case!

At the time of writing, my only problem is that the various lockdowns prevent me getting the finished "cards" delivered, for now at least!

MEETING COSTS

Members : £9 each, Family Members : £15 per family, Guests of members : £10 each, Non-members : £15 each

CLUB CONTACTS

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