

**Hamilton
Woodturners
Club**
www.hwoodturners.org

www.timberlywoodturning.co.nz

Parade Respirators

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Remember, if I cannot break it, no-one can!

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(Tutor)

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THIS WEEK'S TOP TURNING



OSCAR continues to experiment with a really keen “have-a-go” approach to his workshop adventures. This latest creation is a special platter turned from a slab of swamp kauri discovered less than 200 metres from his house. The “special” aspect is the rather expertly inlaid ring of pohutukawa. This is very clever and patient work with outstanding results.

Tutor’s next suggested step: Apply a drying oil finish to highlight the grains and patterns and give a more translucent appearance. (more info about “oils” follows)

The TT's Information section

Waxes and Oils for finishing a turning project

This subject was first mentioned in a TT newsletter in November, 2014. However, since then the club has enrolled many new turners. So it is high time that we take fresh look at what finish would be best to apply to a turning project.

A **WAX** is exactly that ...a wax which sits on the surface of the wood.

An **OIL** penetrates the wood- some a shallow depth – some a bit deeper.

If you learn about the qualities, functions, advantages and disadvantages of each type of finish you will be better placed to decide what product you might use on your highly treasured turnings.

NOTE: “**Triple E**” (**EEE**) is not a finish in itself - this product is primarily used to prepare the surface for a subsequent oil or wax application. EEE is actually a cutting compound suspended in a paste.

Read carefully and especially note the difference between **drying and non-drying oils**.

Waxes and Oils

One of the first things wood turners learn to do with turning is to apply a ‘finish’ to wood projects and it’s highly likely that the ‘finish’ would be either a wax or an oil product.

Why?

Well usually because someone recommends their favourite wax or oil of some kind. Another good reason for finishing a project with wax or oil is that these goodies come in small containers, are relatively easy to apply with a rag and either product will look good on the wood. Also both apply well while spinning on the lathe ensuring a complete and even coverage, then when dry, the finish can be buffed under power.

Waxes and oils are excellent finishes for turnings. I have been using waxes and oils for years with great success. I am also particularly keen on the Beale buffing system to apply a coat a carnauba wax which, on some woods, looks decidedly spectacular.

What's the difference between a wax and an oil product?

WAX comes in various forms: liquids, pastes, and solid bars. **Some waxes are soft and some quite hard.** It should be remembered that soft wax finishes can be prone to scratches and to leaving visible finger prints caused by sweaty hands. Carnauba wax is an extract from the carnauba palm of South America and is about the hardest of wax finishes for wood turnings. **Waxes will not penetrate the wood surface fibres but actually sit on top.** That's why it is possible to get a highly polished finish to the wood.

Some liquid waxes are applied "wet" and allowed to dry then buffed with a soft clean rag. These products are usually referred to as FRICTION waxes and they look great too.

SPECIAL NOTE of CAUTION: Waxes can be applied over any other dry finish but putting another finish over the wax finish will not work out well for you.

If a soft sheen is what you are wanting then try applying a paste wax with 0000 grade steel wool.

OIL will penetrate the wood fibres so oil is much more effective in highlighting the grains and patterns and gives a more translucent appearance. You will get a sense of 'depth' to the finish.

What's the difference between DRYING and NON-DRYING OILS

(Read on.....)

DRYING oils actually change from a liquid to a solid when exposed to air. (it's the oxygen that causes the chemical/physical change). **Drying oils are derived from nut seeds.** A good example of a drying oil is **LINSEED oil** which is derived from the seeds of flax plants. After application the turning must be set aside for one or two days to dry or 'cure'. The surface grain will be raised by the oil so a light sanding will be required then another coat of oil should be applied. Do this for at least one more coating of oil.

DANGER: Chemical changes occur during the oil 'curing' process so all oil soaked rags should be spread out to dry away from combustible materials. When dry the 'cured' rag can be considered safe. A scrunched up rag ball of wet linseed or tung oil can spontaneously combust and has been attributed to a number of workshop fires in recent times.

TUNG OIL: is oil extracted from tree nuts which cures to a tough, water resistant, beautiful finish. Tung oil is safe for wooden toys and kitchen ware which might come into contact with food. **Tung is applied just like linseed oil but you must remember to sand after every coat using wet and dry sandpaper. This creates a very fine slurry of wood particles (dust) and oil that fill the tiny pores leaving the surface smoother each time.**

NON-DRYING vegetable oils such as peanut or olive are OK to use on chopping boards but, as they stay wet indefinitely, they will wash off when the board is scrubbed. It's best to view non-drying oils as wood treatment oils rather than 'finishes'.

*Please note that in this paper I have not referred to **Danish Oil** as this is a special 'finish' and will be the subject of a future writing. Cheers*

Clive



CHRIS's work epitomizes our NEAGE philosophy, this black walnut bowl being a fine example of pride in achieving the best possible finish.



DAVID Mollekin used cedar to make his salad bowl. Special features are the finish and the smooth transition from the rim down the sides and across the base.



KATRINA, has made excellent and rapid progress with the club's skills-based induction programme.

This is the third spindle turning project now completed and an indicator of great potential.

Goodonya Katrina.



ROSS has made a large lidded biscuit pot complete with wooden label. This snazzy project will no doubt become a family heirloom. Maybe in the future someone will say "My grandad made that".... And then maybe later "My great grandad made that"...."My great,great, grandad made that....etc

There are many fine creations emerging from the USE-A-CUBE challenge.

How is yours looking? (There's plenty of time - May 31st deadline)

This week's useful video clip



USING CA GLUE for a hard durable finish to pens

Click on....

- Pen making.....then
- Pen making essentials
- Pen making tools
- Stick fast non-stick bushes
- WATCH VIDEO



HOW TO USE CA "Super" GLUE to achieve a hard durable, beautifully smooth finish to your pen barrels.

Confusion: While the click sequence should take you to *stick-fast non-stick bushes*, the video is mostly about the use of CA glue and how to apply it to your turned pen barrels.

Try this process with your next pen.

SAFETY TIP

When you buy a pen kit you will find that the various parts are enclosed in small plastic bags. Open these bags carefully and save them for finger protection when applying the super glue (CA Glue).



**A
150mm
Cube
of
Wood**

WOW! There's a variety of turnings coming from the whole-club **USE-A-CUBE challenge**

NOTE: The time to complete this challenge has been extended to the end of the month (May 31st) so that's a couple of extra weeks to continue the creativity.

There's goblets, 3-sided bowls pots with lids, deep profile pots, bowls, and a couple of other ideas that I have been sworn to secrecy about too.

How's your challenge project coming along?

It seems that most folk would appreciate more time to complete the project and even allow for some keenos to have a go with second cube. OK let's do it.

PUSHED BACK NEW DEADLINE: Thursday May 31st.

The Friday Flashback



Three years ago – March 2015

This line-up of flasks made from old totara posts was the result of an earlier whole club project.

Can you spot yours?

OK that's it for this week. Onward and upward!

The Chiefs have a couple of tough games in South Africa in the next couple of weeks. Go the Chiefs ! **Clive**