

# This week's

# TUTOR'S

# TIDINGS



**Week 3**

**Friday 19th February, 2016**

## **OIL or WAX finishes**

The best aspect about finishing oils and waxes is that they are easy to apply to an almost completed turning project while the wood is still spinning on the lathe. In all probability only a soft, clean rag or 0000 grade steel wool is all that is necessary to apply the finish of the turner's choice. However, making a choice can be a nightmare as there are so many to choose from.

Why oils or a wax you might ask? Well the oil or wax finish penetrates or thin films (sits on) the wood and enhances the grain patterns to give a rich and lustrous appearance.

So good so far.....but wait there's more!

Because of the lack of durability oil and wax finishes are not always suitable for use on wood where the surface will be subjected to hot or cold water spills, heavy objects like pots, or areas that will be subjected to scratches or wiped down with chemicals such as soap, detergents cleaners, etc. Those "busy" surfaces will need a much different finish.

There are some woods that do not take an oil finish very well at all because of the antioxidants in the wood. Timbers from the Rosewood family are in this category.

If you have turned a large bowl and it is destined for the kitchen to act as a salad bowl, then a wax may not be the best finish. Maybe you will need to apply a food grade oil (walnut) finish instead. Then as the oil wears away from ongoing use you will need to reapply a thin coat of oil.



*These are many brands of wax finishes. The only way to find out which one you like best is to experiment with several types. The picture above shows a few of the waxes I have tried so far. There's heaps more to go!*

*Wow!*

## Wax Finishes **(next week info about OIL finishes)**

Wax finishes come in various forms such as paste, solid sticks or thick/thin pastes. Waxes can be tinted with colour to surface-darken some light-coloured woods. Bees wax is very soft while other waxes are harder. The soft waxes of course will offer very little protection against scratches, wear and tear.

It should be remembered that as a general rule waxes will not penetrate the wood fibres, but lay on top of the wood surface. Some waxes, after a time of curing (drying), are able to be polished to a semi or even a high gloss.

A hard stick wax is a wax that hasn't has a solvent added. Add a little solvent and you will have a paste wax. Keep adding the solvent and you will have a liquid wax. If you apply a paste or liquid wax the solvent evaporates leaving a thin coating of wax ready to buff to your liking.

It's good to know that mineral spirits, or NAPHTHA, will dissolve a wax if you ever need to remove a wax finish. **It's also good to know you can apply wax over any other finish, but don't put other finishes over a wax finish.**

Can you figure out why this is so?

(The member who can provide me with the best answer will receive a free 180 grit sanding disk )

**NOTE:** The **Beall buffing system** is an excellent method for applying a hard wax to a wood turning project.



**Question: What is carnauba wax and does it come from?**

(The member who can provide me with the best answer will receive a free 180 grit sanding disk )



***SPENCER's special turning.***

*This is as good as it gets!*

*A superbly made pohutukawa salt/pepper mill featuring flowing lines, great proportion, high gloss finish and a subtle enhancement with the two black lines near the top.*

*Whoo Hoo!*

***COLIN*** used yellow-heart kahikatea to make his highly patterned small platter.

*Another fine example made by a turner who is thinking about enhancements to add interest to a turning project.*

*Note the small dots around the centre spot.*







**MIKE** made this bowl from probably the most spectacularly coloured wood we have ever had in the workshop.

I rescued some of the the wood from a tree that was blown over during a storm that hit the Hukanui Golf Course 18 months ago.

As yet we have not been able to identify the wood.

**CHRISTINE** toiled away for quite a while to make this rather special bowl from yet another unidentified wood.

Masks were need throughout the making as the dust and smell caused discomfort to the eyes and throat for everyone nearby.

The very hard wood produced an excellent finish.



**ANDRE`** our woodturning adventurer is always keen to try new ideas as evidenced with his flask bung.

Note the nifty enhancement idea using a series of tiny beads in the centre part of the turning.





**COLIN** used maire wood to craft this quite complicated looking turning.

However it's simply a standard bowl shape that has had four sides cut off using a band saw. – then sanding to complete the job.

**Extension idea:** Use the same process to create a six sided turning.

**DYLAN**, our junior member, just gets better at what he does with turning wood. Note the flowing lines and easy curves.

The sanding job and his wax finish is a bit special too.

Dylan has made a **PINARD** which, he tells me, is a device used by a midwife.



The **BEALL** buffing system uses a three stage approach. 1. **Red** Tripoli bar 2. **White** diamond bar. 3 **Yellow** carnauba wax bar.

Each buffing mop has its dedicated bar. Users **MUST NOT** mix the bars and buffs!

## Committee 2016



*During last Wednesday's Annual Members' Meeting a new committee was elected.*

*At the committee's first meeting key officers will be appointed and responsibilities will be allocated.*

**The following members have been elected to the 2016 committee.**

**MURRAY PRICE; ROBERT WISELEY; SPENCER HEALD, DAVE MOODIE; DAVID MOLLEKIN; ANDRE` DJUINMEYER; DAVE MOODIE; MALCOLM PORTEOUS; DAVID ROSE and GRANT TAYLOR.**

**CLIVE** Wilson. Club tutor, will attend meetings with ex officio status.



*Here are 3 styles of platters (very shallow "bowls")*

*Make your 4 platters to the sanded stage.*

*No need to apply a finish just yet!*

## TERRY SCOTT WEEKEND

**SAT/SUN 30th April - May 1st**

Terry has asked all members attending to have **4 platters** ready for working on during his workshop weekend.

**Start making them now!**

*Cheers* *Clive*