



027 491 3868
Clive Wilson
(Tutor)

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**Tomorrow,
Saturday
17th November**

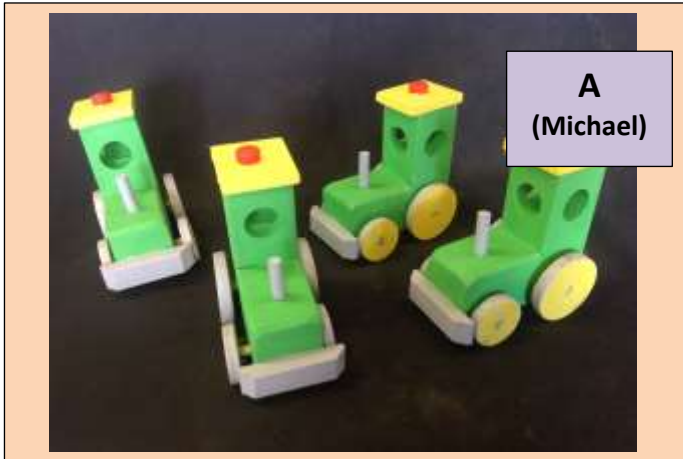
**Free turning time
9.00am – 12noon**

Paid up members of current courses are welcome to attend tomorrow’s free turning morning at the workshop.

Why not take advantage of this opportunity to complete a project or start a new one or... capture the opportunity to work on that Christmas toy you’ve been meaning to get around to.

Duty Officer - MURRAY

TOY PROJECT
There’s just 23 days to go before the deadline of December 9



TUTOR's HOT TOPIC for this week

SANDING SEALERS

Way back in February 2015 the TT included a few thoughts about the use of sanding sealers. The membership of the club at that time was hugely different to what it looks like right now. While a few remain most of the February 2015 members have moved on and there are many new faces currently attending the three sessions now provided.

Thus there is no risk in repeating some of the information I wrote almost four years ago. **OK here we go – “SANDING SEALERS”**

NOTE: This article took me HOURS of research and publishing so I hope you give it quality time to read it through. Extend your knowledge base- be a blotter and soak up the ink.

I am often asked about the application of sanding sealers to turned wood. What does it do? When would a sanding sealer be applied? What is the best sealer to use? What wood does it work best on? I have put the same questions to some top blokes who have been turning for years and I get a slightly/moderately/vastly different response every time. **It's all a bit confusing eh!**

I've searched the internet and found some information to share with you.

The best teacher of all is experience so you'll just have to have a go yourself to find the answers.

Check out the comments made by wood turners from all over the world. (internet chat shows)

“Really there is no need for sanding sealer at all. All polishes are their own sealers. The first coat of any product 'seals' the wood. The main advantage in using a sanding sealer is to make sanding easier. I use mirotones lacquer and also use the corresponding sanding sealer - but the only real difference between the two products chemically is that the sanding sealer **contains talc** to make sanding easier. I would think that if the sealer you are using is clogging up the paper rather quickly, then it's not doing its job properly, it may be on old batch would explain it not fully curing - which is what sounds like is happening

“You will find that if you do not use sanding sealer that the first coat of your finish will raise the grain and then you have to sand off something that may be a lot harder than sanding sealer.

Certainly on turned projects I find sanding sealer to be one of the keys to a really good finish.

It's not that expensive, give it a go and see what you think.”

“It seals (and therefore protects) the timber. It fills the pores and hardens the fine ends of the grain so that when you sand it, the grain sands away smoothly. It provides an excellent base for finishes such as polyurethane, varnish, wax etc. I use Feast Watson sealer but there are plenty of other brands. When turning, I rub it on the work with a small piece of rag then turn on the lathe. I rub it into the turning work until perfectly smooth. Then I let it dry, sand while still on the lathe and then add whatever finish I want. “

Other Opinions and views about sanding sealers

"I don't think that all polishes seal well at all. I've found that many waxes, oils, polishes etc. look great for the first 6-12 months but then go dull. Sanding sealer actually seals the timber, like a varnish or lacquer, and also forms a really good base for wax and polishes. I've never had any trouble with it clogging up sandpaper, probably because I always use it sparingly and really rub it into the wood. When I use it on turnings, I rub it in like a friction polish"

"If you are using a friction polish like Shellawax Cream the use of a sanding sealer will hinder the final finish as it needs to be "burned" into the timber during application thus fusing itself into the wood rather than becoming a surface coating which is much easier to damage. **Sealer will also dramatically hinder the application of most oils.** "

"Too many wood turners use sanding sealer the wrong way, as a finish. **IT IS NOT A FINISH** just a means to an end. It fills the grain and in many instances hides a multitude of sins. Most top class wood turners wouldn't production work which will end up being sprayed."

"I suggest that if you intend to use a sealer that you would probably be best with a very weak shellac solution 8-10 parts metho to a premixed shellac. (preferably dewaxed white shellac) This will raise the nap of the grain and make it stand up and become reasonably brittle. This can easily be sanded using a very fine grit (600-800 or even finer) then a wax can be applied. This will keep the shine a lot longer. "

"**You must be patient with your finishing. Most experienced wood turners will tell you they spend more time finishing i.e. sanding than they do actually turning. I have a tin of sanding sealer which I have used only once. There is no substitute for very sharp tools for that final cut followed by careful sanding right down to 800 or 1000 grit followed by at least 2 applications of EEE, and then if you want it really shiny Shellawax Cream or liquid.**"

"**Sanding sealer is NOT a finish, it just provides a really good base for various finishes.** Not everyone actually enjoys re-polishing all their stuff every few months, or even every year!

Sealer also helps to keep timber stable, I believe. I'm not sure how long you should really wait to add finish after putting sealer on like friction polish. It seems to dry straight away. I usually leave it an hour or two but that's probably not really necessary the way I use it. **By the way, I also agree that sealer is not a substitute for fine sanding. Sharp tools, rub that bevel, sand to 300-400 really well, then use sealer, then use wax, Danish oil, poly, boot polish, or whatever.**"

“Everybody has their own preferences in everything we do. There is no one way to do everything – especially when it comes to polishing. Personally the only time I use a sealer is when I am finishing with lacquer. Whenever I use waxes etc I either use them as sealers or a reduced mix of Shellac. **Shellac is actually universally renowned as the best sealer – but how many people use it as such?** “

“**Sanding sealer is just that, a material that seals wood before sanding. The idea is to harden and raise the fibres so that they are easily cut off and to sand with less dust and faster cut.** I just went out and bought a can of sanding sealer and tried it. I prefer it on guitar bodies for orbital sanding as opposed to lathe turned objects but that is just a personal feeling. You might want to try using your favourite finish cut about fifty percent with turpentine as a sanding sealer to see if you like the idea. “

“Surely a sanding sealer has an additional ingredient that prevents the paper from filling up and so enables the paper to do its work for a longer period and thus make sanding easier. Does anyone know what the ingredients are? Is talc still used or is it a form of wax? Usually if you allow any sanding sealer to stand, this 'filler' ingredient is seen to settle to the bottom of the bottle. I doubt if it is just a thinned or cut version of the standard sealer, no matter if it is cellulose, lacquer, shellac or whatever. “

“This "missing" ingredient that reduces the plugged up sandpaper is stearate, a derivative from animal fat, or tallow, often used in making soap. This is also the thing used for non-loading open coat sandpaper. A sanding sealer needn't contain this to be considered a sanding sealer. The main idea is a thinned down coat that penetrates the wood, does any grain raising, and hardens the wood fibre prior to final sanding, but before applying the main top coats. If needed, it can also provide a barrier between the wood and a finish that might react adversely to the resins or oils in the wood (dewaxed shellac usually works good, in this situation).”

“The operative word here is "sealer" which only does what says, seals the wood to prevent further penetration of any finishing materials. Anything that is added, whether it be a stearate or raw talc, acts as a lubricant to prevent the sandpaper from becoming clogged when the sealer is sanded.

A "filler" leaves something behind that actually fills the pores and open grain of the wood.”

OK, if you got to this part of the article by reading and absorbing every word then congratulations to you. Well done.... and by now you're probably confused about the use of sanding sealers. ***The best teacher of all is experience so you'll just have to have a go yourself to find out what best works for you.*** **CLIVE**

CHRISTMAS –end-of-year CELEBRATION

All members are invited to attend the club's annual Christmas function to celebrate the passing of another busy wood turning year.

PLACE: 65 KESWICK CRESCENT, HUNTINGTON, HAMILTON

HOSTS: Stephen and Christine Hawley

FORMAT: Bring a bowl of goodies to share with others

Bring your own cutlery and plates.

Bring your own liquid refreshments too.

TOYS: Bring the toy(s) you have made for the charity box. All toys will be wrapped and labelled during the course of the function. They will then be taken to a community charitable organization for distribution.

**SUNDAY
9TH
DECEMBER**

11.00

TO

3.00



WOW this is **IVAN's** first bowl ever and what a great job he made of it too. Next week we will introduce the idea of embellishments.



CHRIS whipped up this redwood bowl in no time at all and managing to get a slick finish as well.

THIS WEEK'S TOP TURNING



HAMBURGER ANYONE?

Good enough to eat!

Heather's macrocarpa bun hamburger consists of meat patties, onion ring, a slice of cheese, beetroot, lettuce, tomato and completed with a dab of mayonnaise.

A very creative idea for the children's Christmas charity box.

THIS WEEK'S COMPLETED PROJECTS



Putting old coins to decorative effect.

MALCOLM Porteous polished an old penny and set it into the inside base of his wine-bottle holder turning project.

After watching Terry Scott demonstrating the making of a wine-bottle holder MALCOLM had a shot at the idea and added a couple of his own ideas for embellishments.

One down, two to go.

Challenge: Not all wine bottles are the same size so what should Malcolm do about that?

Share your thoughts with Malcolm.



GARY started with a large block of highly - figured macrocarpa wood but as the turning evolved, several flaws were discovered in the wood. Now Gary never throws anything away..... he perseveres. The end result was a cute little mini bowl that will grace the table amongst other fineries.



However, **GARY** didn't have the same issues with this piece of swamp kauri wood and VOILA! Look what emerged.

Well done **GARY**.



HELP PLEASE

Our stock of old rags has run out and we desperately need to replenish the supply,

Do you have any old bath towels no longer required?

Old T-shirts make great rags for wood turning projects

Soft, fluffy rags are great for applying and buffing polishes.



We need old, clean rags

.....and now for the reminder section

Club members please take note:

Immediately after arrival at the workshop...

1. Sign the attendance register
2. Align your lathe
3. Sharpen the tools you will be using during the session

Take steps to prepare your workspace.

- a) Check the operation of your lathe, belts, locking levers may need adjustment, note the operating speed and belt setting.
- b) Have a stick of chalk, pencil and ruler out and ready to use. These items are regularly requested of you by the tutor. The busy tutor does not always have the time to wait for you to search through your tool bags to find items. Have them ready to ensure you get quality time with your tutor,
- c) Select the chuck you will be using, check these for safety- there may be loose jaw screws. Is the chuck you have selected the right one for the job?
- d) OBSERVE and LISTEN for suspect wobbles and sounds. There may be something amiss with your lathe. Report any issues immediately and, if possible, the problem may be rectified then and there. **STOP** using the lathe if you see or hear anything you are not too sure about. Report your concerns to an experienced club member or to the tutor.
- e) There are many club tools for you to use. When you have finished using these tools **RETURN THEM to the CORRECT STORAGE PLACE** as others don't need to waste time looking for items that should be there.

CLEAN UP TIME:

You are required to take responsibility for cleaning the area around the lathe you have been using. However, there are other corners of the workshop that everyone needs to take some responsibility for cleaning. e.g. the band saws; drill press; grinders; sanders, side benches, tea/coffee zone and the wood storage areas.

Clean up time should be a team effort and not left to a willing few.

YET ANOTHER MISSING ITEM

HELP us please!

Our roughing gouge just like the one in picture has, (along with several other items), is now missing from the storage rack. Recently an item that was “lost” for a short while was eventually discovered in someone’s tool kit.

Please check your tool kits THOROUGHLY in case you have mistakenly put our roughing gouge there.



Club members are again reminded that they **MUST** use the side road for approaching and leaving the workshop complex.

DO NOT use the private driveway that leads to the landlord’s house.

Your cooperation in this matter is required.

INFORMATION GALORE: I have been producing the club’s TT for several years now and in that time DAVID Rose has done a great job with organizing/filing the TT information on our website. How long has it been since you visited our website to gather information about woodturning matters? Go to the internet and type www.hwoodturners.org

ALL BLACKS 34 - IRELAND 17