

# This week's

# TUTOR'S

# TIDINGS



Week 5

Friday 4th March, 2016

*More information about Oil finishes for wood*

## LINSEED OILS

Linseed Oils are obtained from the seeds of the flax plant (No, not the Kiwi Flax plant as you know it) and it is one of the most useful natural oils.

The addition of solvents such as mineral turpentine speed up linseed oil's drying time, making the linseed oil less **viscous** and helping the mixture penetrate deeper into the timber, making it an even more useful product. Linseed oil does not "dry" like water or turpentine. It does not evaporate or disappear, instead when spread in a thin layer and exposed to air, it gels to a soft finish.

When rubbed into wood, it fills the pores with a thin protective film. Linseed Oil is a common carrier used in oil paint. It can also be used as a painting medium, making oil paints more fluid, transparent and glossy.



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Flax Stalks growing in Canada. Those round knobby things growing on the end of the stalks are the seed pods. (Flaxseeds)

*Flax flower and seeds (No, not the NZ flax plant – not even related)*



**1. Raw Linseed Oil (RLO)** Raw Linseed Oil is 100% pure and slow-drying. Raw Linseed Oil helps wood retain its natural moisture content which retards cracking, checking, shrinking, and aids water repellency. Raw Linseed Oil is mainly for outdoor use & Boiled Linseed Oil is mainly used indoors.

**2. RLO** is simply the oil extracted from the crushing, squeezing of flax seed. This extract has no additives or preservatives. Because there are no dryers added the **RLO** dries mightily slowly, taking up to heaps of weeks to “cure” (harden).

**3. RLO** is best used on items that will spend most of the time exposed to the elements of our Kiwi weather. RLO will play its part in retaining the natural moisture in the wood, be somewhat water repellent and help prevent cracking and warping.

## Boiled Linseed Oil: (BLO)

- contains driers to speed up film drying and hardness
- BLO enhances brushing and leveling when added to oil based paints
- BLO is a yellowy-coloured oil extracted from the seeds of flax
- BLO is used as a drying oil in paints.

The term “boiled” is misleading as **BLO** is not actually boiled at all. Hardcase eh!

While it is true that some oils to be used in varnish are in fact boiled, this is done to change their drying characteristics.

OK so why called it boiled linseed oil if it aint actually boiled?

Well, it is really the addition of “secret” solvents that causes linseed oil to dry more quickly *making it seem to act as if it were boiled*. Cunning move there!

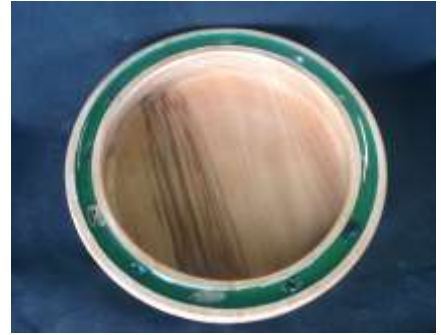
**BLO** - an excellent oil that dries fairly quickly and it’s best use is as a preservative for things like tool handles, patio decks, furniture and stuff.

### **IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE**

*Rags soaked in **Linseed Oil** are dangerous if left in a pile as spontaneous combustion may occur. That means that a chemical reaction creates heat and the rags can begin to smoulder and burst into flame. All oil-soaked rags should be washed immediately or disposed of in a container of water and detergent. For temporary storage, dampen rag and hang flat, not crumpled in a wad.*



# The DES MEADS collection



*This collection of five turnings, put together in a very short time, indicates that our **DES** has been super busy. He must have used up a fair bit of time in his home workshop and in the clubrooms.*

*Excellent work **DES!***



*Which Is which?*

*Woods used in this collection include:*

- Cypress
- Chestnut
- Lancewood
- Unknown
- Unknown



***Figured rimu - MASTERPIECE - by DAVID ROSE***



*DAVID's skill together with heaps of patience resulted in this outstanding work of wood art. A rather special turning destined for a lucky person in the UK.*



*CHRIS discovers another way of removing the centre of a bowl turning.*

*By drilling a hole in the centre, the cavity acts as a depth gauge for judging how much wood is to be removed.*

*(also helps prevent going right through the bottom)*

**DAVID MOLLEKIN** has a great sense of stickability.

*Making a chess set takes loads of time, focus and resolve.*

*David puts in the time and stays focused with steely determination.*

*One chess set well on the way.*

*Woo Hoo!!*



**JAMES** spent a good amount of time de-nailing many lengths of totara and rimu readying the timber for fellow turners.

*OK so now it's back to the lathe.*

*Many thanks for your help James.*

### Terry Scott Weekend

Saturday April 30th - Sunday May 1st

Participants are asked to prepare three completed platters ready for the "enhancement" stage. The fourth platter will be turned and completed during the weekend's activities. (bring wood for this platter)

The committee has approved the purchase of some new equipment.

- A 16" Longworth Chuck
- A new solar powered light for the toilet
- Large pliers
- Disposable rubbish sacks
- Two-pot epoxy

I have established storage cases for power-sanding equipment. Please ensure these sets are stored correctly after each session.

HAMILTON WOODTURNERS' CLUB: The Thursday session members were presented with a turning challenge and all those who accepted the mission were gifted a special block of excellent quality turning wood for the task.

Timbers included: box elder; Sydney bluegum; ancient swamp kauri, highly figured rimu, walnut; matai; macro and kauri.

## TURNING CHALLENGE: “MISSION not-IMPOSSIBLE”

Project:

1. Your task is to create a turning of your choice about its size, shape and design.
2. The turning MUST include an **enhancement** of your liking.
3. As always the turning should be free of scratches/stria.
4. The turning should be finished with either oil or wax, or both.
5. All projects should be completed by the last session of the current course when all completed items will be put on display. (Thus timing will be an important consideration)

I will not influence your thinking about Numbers 1 and 2 above. However I will be on hand to offer support with turning techniques or assist with any special tools you might need for your turning project.

If you accept this challenge then please take and use the piece of very-good-quality wood I have specially selected for you to participate in this club project.

The offer will self-destruct in 20 seconds.

Good luck

*Clive*

A **timing deadline** is included in the challenge.

Your project MUST be completed by 31st March which is the final session for the current course.



*It has often been said that one of the most difficult turning challenges is replication of size and shape. Here's a shot of President MURRAY figuring how to make two identical salt/pepper mills*

*SPENCER prepares another small platter in preparation for the upcoming Terry Scott workshop weekend*



***ANDRE`** makes tool handles for the club' 13mm and 10mm bowl gouges. Many thanks for your help Andre`*

***CHRISTINE** is determined to remove all traces of scratch and stria. Now that's a NEAGE approach as an example to follow.*







*STEPHEN is all concentration as he trims the wood off a pen blank*



*COLIN gets "a round tuit".*



***DONAL** completes the third project of his introductory course*



***DYLAN** gets some advice from an experienced colleague - **MURRAY***



**Notice to members:**

**Our storage racks are full. There is no more room to stack blocks of wood for curing/seasoning/drying. Members are asked to refrain from bringing logs to the workshop but instead consider processing and storing these at home.**

**See you all at club sessions next week. *Clive***