

Hello to all



A SPECIAL WELCOME to BRIAN Simmons.

Brian joined the Tuesday turning group today as a new club member. It was a bit of the jump in at "the deep end" start 'cos Brian has had some past experience with turning.

Day one was right into turning a bowl. (great to see the safety gear being used from day one!)



ALICE's hands holding her 7mm twist action ball point pen made with apricot wood. A classy finish to a confident job. Woo Hoo!



DAVID's first attempts at turning wooden bangles. Left hand and right hand bead-cutting tools are used for this job. This new skill was learned very quickly and successfully applied. Impressive progress!

Below is a photo of **RON's** large bowl turned from very beautiful Indian Bead Tree wood.

A mighty fine finish has been applied to the outside of this excellent work



GARTH, the lucky burl bloke, turns a pair of fancy handle door stops using kauri wood..



ALICE checks out **DAVE's** turning as he applies a carefully planned approach to his work having cut out a well-designed cardboard template. Learning from your colleagues is an important part of making progress.

The TUESDAY TEAM

Tuesday 24th February demonstrations/tips included:

1. How to turn wooden bangles (David)
2. Fitting brass tubes to pen blanks (Garth and Alice)
3. Rubbing the bevel with a 13mm gouge (Brian)
4. Re-chucking techniques (Brian)
5. Using a Longworth chuck (James)
6. How to use a safety planer (Mauritz)
7. The use of Micro-sanding pads (Alice)
8. Gaining a licence to use the band saw (Alice)
9. Spigots on a wet turning (Jan)

THIS WEEK'S HOT TOPIC

SANDING SEALERS

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 blokes who have been turning for years and I get a slightly 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)

"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. "

Opinions

"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 articles 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."

VIEWS

"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

"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"

But Wait! There's more opinion about sealers.....

"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.** "

"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. "

*There's quite a mix of views and opinions on this page. I consider the bits in bold type are the views I also hold. **CLIVE***

"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?** "

"Too many woodturners 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 woodturners wouldn't touch the stuff except for use on their lower quality production work which will end up being sprayed."

"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."**

"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. "

.....and to finish off with this lot. A few more views about sealers.

“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.”



This is the *LIBERON* spirit-base sealer I use and it seems to work well enough.

There are many brands available and no doubt each brand will claim their product is the best of all sealers.

Here are a few brands I have seen available in NZ.

Mylands	Briwax
Chestnut	Rustins

.... Shop around.... *Clive*

What else is Happening with the Tuesday Crew ?



JAN continues her shopping bag handles and getting through the process quite quickly now.

Next week Jan will be making a \$20 knockout bar.

Jan: I have a new supply of 25mm brass ferrules.



Pssst! Wanna buy a pen?



MAURITZ has chosen a choice block of wood for his natural edge bowl. The flat area on the bark was achieved by using a safety planer.



JAMES uses a Longworth chuck to hold his Kauri bowl while he sands the inside. Then the bowl will be turned around to complete the spigot removal.

1

"WOODTURNING"

This publication advertises itself as:

"The World's Leading Magazine for Wood Turners"

This is a British mag available in Hamilton NZ from Penny's Bookshop in Chartwell (\$14)

Easy to read, highly informative, heaps of pics.

Highly recommended

2

The AUSTRALIAN

"WOODWORKER"

This publication advertises itself as :

"The Australian and New Zealand woodworkers' magazine"

This too is probably available from Hamilton bookshops although I get mine on annual subscription.

Another excellent mag for anyone interested in woodwork. Easy to read, highly informative, heaps of pics.

Highly recommended

TWO VERY GOOD REFERENCE MAGAZINES

Try these websites:

www.theqmcgroup.com

www.woodworkersinstitute.com

www.skillspublish.com.au

These magazines will inspire, they will inform, they will entertain you for hours - hard to put down!

The Thursday Turners



MUHANNAD, makes progress with his flask project.



COLIN'S great chunk of Manawa wood



Tonight **CHRISTINE** completed her very first project and is seen here buffing the handle of the knockout bar to a bright shine.



MURRAY hollows out his flask



PAUL works on his paper pots maker



SPENCER'S flask project receives its final outside sanding.



MIKE elected to try some wet turning of a very beautiful, dense wood rescued from the Hukanui golf course.



BRUCE gets the sanding job done on his flask



STEPHEN ponders his next move.
Ummmmm.....

