

Hamilton Woodturners Club

(Website):

www.hwoodturners.org

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Tutor's Comment

Well my first attempt using the new computer gear turned out to be a shambles as some of you might have received a mixed up fractured TT. (bits missing etc)

I figure that the problem was caused by my doing some of the TT on the old computer and parts of the TT on the new electronic monster.



COLIN McKENZIE has always found time to while away the hours in his workshop. The club is most fortunate to have a large number of highly skilled turners, not only for what they create, but also willing to experiment and have a shot at new ideas.

This week COLIN has completed his first handled bowl (**picture left**) and a wooden flower (**picture right**)

OK Who can identify the woods COLIN has used to make his treasures?

SPALTED WOOD

Incredibly beautiful whirls and stained patterns that can be found in wood are sometimes caused by the spalting process.

OK....So what is “SPALTING”?

Spalting is the growth of a *fungus* in wood that creates **dark streaks** in the grain of the wood.

Spalting can appear in varying intensities in most species of wood commonly used by *members of the Hamilton wood turners club*. In some woods the fungus has little appearance and/or effect.

In woods of the maple family spalting can be knockout brilliant, In other woods spalting might be barely noticeable. As a general rule light-coloured timbers can produce the most dramatic effects.

Wood that has been attacked by the fungus make superb bowl turnings.

Safety note: If the spalted wood is thoroughly dried, then the fungus is not harmless to turners who are exposed to the fungus dust released by turning/sanding.

If you still have doubts then wear a protective mask. Anyway switched-on turners always wear some form of respiratory protection when working with wood – spalted or not



Spalting can occur naturally or induced by adventurous wood turners.

Home Brew Your Own Spalted Wood

A) Go find yourself some light-coloured wood such as pine, ash, birch, maple, sycamore or even old poplar.

Can't find any examples of wood in that list? OK have a shot at using whatever you can find and experiment. The idea of using light-coloured woods is the blackish fungus creates a superb contrasting effect..

B) The next step for the quickest results is to wet-turn your bowl then place it in a plastic bag that has a few small holes here and there. The plastic bag should keep the wood moist and the small holes should allow the attacking fungus to breathe oxygen in order to stay alive, grow and do its spalting work. *The process could take up 2-3 months,*

C) Make periodic checks to note how well the process is working and that the wood is still sound. Yes it should remain moist and warm. (ideal conditions for the fungus) If you leave it too long the wood may start to rot.

D) Terminate the process by removing the plastic bag and placing the spalted block (or wet-turned bowl) in an airy spot to dry thoroughly. Now wait!

E) OK all done? Go turn your treasure,



Here's a fine example of a bowl turned from a block of elm wood.

The unique dark "stains" are caused by an invading fungus.



An optical teaser here.

RICHARD JACKSON has mixed vertical with horizontal aspects within the overall shape of this well-made bowl

The design is a real eye-catcher.



GGGGGGRRRRRRrr

I'm getting there!



RIC BROADHURST SPECIALS

(Picture top) This special work had been sitting in a cupboard for the best part of 12 months then **RIC** decided enough was enough! So he finished it.....and what a cracker it turned out to be. Spalted sheoak wood.

But wait! There's more! **(Picture below)**
Chestnut wood with Green resin set around the rim.





GARY JUDKINS is fast becoming somewhat of an experimenter with his approaches to bowl shapes. Each project in recent months has had a different look about it. Excellent work.

Who can identify the wood used?

MICHAEL DOYLE used spalted gum to turn this doozy wonder.

It had heaps of cracks in it but our Michael very cunningly filled all the voids with melted crayon.

Smart thinking eh!



Our GARY again.

Wow what a finish!

Pohutukawa wood was used for this stunning project.

Finished! That took an extra hour or two so I hope it turns out right at your end. Cheers *Clive*