

This week's

TUTOR'S TIDINGS



**SPECIAL
PROJECT
WEEK**

Week 20

Friday 17th June, 2016

CLUB NEWS

- 1. WELCOME to three new members.** TRISTON NOY, FRANCIS GARRITY and DAVID GARRITY began their turning journeys as members of the TUESDAY Group. Already all three have completed the introductory project completing a handled knockout bar. A great achievement by all our newbies.
- Reminder: The demonstration by *Terry Rillstone* (of the Fibreglass Shop, Frankton) involving the use of RESIN with woodturning projects event **HAS BEEN POSTPONED.** This event was scheduled for **23rd June, 6.30pm** at the workshop but Terry has advised he is heading away overseas and would like to have this demo re-scheduled to **a new date sometime in August. (hopefully the second week in August) - TBA**
- Add this date to your calendars: **6.30pm on Thursday 30th June.** ROBERT WISELEY will be demonstrating and discussing a very special finishing technique - "RUSTING" the wood. Tuesday session turners and anyone else will be most welcome.
- Many thanks to those who were able to attend the working bee last Saturday.
- Lathe No. 13 now has a new drive belt; new blades will be fitted to the band saws ready for next week. Tailstocks on all lathes have been serviced.
- The tool maintenance programme has started with eleven club members now showing competency in sharpening 35 degree bowl gouges 10mm, 13mm and 19mm. Using a special jig, together with three consistently applied basic steps, accredited members are now expected to keep their gouges razor sharp at all times. **The use of SAFETY GLASSES when sharpening is COMPULSORY. No "ifs" No "buts" No "I forgot's" That's the club rule! Keep it!** The training programme will continue until all members reach competency with tool sharpening. *Cheers, Clive*

What's happening in our workshop?



The **TUESDAY** group had a major boost in numbers this week with **THREE** new members beginning their turning journeys. All three are new to the woodturning world but made a great start with the club's **STAGE ONE** programme with **Module One**, completing a handled knockout bar.

Picture above left to right: **DAVID GARRITY; TRISTON NOY; FRANCIS GARRITY**

Very pleased to note that the roll for the Tuesday sessions has increased and hopefully soon we will match the Thursday sessions which are currently operating at capacity membership.

Wilson's Turning Projects



MINI-POT WITH LID



Mini-pot with Lid

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This project builds on skills you may have already acquired. Most of the turning is in spindle mode, i.e. turning between two centres, and with a spigot set into a chuck fitted with 35mm spigot jaws.

This is a basic shaped pot and you will employ one of the easiest methods for fitting a lid.

Once you have mastered these introductory steps for pot making you should try different shapes sizes and other methods for attaching a lid to your pot.

Mini-pots have many uses: secure places for jewellery such as rings, necklaces etc; a convenient place for storing hearing aids; **tickets to the next Chiefs game**, money caches; keys and even a place to hide your Easter eggs.

Wood selection: mini-pots and larger models that have lids need to be made with timbers known for their stability. Some timbers “move” after making and you might be disappointed when the lid doesn’t seem to fit anymore.

Herewith a list of suitable woods for pot making (relatively stable timbers)

Red beech (very good) and other beech types

Ash, Macrocarpa

Black walnut (very good) , Blackwood

Eucalypts, Jarrah (very good)

Maple, Teak (very good)

Rimu (old and dry) and Kahikatea

Cocobolo (my ultimate and favourite but has to be imported – Expensive too!)

Most woods in this list are leaf woods - i.e. **HARDWOOD**

The list goes on.....

Check the Internet for additional information about suitable wood for your pot making.

Tools

Callipers, a ruler, sanding papers of various grits, power sanding equipment, a chuck fitted with 35mm spigot jaws, a 40mm Forstner bit and a Jacob's chuck. A small 6mm bowl gouge would be useful for adding fine touches, 10 or 13mm gouges, small parting chisel and a mini-scraper.

Turning experiences involve:

- More spindle turning
- Using a mini-scraper to make final smooth cuts)
- adding a 28mm x 37mm spigot (quite precise eh)
- use of a cup chisel
- power sanding
- critical measuring as always
- drilling a hole using a Forstner bit

Step One: Selecting the wood

Dense, heavy wood is best.

Dense wood for your pot is more likely to stay stable, achieve a smooth finish and polish well.

Choose wisely:

Be fussy! Avoid hairline cracks, inclusions, knots etc. If you find any then discard that bit of wood and go find a much better piece.

The piece in picture is *sycamore* that once grew in Christchurch. The tree was felled, cut into long logs then left to spalt. (a fungal process)
Wow just look at the spalting effects with its range of colours.



My slab measured 75mm X 150mm X 280mm

Step two: Machining to size

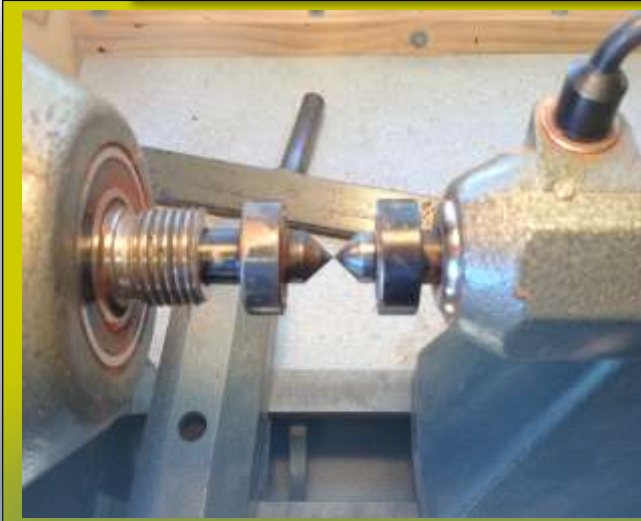


Cut in half length ways and then width ways and Voila!
You now have enough wood for FOUR mini-pots.
(Each measuring 75mm X 75mm X 140mm)

The first of these will be the one you make guided by these instructions. Maybe the other three pots you make will be guided by your keen sense of rampant creativity.

P.S. The lid wood is extra and could be of a different variety. Good luck.

Step Three: STANDARD PRACTICE ALIGNING THE HEAD and TAILSTOCKS



The picture on the left shows a simple but quite effective method for aligning the head and tail stocks of your lathe.

Loosen both stocks, slide the tailstock up the headstock and adjust the **HEADSTOCK** until the points of the centres are in line.

OK now carefully lock the **HEADSTOCK** in place.

As you will be turning a spigot at the **HEADSTOCK** end during this project, the aligning step is necessary. Do it!

IMPORTANT REMINDER HERE

Failure to do this basic spindle turning routine as described above will, more-often-than-not, result in uneven circular turnings.

Another pesky problem that can occur, is when the tailstock is backed off removing the support, the end of your turning has a minor or serious wobble.

Step four: If you have access to a drop saw then trim the ends of your blocks absolutely square. If you don't have a drop saw then use a band saw with a square set slide guide like the one in the picture below.

Each of the four blocks should now measure approximately 75 x75 x 140mm. Choose ONE of these and store the others in your woodturning hidey hole.

Safety: Keep your fingers clear of the blade. Removal of fingers is not recommended because it will be harder to pick up things after you are discharged from hospital.



SAFETY: You must be an **approved user** of the band-saw.

If not yet an approved user you will need to use the band-saw under supervision only.

Check the club's list for one of the accredited members and ask them to assist you.

Step five: Mount the square-section length onto the lathe as shown.



Mark the ends to locate dead-centre and punch a small hole accordingly. At the headstock end seat the claw (spur) centre securely into the wood. The live centre fits into the tailstock end.

If the **ALIGNMENT** routine has been followed correctly then the work should spin easily and without any suspicious noises at about 800-1200 rpm.

Turn the square-section block to a cylinder, the biggest diameter cylinder possible from your length of wood. Create a 28mm X 37mm spigot at the headstock end. Then fit to a chuck (see next picture)

Step six: Fitting spigot to a chuck, rounding and initial shaping



Use a 13mm bowl gouge to remove the wood from the square section until the block begins to take shape.

A scraper would be a useful tool for the final cut to the work. Use an EZ tool scraper. These tools are easy to use and produce amazingly smooth finishes. No EZ tool scraper? OK use another tool (see Clive)

Notice the beautiful patterns caused by the fungus during the spalting process.

The picture above shows that the tailstock can now be removed as the block is ready for drilling a hole using a Forstner bit. Check that the chuck is tight on the spigot.

Step seven: Drilling out the pot centre to a determined depth.



Place a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock. Reduce the rpm speed (250-300). Note chalk marks in picture are there to act as depth guides. The depth in the picture shown is 75mm, which leaves enough thickness in the pot base for sanding etc. Also note how much wall thickness is left after drilling. Using the cup chisel will reduce that thickness further.

There's nothing fancy to do at the top of the pot as the lid will be designed as a drop-on-firm-fit style.

Step eight: Using the cup chisel

Set the height of the tool rest so that the cup chisel will be cutting at the dead-centre line inside the pot.

Scrape away the walls of the pot at about 1000-1200 rpm. (you may need to adjust if the chisel seems to bounce instead of cutting).

Best cutting occurs when the cup is presented to the wood at a slight angle from perpendicular.
NOTE: Some woods behave better with different rpm speeds. It's trial and error time!



Step nine: I have discovered that **ARBRANET** abrasive is excellent for sanding the inside of the pot. This remarkable abrasive is cloth-like, doesn't clog and easily doubled to give you some protection from generated friction heat while sanding. Finish the inside and out.

The piece in picture is spalted sycamore that responded well to EEE Ultra Shine. The oil in the EEE paste penetrated the wood well to enhance the crazy streaks and patterns.



Step ten: Turning the firm-fit lid.

Select a piece of wood (maybe a different coloured wood) 100mm long x 75 x75mm.

By now you are probably "running on automatic" with end squaring, marking centres, mounting of the lathe between centres, rounding, making a spigot and setting into a chuck. So do all of that and you will be at the stage as shown in the picture.

Step eleven: The Lid

Make any shape you prefer or follow a similar design to the one in the picture.

This lid is designed to fit OVER the OUTSIDE diameter to the top of the pot. It should slide on firmly to a depth of at least 10mm with no sideways movement or any rattle sound.



Step twelve: Making the lid fit firmly



As you turn out the lid **make several fitting checks** for correct firm-fit by presenting the pot to the lid. Leave a thick “connector” at this stage because if made too thin the lid may wobble or, worse still it could break off.
Sand and finish.

Step thirteen: Styling the lid



The picture **BELOW** shows a finial added to the top of the lid. However, you may prefer to have a simple dome idea.

Sand everything using the “range of grits” approach.

Apply EEE Ultra Shine to prepare the surface for your chosen finish. (wax, polish etc).

Reduce the thickness of the connector, part off the almost completed lid, then sand the finial bits. Apply the same finish to these parts.

PROJECT COMPLETION Final step: Buffing to a fine sheen

The BIG TESTt:

With thumb and forefinger holding the finial gently lift your mini pot. If the base holds firm to the lid give yourself a 100% pass mark.

If not, then make another one, but this time with a more firm-fitting lid.



QUALITY TURNINGS completed by club members this week



COLIN's laminated purpleheart wood bowl with embellishment white dots.

COLIN: More purpleheart wood lamination but this time with a creative lace work embellishment.



MURRAY's confidence grows each week and the challenges grow bolder. A very interesting and well-crafted embellishment adds great interest to this turning.



MURRAY used his home-made pyrography machine and artists' paint to add interest to his bowl.

Embellishments certainly make a difference to turning works.

Excellent work here.

COLIN spends quite a few quality hours in his workshop each week. His sense of adventure in the woodturning world is to be admired.



SPENCER's work of art with its intricate dremel tool design work on recycled rimu wood is quite special.

This work is right up there with the best work we have seen this year.

Well done Spencer!

Well another turning week draws to a close. A great week all round with growing club membership, excellent individual progress and some superb turnings produced. Oh yes I almost forgot..... the second-string CHIEFS rugby team had a magnificent win. (Makes me wonder what a full-strength team would have done to the mighty Welshmen?)

See you all next week

Cheers

Clive