

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of WoodTurners in Western Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

No 45

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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, February 17th.

Location: Max Peterson's Workshop

Time: 9.30 am. Coffee & Donuts from 9.30

ROUTER JIGS. Members will be demonstrating the various jigs and fixtures that they have developed to cut grooves and slots on turnings both on and off the lathe. These enable many fascinating effects to be achieved. If you have any ideas please bring them along, otherwise sit back, listen and absorb!

SHOW AND TELL. Turned Lids. OK OK so I have taken you by surprise. I am going to give you a few ideas for these items that can be turned quickly - and at the last moment, ideal for those of you who regularly don't start on your show and tell piece until at least 10 pm before the meeting.

Of course you are still welcome to bring along any other interesting piece that you have turned whilst sheltering from the snowy blasts of winter.

SWAP CHEST. This new feature was introduced in January and the chest was almost empty by the end of the meeting. Bring along any unwanted offcuts or pieces of wood that no longer interest you and be prepared to choose and collect someone else's discards for turning or inlaying. I have already seen some of the pieces turned by members from wood they picked up from the chest. "One man's poison is another man's Meat" Well ! something like that. Anyway please be generous and bring along your contributions for the Swap Chest at the next meeting.

LAST MEETING

Paul Brandt gave an excellent and well prepared demonstration of how he sets about turning bowls. If only more demonstrators would copy his example of preparing pieces to show each stage of production. He suggested practising the use of tools first before worrying too much about form and then when the turner had gained control he should then start thinking about the final shape and suggested studying other people's work and gain an idea of what looks good and what does not. A discussion ensued on whether to grind or hone and it appeared that the wood specie being used was an important factor in deciding this. He showed how he used a gouge for the heavy cuts and then a light cut with a scraper to "fair the curves" before finally finishing with a sheer cut by holding the scraper at an angle instead of flat on the tool rest.

I am sure that all of the beginner turners and most of the experienced ones will join me in thanking Paul for an interesting job well done.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

March 17th.

Easter Eggs and Eggcups. Maybe you've never eaten a soft boiled egg in its shell and wondered why the English wood turning magazines and catalogues are so full of egg cups and egg timers. All the answers and demonstrations of how to turn the holders for the egg will be there for you at this meeting.

ADDITIONAL MEETING February 27th at Jack Brown's shop in the North Hills, 7 pm please call if you are interested (724) 898 2380

BOILED WOOD

An enterprising and painstaking turner named Steven D. Russell is convinced that boiled blanks split and distort less than ones that have not been subjected to this process. He has carried out many trials over a 3 year period. **Jim Vandzura** has copies available of the report showing his methods and results. If you think that your wife might let you into the kitchen, and you are interested in the idea, contact Jim and find out more.

THE WOODWORKER'S SHOW.

This was a great success. The number of projects for display was overwhelming and luckily we ended up with the space of two booths and were thus able to display all the very beautiful and unusual turnings contributed by members. The booth was well supported by members for display items, turning demonstrations and public relations. Thanks to all who contributed to this effort. Visitors to the show really showed a lot of interest and we had many sign-ups as prospective members. The show in general had good attendance which contributed to the many enquiries at the Turners Anonymous Booth.

*We owe a big vote of thanks to **Jim Vandzura** for co-ordinating, setting up and tearing down this wonderful exhibit and, to **Gary Fournier** for the loan of his Lathe for the demonstrations
(Contributed by Jack Brown)*

OUR WEB SITE.

Thanks to the efforts of **Jim Vandzura** the Turners Anonymous Web site is up and running again. The new address is:-

www.turnanon.homestead.com

For Sale:

Short lengths for carving, turning or wood working general, call **Steve Morovich** or see him before or after the meeting.

(412) 341 1980

The Wood worker's Newsletter has recently contained appropriate Limericks composed by members. Not to be outdone, one of our members has contributed the following:-

An ardent wood turner of yore
Had turnings that flew out the door
When his gouges did catch
Other plans did he hatch
And stifled a raucous guffaw

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Your Editor won't be able to make it to the meeting on the 17th February, but will imagine you all discussing the events of the evening before. Will they have gone like this?

7 pm Supper time. "Have another pickle dear". "No thanks I don't want another." "You've got to! I need the jar". "Willie, Haven't you scraped out those Peanut and Jelly jars yet? No! I don't want another sandwich." "You must, we can't waste them and I need the Jars. John said so."

8pm Resting in front of the TV with stomach growling from a surfeit of pickles.

9 pm asleep

10 pm searching through the scrap pile for suitable offcuts.

11pm Down to the shop and finding that you have to finish what's on the Lathe before you can set about making those **** Jar Lids

11.30 Desperately looking for something to make into a Jam Chuck

Midnight. Lids turned. Thoughts of bed.

1 am Return to Lathe to apply a finish and sand and finish and sand and finish and sand and finish.

2am Finished

6am awake and bounce out of bed excited at the thought that today is THE DAY of the month when Turners Anonymous are holding their meeting and due to all the last minute efforts. "I do have something to produce for the Show and Tell."

Editor.

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JAM CHUCKS AND JAM JARS

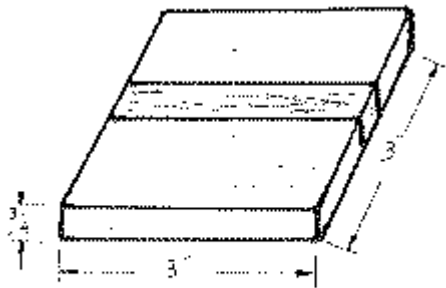
I'm sure that most members do put out empty glass jars with other salvage for re-cycling. But, if you see a particularly attractive shape why not re-cycle it another way by turning a wooden lid, cap or cover for it. This can prove a useful way to use up those tiny scraps of exotic wood that you just could not bear to throw away.

I usually start by gripping a square of solid or laminated wood in my 4 Independent Jaw chuck although there are many other alternatives such as using a screw chuck, gluing on to a waste block or gripping in one of those patented designs such as the One Way.

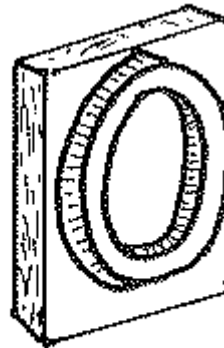
A recess is turned about 1/4" to 1/2" deep and successive cuts made with a square nose scraper until the outside diameter of the jar is approached, using callipers as a check. It then usually takes two or three starts and stops of the lathe and a few fine re-cuts until a good tight fit is obtained. Before removing the block it may be possible to do a little turning of the outside of the lid BUT and it is a BIG BUT do be careful of the Jaws of the Chuck; some turners like to wrap some adhesive tape around them as a warning, either using a bright colour or leaving an end flapping intentionally.

The next step is to fix a waste block (possibly using a wood screw chuck) and turn a *spigot*, if that is the word, on to which we can force our lid-to-be. Sometimes a more secure fit can be obtained if we wet the grain with water. For safety's sake it is recommended to bring the Tail stock up close with a live center and if you don't want to mark the top of the lid, place a small piece of plywood with a 1/8" hole between the lid and the center. Turn the outside to the desired shape and sand what you can reach, finally you can slide the tailstock away and sand the center of you jar lid.

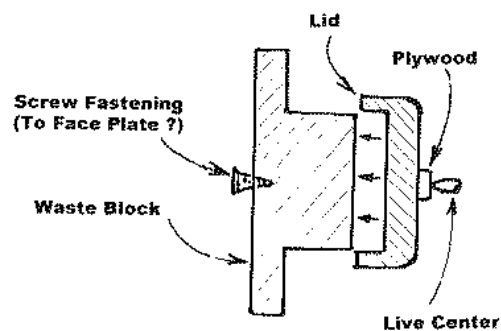
If you are going to add a knob or handle, then now is the time to drill a small hole to receive it, but do NOT drill all the way through so that no hole is seen on the inside of the lid.



Basic Block



Turned Recess



Jam Chuck