

August



Woody's World

The Newsletter of



2015

Tonight should have been a demo by Rob from Axminster, but he didn't turn up.

Mick Smets offered to go home and get some wood, and a brief discussion to decide what we should do resulted in a vote for spindle work. Mick went off to get some wood whilst the lathe was being set up.

Mick returned after half an hour with a bowl blank, and so Mick's demo for the evening was decided: "Bowl turning basics".



The session started with sharpening as none of the club chisels were up to scratch - but first of all the grinder had to be fixed as some cables had come adrift.

And now, on with the demo...

Before applying power, make sure that the work can turn freely without snagging!

The first cuts are to true up the outside of the blank to get it into balance – set the tool rest just below the centre line so you have a good angle on the chisel.

Use the tool on the bevel, bottom wing. Hold the chisel with the left hand at the tool end of the handle, the end of the handle rests with the hip.

When checking the wood for round, use your thumb trailing, not your fingers.





When the edge is trued up, move the toolrest round to the base. Make sure it's square to the wood to make the cuts easier.

Your stance should be right leg forward and left leg back, keep your feet still and move your body in with the chisel.

True the base of the bowl flat and then decide on the shape. A flared bowl can look better, and Mick likes the 'S' shape – concave to the rim and convex at the base.



Turn the concave top first, then work from the base outward.

Once the basic shape is done, you have a flat portion at the base – put a "shadow line" on this base, which again, can enhance the look.

Now put the dovetail in using a parting tool. Shape the centre to give it aesthetic appeal, then finish the angle of the dovetail with a skew.

A discussion then ensued about how much one could spend on fancy tools and expensive grind wheels. Mick is of the opinion that you don't need more than half a dozen tools for most work.





Now take the bowl off, mount the base on the chuck and start working on the top side.

First true the top surface working from outside in until it is flat.

Now start in the centre to dig in, working back towards the outside with each successive cut. Don't take the centre too deep at this stage before finishing the outside edge.



When finishing the outside edge, don't take the bowl too thin as people like to feel a bit of weight in the wood. You can feather the top in to make it look (and feel) thinner than it is.

Now go deeper in the middle, but measure the depth as you go: again, you don't need fancy tools to do this, just use your gouge and your thumb.



If you get a high pitched hissing sound it means it's getting too thin!

We were all grateful to Mick for this excellent "back to basics" demonstration.





Forthcoming Attractions

Aug 6 th	@ 7:00 pm	Mick Hanbury
Sep 3 rd	@ 7:30 pm	David Tilley – Christmas Trees
Oct 8 th	@ 7:30 pm	Hands On
Nov 5 th	@ 7:30 pm	David Simms Christmas Decorations
Dec 3 rd	@ 7:30 pm	Hands On

Remember members who do demos will receive payment.

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