



Woody's World

3rd February 2022



Barley Twisting

This demo was given by Steve Jennings.

He was demonstrating with four pieces which will be the legs of a stool he is making. Each leg was turned down from 40mm square maple, 350mm long.

The first step is to decide how much of the piece you want to use for the barley twist. In this case, he wanted to use the middle 32cm, so the first job is to mark that length on the wood.



For that length it would be better to take the twist round twice, so the centre was marked at 16cm. Now, on each half, mark off a line at 4cm intervals (the narrower the gap, the finer the twist will be).



The next step is to mark 4 lines linearly along the wood, evenly spaced. You could either use the corners of the original wood square (if you haven't turned them all out), or use the chuck jaws as a guide, but they must be 90° apart. Use the tool rest as a straight edge to draw the line on

the wood.

Now number one of the lines '1', and the line at 180° '2'. These will be the start of the grooves. The other two lines will be the start of the tops.

Another decision: will this be a right or left handed thread? (if you're making a pair of candles, Steve advised you should do one of each).

Whatever your decision, you now need to draw a diagonal line, starting at '1', across the first rectangle, and then on intersecting the corner of every subsequent rectangle until you reach the other end. (Steve used a bit of cardboard as a straight edge, but you can use anything suitable that will bend around the wood).



Repeat this starting at '2'.



Using a coping saw, make a shallow cut (about 2mm deep) along the diagonal lines you have just drawn. This will make the basis for the grooves. Note that at all stages it is important to progress on both grooves at the same time.

Steve uses 'microplane' rasps (from Axminster*). These have inter-changeable blades which come in 3 profiles (V-shaped, round and flat). * No longer available



He started with a small V shaped file (he mounts them in the handle so that they cut on the pull). Follow the saw cut round, but don't go too deep to start with.



Work on the top, and gently rotate the wood, aiming for an even cut.

After working the groove a few times with this file, he then went on to a small diameter round file to open the groove up a bit more, and finally on to a larger diameter round file.

This will give you square topped grooves, so if you want rounded ones, you will need to finish with a flat file.

Lastly, sand (starting at 180 going up to 400), and finish in whatever way you prefer.



Below left: the four stool legs at varying stages.

Below right: some candlesticks Steve made.



Forthcoming Meetings

Meetings normally are on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections. Meetings start at **7pm**.

3 rd March	<i>Hands on barley twisting</i>
7 th April	<i>AGM</i>
5 th May	<i>TBA</i>
2 nd June	<i>TBA</i>
7 th July	<i>TBA</i>
4 th August	<i>TBA</i>

If you have any ideas or requests for future meetings, please mention it to Dave Simms.

Remember: members who demonstrate may receive payment.

Committee

Chairman	Dave Simms	david.simms26@outlook.com
Vice-Chairman	Dave Simms	david.simms26@outlook.com
Secretary	Steve Jennings	01295 812147 stevejennings070@btinternet.com
Membership Sec.	Jerry Whyman	jandmwhyman@btinternet.com
Demo Organiser	Vacant	
Treasurer	Andy Smith	01789 612649 / 07865 938850 andrewsmith1125@outlook.com
Editor & web	Jan Lucas	lucasjan30@gmail.com