



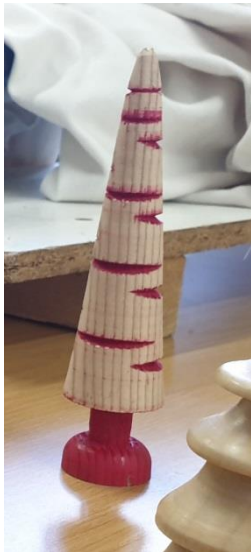
Woody's World

11th May 2023



Off Centre Turning

The demonstration tonight was given by Mick Smets. He had a small display of items to show what could be done.



For example: a 'christmas tree', which is turned on 4 different centres - the real centre, plus 3 others at equal spacing on a radius of about $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Turn the cone on the real centre, and then the notches are put in with a parting tool on each of the 3 other centres. Paint the whole thing red, and then take a skim off the top to leave just the notches red (seal before painting otherwise it will bleed).

Anyway, the demo tonight was to make a bird. These birds can be made different sizes, but probably better not to go smaller than $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter, and no bigger than $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (too big and the neck will introduce unwanted vibrations). A remark was made that it is better to use branch wood as it has more character.

To start, turn a spigot on one end of the piece, long enough so that it can be mounted off centre in the chuck. Place the spigot in the chuck without tightening it, and then put the tailstock centre in about $\frac{1}{2}$ " off centre. Now tighten the chuck.



Mark a line about $\frac{1}{3}$ up and this will mark where the neck starts.



Start with a roughing gouge to take the edges off, then use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " spindle gouge to start forming the neck. There should be a sharp edge where the body starts, and you need to make a straight right angle cut to achieve this. Mark about $\frac{3}{4}$ " down to define where the head will be and swap to a $\frac{3}{8}$ " gouge to

finish the neck. Now shape the head.

Mick made the point that he doesn't work with exact measurements, it's all done by eye. Similarly, when sanding, he doesn't note the grit, he just does it by feel.

Now sand and seal the neck and head. Keep your fingers flat when sanding the top of the body to avoid catching your fingers. Mick uses "[Speed an Eez](#)" to seal, and then a stick of Carnuba to finish.



Now put the spigot back square in the chuck.

[At this point there is an option make a hole in the top of the body to hold cocktail sticks. If you want to do this you will need a smallish forstner bit with an extension. You may need to slightly off centre the piece again if the bit is going to catch the head.]



Turn the body, again starting with the roughing gouge, and then using the ½" spindle gouge to shape the body and feet, Finish as with the neck, and then part it off.

To make a beak, use a piece of kebab stick, and shape it using an electric drill and sandpaper. Drill a hole in the head at a jaunty angle, and glue the beak in.

You may want to add a hat.
Mick did.



Future meetings

The club depends on members volunteering to do demonstrations. Without volunteers the club will fold. **Ask not what the club can do for you, but let Dave know what you can do for the club.**

Forthcoming Meetings

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

Subject	Sponsor	Date
TBD		1 st June
TBD		6 th July
TBD		3 rd August
TBD		7 th September
Skew Chisel Hands On	Nick Milton	TBD
Segmented Turning	TBD	TBD

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

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