



Between Turns

Michigan Association of Woodturners



Volume 18 Issue 10

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

October 2006

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Meeting Announcements

Nick Cook Demo

Seats are filling up for the Nick Cook demo on December 9th & 10th. Two days of top notch demonstration by one of the AAW's best demonstrators. Cost is \$80.00 for both days. This includes continental breakfast and lunch both days.

Come join us and take a wealth of information home with you. Call Tom Mogford at 810-629-6176 for reservations.

For more information, visit the AAW website at <http://www.woodturner.org/>. The first time you login, use the username and password provided to you from the Fall 2006 individual AW Journal you received. If you just joined the AAW for the first time, the username and password were provided to you either electronically, or via postal mail with your order. After you login, you will be prompted to create a unique username and password combination.

If you need assistance with this, please feel free to call any of the club officers listed for additional help.

AAW Dues

As part of the Fall 2006 membership drive, the AAW will be giving away a free Powermatic 3520B lathe to one lucky member who joined/renewed ONLINE. You can see and learn about this lathe at <http://www.wmhtoolgroup.com/shop/index.cfm?navPage=4&iid=6056397>

Local Chapter Dues

Local chapter dues are due by the December meeting. Dues are \$55.00 and payable to Tim at the regular meetings.

Nomination of Officers

Nominations for Chapter officers will be taken at the November meeting. Voting will take place at the December meeting.



Show & Tell table from the October meeting.

By joining on line, your correct address, phone, etc. will appear in the Directory and your Journal will be mailed to the correct address. If you use the paper mail-in form, mistakes can happen in reading and retying it. The lathe will be given away in a drawing just after January 1, 2007. To qualify for the drawing you must join or renew online using the AAW website join/renew feature. Members who join/renew by phone or by paper will NOT qualify for the drawing. Only members who join/renew online between August 15, 2006 and January 1, 2007 will qualify. The free lathe includes free shipping up to \$400.

Dues:

\$95.00/year, includes A.A.W. Membership. Remit at the December meeting or by mail to:

Tim Morris, Treasurer 1673
Woodlake Circle Brighton,
MI 48116

Meetings:

will now be held from 1 – 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at the workshop of:

Dave Gordon
10621 Milford Rd.
Holly, Michigan 48442

Next Meeting:

**November 5,
2006**

Photo's

- Photographs for this month's "Between Turns" were provided by Bob Roehrig. If you have digital photo's that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter, please send them to the editor at:
rroehrig@charter.net

Wood Grain Orientation & Turning Techniques



Bob Shepard cutting a Cherry log for his demonstration on Wood grain orientation and turning techniques.

At the October meeting Bob Shepard gave an informative demonstration on wood grain orientation and turning techniques. Bob covered such things as:

- How to layout your cut for best grain orientation.
- Mounting your log on the lathe.
- Types of tools and how they will cut.
- Avoiding tear out

)Thanks goes out to Bob for a great job!



Lynn Grenier taking a practice cut during Bob Shepard's demo. Lynn was trying out a scraper technique.

New Faces

Daniel Sykes and David White joined the club at our last meeting. Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

Calendar

The calendar listings are an attempt to keep you up to date on upcoming MAW events, as well as other events of particular interest to woodturners.

- Next MAW meeting will be on November 5, 2006
- Nomination of Officers at November 5 meeting
- Totally Turning wood turning Symposium. October 14 & 15 in Albany, NY

Club Store

Please remember that the MAW club store has the following items in stock.

- Hats
- T—Shirts
- Turning smocks
- CA Glue....all types + activator
- Sand paper
- Sanding mandrels
- Sanding discs
- Scraper discs (replacement)
- Wood sealer for green wood

Making a Passive Sander

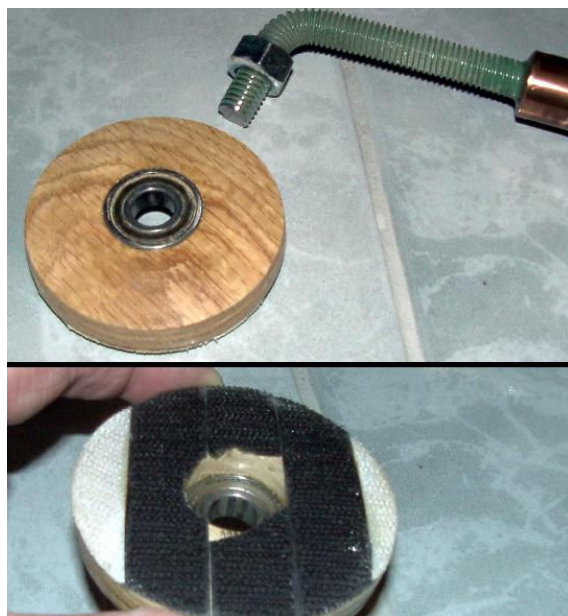
This is the most recent passive sander. Again, the simple principle is that the inner ring of the bearing is trapped between two nuts on the shaft. The outer ring of the bearing is fixed (glued) into the disk part of the sander.

As you can see, I made the new one simpler by just using a threaded rod. This one happens to be bent, but a straight one would work the same. The shaft of the threaded rod just gets glued into a handle. The size of the holes is simple. The one on the top of the disk has to be the size of the outer bearing diameter and as deep as the bearing is thick. The other hole that goes right through the disk is the same size as the outer dimension of the socket wrench you'll use to tighten the nut.

To put it together, turn a nut onto the threaded rod. Slide on the bearing which has now been glued into the wooden disk. Then thread on another nut and trap the bearing. (You may want to use a flat washer on either side of the bearing). To tighten in, use a socket wrench on nut on the velcro side of the sanding disk and an ordinary flat wrench on the other nut.

If you've made the disk a little thin and the nut sticks up above the surface of the disk, just cut the nut in half with a hacksaw and make it thinner, or grind it down.

Glue on your handle and you're done.



Finish Your Turnings with Waterlox "Original"

By: Andy Chen

At my first GCWA meeting back in 1994, I showed a segmented bowl that won many praises. Luna Ford especially appreciated the glossy finish on that bowl. (In fact, he still talks about it today.) It might have been a beautiful finish, but the process to achieve it was painful. I had put on 10 coats of polyurethane. (This was before the days of the modern wipe-on products, mind you.) It took me more than two weeks to just put the finish on. Over the years, I have tried many other finishing products, but either the result was less than satisfactory or the process was just too cumbersome and time-consuming. Two years ago, I read in an Internet discussion group posting about Waterlox. The author claimed that Bud Latven and Ray Allen, two of the best segmented turners, used this product. I decided to give it a try and have been very happy with both the result and the ease of achieving such result. Judging from the response, our club members like the looks of it, too. Here is how I do it.

You start with a proper preparation like any other finishing job. For segmented bowls, I sand to only 220 grit with either just a pad or a power sander with the lathe turning. (Larry Genender has a nice article on making a James Johnson style sanding disc in American Woodturner, vol. 20, #2, p. 19, 2005.) For turnings from one piece of wood, I sand to 320 with a power sander, with the lathe turning. I blow off the dust and the grit with compressed air before applying the Waterlox. Waterlox is a tung oil-based varnish and as such it is penetrating. I apply the finish with a nylon stocking or just by hand (with nitrile gloves of course), making sure the entire surface is saturated. When the varnish becomes tacky (within 5-10 min depending on the weather), wipe off the excess with paper towels. You can facilitate this process by putting a little of the varnish on the towel to soften the tacky finish. After sitting overnight, steel wool (0000) the turning with the lathe turned on. Apply the second coat the same way. Because it does not require nearly as much to cover the turning this time, simply rub the finish on by hand (without nylon stocking). A couple of hours is all it takes for the second and subsequent coats to dry. I have only applied 3 coats on my turnings. More is fine, but I generally run out of patience after the third coat. Steel wool after the final coat and buff with Tripoli, white diamond and carnauba wax. I have in recent months finished turning on Friday afternoon, put the Waterlox on and brought the turning to the GCWA meeting the next morning. In such cases, I do not wait overnight before I apply the second coat. You just need to be totally positive that the varnish is dry between coats.

One additional benefit of finishing with Waterlox is that it is easy to repair should need arise. One problem with segmented turning is that over time the segments can shift against each other due to environmental changes, creating unevenness to the touch. I have wet-sanded the uneven areas with 320 grit sandpaper with Waterlox. You cannot detect any blemishes after buffing it.

Waterlox comes in many formulations: the satin (TB 6022) satin sealer/finish (TB 5284), high gloss (TB 3182), marine (exterior, TB 3940) and even urethane. What is very confusing is all their tung oil-based varnishes have "Original" on the label. I have only used the satin/sealer (TB 5284) because I like the medium luster it produces. I cannot give you advice on the others. In addition, I believe another tung oil-based product, Liberon, is very similar to Waterlox. Brian Laing and Bob Brown use it a lot with excellent results.

One problem with all oil-based varnishes is that they tend to cure in the container once you open it. The most likely cause of this is exposure to the air (oxygen). I have tried Bloxygen that displaces the air in the container to extend the life of the finish with little success. Not only is Bloxygen not very effective but it is expensive. I do not recommend it. The saving grace with Waterlox is that once a polymerized film skins over the liquid, it helps protect the varnish from further deterioration. You can retrieve the finish beneath the dried film with an eye dropper. Eventually the film will become a crust. But as long as you can recover the liquid beneath the crust, it does not appear to adversely affect the quality of the finish. I am still using the can that I opened 2 years ago. Another problem with the kind of container in which Waterlox comes is the dried finish tends to gum up the screw cap. The solution to this problem is to cover the opening with a sheet of plastic, like the produce bag you find in supermarkets, before screwing the cap back on.

In almost 30 years that I have been woodworking/woodturning, I have always hated the final and arguably the most critical step, finishing. It is hard to control the outcome and the fumes are nasty. I cannot claim I enjoy it now that I have used Waterlox, but at least I do not dread it any more, at least on lathe-turned work. I hope you will feel the same way after you try Waterlox.