



# Between Turns

Michigan Association of Woodturners  
A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



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## CONTACT US

President: Tom Mogford

810-629-6176

Vice President:

Pete Buccelato

248-634-7622

Treasure: Tim Morris

810-229-7156

Secretary: Bob Roehrig

810-750-9132

Webmaster: Bob Roehrig

rroehrig@charter.net

Librarian: Tim Leright

734-595-0223

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## Sharpening.....In's & Outs

May's MAW meeting addressed the many sharpening questions members have been having over the last year. Tom Mogford and Ruby Cler answered the majority of these questions through demonstrations, illustrations and hands on sharpening techniques.

Sharpening techniques of all the basic tools were gone over. Tools covered were the skew, bowl gouge, Ellsworth

tool, spindle gouge and roughing gouge. Safety



Tom Mogford drawing out a sharpening diagram.

concerning the use of the roughing gouge was

again stressed. Again this tool is for spindle or cross grain turning. It is never used for end grain or bowl turning due to the weakness in the tang part of the tool.

Other techniques covered in the sharpening demo included how to hone a tool using a wheel and compound plus honing using a diamond abrasive card. Hopefully all members received some good information.

## New Mentoring Update

Colleen Bruning-Fann has volunteered to try something new for our mentoring program to give more hands on experiences to turners.

With the number of resident

experts who are members of MAW, it was decided to begin a mentoring program involving hands-on training to be held at the club meeting place. The first program, "Finial Turning and Design" will be taught by Ruby and Pete. This program will be held in Fall of 2008 with an exact

date to be determined later in the year. Due to the limited number of club lathes available, members are asked to bring a lathe to this training if at all possible. To cover rent of the facility and transportation costs of the mentors, a \$20.00 per person fee will be charged.

## Free Demonstration

At the May meeting a discussion was held about having another 2 day free demonstration for all MAW club members. Our budget will allow this and since this is membership money from dues and raffles, the members are once again entitled to this nice treat. The Dennis Liggett free demonstration that we had in 2007 was a great experience and brought many good comments.

The membership discussed and threw out some names for consideration. It was decided that a demonstration that would be for intermediate and advanced turners would be better suited for the clubs needs. Our own club members can put on demonstrations for members who would fall into the beginning turner category. If you have any further names of demonstrators that you would like the club to consider, please give them to Tom at the next regularly scheduled meeting in June. Further information will be made available at a later date and club members will be kept posted.



Spalted vessel by Dave Pierce

## Get Well Updates Herm & Betty

I spoke with Herm last Tuesday evening and all is doing well with his recovery. He still is having some problem with weakness in his right side, but is steadily making gains to a full recovery. Gave him our best from all the MAW members.

Emailed Betty Brandt and she said, "Thanks for the inquiry. I am doing fine--a little slow walking yet--but getting there... This getting old is tough work. I would have been at the May meeting, but our oldest daughter got married last weekend. I hope to be able to make the next meeting."



A big thanks go's out to Tom's wife for the chocolate chip and Oatmeal cookies she brought in for the meeting.

Dan Sykes will be providing the treats for the June meeting. Thanks to all that have volunteered in the past. You truly make our meeting more enjoyable.

## Photo's

Photographs for this months "Between-Turns" were provided by Gary Smith. 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:

[roehrig@charter.net](mailto:roehrig@charter.net)

## 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.

- **MAW meeting ...June 1, 2008**
- June Meeting demonstration will be on Stave Construction.
- Graeme Priddle Demonstration, May 19, 2008. Further information go to: [www.johannesmichelson.com](http://www.johannesmichelson.com)
- June - AAW National Symposium.
- July demonstration - End Grain turning.
- July meeting date to be determined.
- August 3rd - Picnic

## MAW Mentors

If you would like help getting started in woodturning or help with working out a problem, feel free to call any of the names listed below. As always, there is NO CHARGE to members of the *Michigan Association of Woodturners*.

Tom Mogford.....810-629-6176

Pete Buccellato...248-634-7622

Bill Magee (Pen Turning)734-981-6117

Herman Spaeth...248-486-4720

John Becker (mugs, goblets, pipes)...248-851-0437

Bob Shepard (ornamental turning, segmented turning).....517-655-3967

# Library Updates

## Past Due Library Items

The following items are past due in the library. A \$2.00 fee will be charged for each past due item.

**If you want to avoid the fine please call me or email me and let me know that you will not be at the meeting. You can also mail the items to me.**

**Please check your movie collections.**

### [April sign outs that are now past due:](#)

Segmented Turning (DVD 528) Signed out by Russ Cerny on 4/06/08  
Son of Skew (VHS 406) Signed out by Pete Jordan on 4/06/08  
Skew Chisel (VHS 405) Signed out by Pete Jordan on 4/06/08  
Turning Projects (DVD 525) Signed out by Bill Neuroth on 4/6/08  
Woodturning Tips (Book 725) Signed out by Bill Neuroth on 4/6/08  
Fine Woodworking Magazine (FWMAG 201) Signed out by Dan Sykes on 4/6/08

Tim Leright  
4162 Biddle Street  
Wayne, MI. 48184  
734-595-0223  
Leright@sbcglobal.net

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The information below pertains to the May meeting about sharpening that I thought all the members might be able to use for additional help.

1. The Skew Chisel (VSH 401) by Allen Batty
2. The Skew Chisel (VHS405) by Allan Lacer
3. Son of Skew (VHS 406) by Alan Lacer
4. The Ellsworth Signature Gouge (VHS422) by Davis Ellsworth
5. The Wolverine Sharpening System (DVD510) by Oneway  
In the General Information Section
  1. GI1004 Sharpening Wood turning Chisels.
  2. GI1009 Skew Chisel
  3. GI1010 Ellsworth Sharpening Jig
  4. GI1067 The Versatile Irish Grind

# THE ELLSWORTH SHARPENING JIG

Recommended for use with 5/8" diameter, deep-fluted bowls gouges only.

Setting up the Slide: See drawings included

a - Cut 'slide' from any board; 3/4" thick, 2" wide and about 15" long. Cut slot approximately 7/16" diameter to clear the 3/8" diameter carriage bolt. Cut notch in 'basket' to receive tip of the jig's aluminum leg

b - Position the slide on the bench so that it is parallel to the plane of the wheel and directly below it. Secure temporarily with a C-clamp.

c - The pivot point of basket must be 4" below the center hole in the wheel. Notes: Remove wheel cover. 6" grinders may have to be blocked up slightly to achieve this 4" distance.

c - Position a 'guide' against the slide so it is parallel to the plane of the wheel; secure to the bench.

d - Drill 3/8" diameter hole through bench top to receive 3/8" diameter carriage bolt. Be sure this hole is below the center line of the wheel, not off to one side. (Grinder may have to be moved to drill this hole).

e - Adjust slide so the basket is 7" from face of wheel. Tighten carriage screw; remove C-clamp.

**NOTE:** Re-check measurements for location of pivot point in 'basket': Should be 4" below center hole in wheel and 7" from front face of wheel. As wheel wears down, adjust arm to maintain 7" distance from wheel face. Sliding arm can be made of any material. Metal arms from other sharpening systems are ideal, but may need to be modified to achieve the 4" measurement described above.

Using the Jig: Before you begin, turn the grinder "OFF".

a - Slip gouge into jig, flute pointing up, so that the tip protrudes 2" from front face of the jig. Tighten set screw. [Suggestion: Drill a 3/4" diameter hole, 2" deep into front edge of bench top for future reference].

b - Position tip of jig's aluminum leg into pivot point of basket. With grinder turned "off", sweep the gouge a full 90 degrees left and right to ensure tip of the leg does not slip out of pivot point. Adjust notch if necessary.

c - Replace wheel cover on grinder. Bolt grinder to bench top.

**Tips on Sharpening:** "Don't grind the tool. dress the bevel."

a - Dress wheel frequently with a diamond dresser! Dark marks on wheel mean the surface is clogged and it can't do its job. Over grinding on an un-dressed wheel will shorten the life of the tool 4-10 times!!

b - Hold the jig with **BOTH** hands and practice the motion of sharpening the tool with the grinder turned off!!! Do **NOT** hold the jig with one hand and the handle of the gouge with the other, as this will cause over-grinding. The tool tip may also slide off the face of the wheel.

c - Save the life of the tool. Once the tip shape has been formed, you never have to "grind" the tool again. Instead, "dress the bevel" with smooth, delicate sweeps of the tool on the wheel.

d - 100-grit, 6" or 8" diameter, pink or white aluminum oxide wheels recommended

**Trouble-Shooting:** See drawings below for what the gouge tip should look like

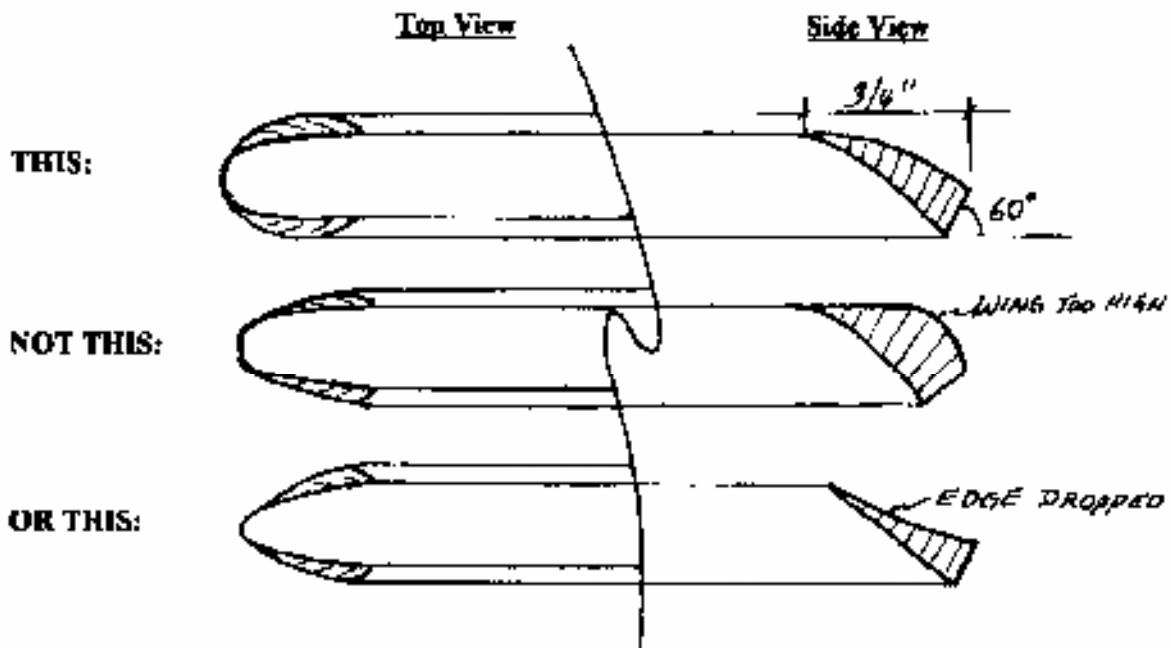
a - Do not over-grind the sides of the gouge's tip. This will cause the edge to 'drop' from a gentle convex arc into a straight or concave line that is less efficient when cutting. Solution: Spend more time sharpening the end of the tip.

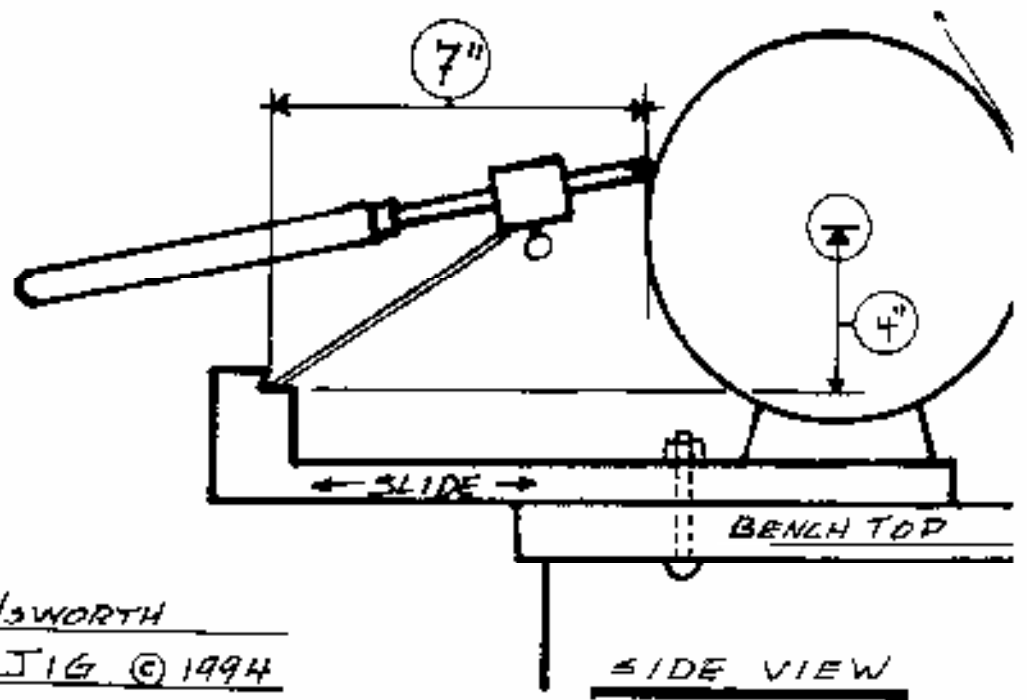
b - Be careful not to develop high 'wings' to the left and right of the end of the tip. These will be sharper than the rest of the edge and will cause the gouge to grab or 'bite' the wood. Solution: Grind the wings down, then use less pressure against the wheel when sharpening the end of the tip

c - Maintain 7" distance of pivot point to wheel as wheel wears down with use

d - Always extend gouge's tip 2" from front face of jig. Further and the edge will become too sharp and difficult to control in the wood; less and the edge will not be sharp enough

**Here's what you're after:**





SET UP FOR ELLSWORTH  
GRINDING JIG © 1994

