

MINNESOTA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

in association with the American Association of Woodturners

August 2002

Sharpening With Steve Tiedman

by Chuck Bjorgen



Steve Tiedman demonstrates the Vari-Grind jig that is used with the Wolverine system to achieve the swept back sides on bowl and spindle gouges.

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

You can ask a dozen woodturners the best way to sharpen their tools and you'll likely get a dozen different answers. That's why MWA member Steve Tiedman offered to host a mini-session on tool sharpening for a small group of MWA members in his garage on a Saturday morning in early June of this year.

Steve's approach to sharpening is based on the use of a jig system. His choice is the Oneway Wolverine system, a package that incorporates two tool holders mounted under each of the wheels of a bench grinder; one sturdy tool rest and a V-arm, both of which are mounted on the tool holders. Accessories for the Wolverine system include the Vari-Grind jig, the skew chisel jig and a diamond tipped grinding wheel truing jig.

Steve began his session with six MWA club members by discussing the virtue of high-speed steel (HSS) used in modern turning tools compared to the older carbon steel tools. He explained that carbon steel tools are easily blued during grinding, causing them to lose their temper. He then discussed selection of bench grinders, grinding wheels and other sharpening options including Sorby's jig system and the Tormek wet grinding system. He emphasized why it's important to keep turning tools sharp and why dull tools can be dangerous.

(Continued on page 14)

Inside This Issue:

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|--|
| 1 | Sharpening With Steve Tiedman
<i>by Chuck Bjorgen</i> | 6 | Wood Turning Mini Session
<i>by Wayne Keifer</i> |
| 2 | President's Corner | 8 | Club Activity Calendar |
| 2 | New Club Members & Treasurer's Report | 10 | Tool Swap 'n Shop—September 14th |
| 3 | Annual Family Picnic—August 17th | 11 | MWA Demos at the MN Craft Council's Art Fair |
| 3 | Taking the Wobble out of Grinding Wheels
<i>by Steve Tiedman</i> | 12 | Reducing Timber Drying Defects by Boiling-II
<i>By Steven Russell</i> |
| 4 | Dressing a Grinding Wheel
<i>by Steve Tiedman</i> | 15 | For Sale & Miscellaneous |
| 5 | Off the Shelf ...
<i>book review by Chuck Bjorgen</i> | 16 | Rockler's 2nd Annual Woodworking Carnival |

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Turning related ads are free to members. Commercial ads are billed at \$4 per month, per column inch. To place an ad, call Cathy Nicholson (763) 785-1587 or jc.nicholson@usfamily.net. Ads will run one issue unless you call to extend your ad for each additional issue.

Submission deadline for the next issue:

September 20th

President's Corner



Woodturning activities seem to slow down in the summer-time because of vacations, yard work, and other outdoor activities, but the MWA is still going strong, even if we don't get as much notice.

We have not had meetings in June and July, but there have been some turning activities going on. We demonstrated at the Rockler's Woodworking Carnival and at the Minnesota Crafts Council Show at St. Catherine's College in

June. The next stop was at the Washington County Fair the first weekend in August where we demonstrated Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

I'm encouraged by the number of small group sessions that have been happening, but I would like to see more people volunteer to host a session. It really is not a big commitment of time or energy. A session can be two or more hours in an evening, or on a Saturday, and can include as many people as your shop can accommodate. You don't even have to make any arrangements. We have an enthusiastic board member in Chuck Bjorgen, who will set up a session for anyone willing to be a host. Just give Chuck a call at 651-633-8850 with a date and the number of people your shop will hold and he will do the rest. Easy, huh?

The animal challenge for the picnic should be very interesting. Everyone seems to be extremely secretive about what they are turning for the challenge.

I hope to see you all at the picnic with your secret projects.

New Members

Please welcome our newest members:

Timothy Como from St. Paul, MN
Scott Lejonvarn from St. Paul, MN

MWA Treasurer Report (first 6 months of 2002)

PAID MEMBERSHIP	164
INCOME	\$6,400
EXPENSES	(\$4,565)
CHECKBOOK BALANCE 6/30/02	\$4,995

Annual Family Picnic—August 17th

You don't want to miss the good company, good food, and friendly competition!

Bring your family to our annual picnic, and join in the fun!

Date: Saturday, August 17th

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Brookdale Park in Brooklyn Park

The following will be provided:

Grills
Beverages
Condiments
Plates, napkins, utensils
Sweet corn from Rod Olson!

You should bring:

Your own meat (or whatever) to grill, and
a dish to share ...

- Last Names A-O – Dessert
- Last Names P-Z – Salad or a Main Dish

You may want to bring:

Lawn games
Lawn chairs
Bug spray

Club Activities:

Sealer sales, Library, Show 'n Tell
The Animal challenge! (We're expecting some
great entries!)



Directions: Take I-94/I694 to Brooklyn Park, to the Brooklyn Boulevard exit. Go Northwest on Brooklyn Blvd to a signal light at Noble Ave. Go right (North) on Noble Ave to a stop sign at Brookdale Drive. Go right (East) on Brookdale Drive to June Ave. Go right (South) into Brookdale Park and South to the parking area. The picnic shelter will be West across a footbridge. Follow the paved path to the shelter. (The South entrance road into Brookdale Park will be closed for the summer due to road construction!)

Taking the Wobble out of Grinding Wheels

by Steve Tiedman

If you have grinding wheels that tend to wobble or flutter left to right while spinning on the shaft, here is a trick to try-

1. Unplug grinder from power source.
2. Remove grinder wheel cover.
3. Loosen the nut securing the grinding wheel just a bit, just so the clamping pressure is relieved from the wheel.
4. While holding the wheel and inner flange washer in place, turn the outer flange washer no more than ¼ turn (clockwise or counter-clockwise ... does not matter).
5. Re-tighten the nut.
6. Spin the wheel by hand (or with the wheel cover back in place plug in and turn on the grinder for just a couple seconds to bring up some wheel speed) and

check the side-to-side wobble of the wheel. Did the wobble change? Is the wobble less noticeable or more noticeable?

7. Repeat if necessary. When turning the outer flange washer, turn in quarter-turns or eighth-turns and keep moving the washer in the same direction. I've even rotated not only the flange washer, but the grinding wheel itself in the same manner in conjunction with the flange washer in an attempt to find the "sweet spot" of the grinding wheel; the spot where the wheel and washers fit in a manner to limit, if not almost eliminate, side-to-side wobble of the wheels.

8. After you are satisfied that the wheel runs with minimal wobble, it may be necessary to true the surface of the wheel again (see Dressing a Grinding Wheel, pg. 4), because you have changed the wheel orientation on the motor shaft somewhat.

Dressing a Grinding Wheel

by Steve Tiedman
photos by Chuck Bjorgen

Taking proper care of your grinding wheels is just as important as taking care of your turning tools. It is a very good idea to touch up the wheel after every few sharpenings; as soon as you notice a gray coloring on the surface of your grinding wheel it is time to touch up, or “dress” the wheel. Usually this means simply holding the wheel dresser up to the wheel and steadily rubbing the wheel surface with the dresser until the gray coloring is gone. (I’m assuming you are using the typical white color aluminum oxide wheels for grinding and/or sharpening.)

After a while the wheel needs a more careful dressing, or “truing”, to make sure that high and low spots are not developing on the wheel. This can lead to tools bouncing on the surface of the wheel and a somewhat lower quality edge due to lack of tool handling control on the grinding wheel.



Here is a no-cost way to keep your wheels a bit more round, and control the high and low spots on the wheel surface, thus improving the quality of the grind on the tool.

1. With the grinder off, lay a pencil (wood, not mechanical) flat and firm on the tool rest.

2. Turn the grinder on for just a few seconds, just long enough to get the wheel spinning a couple hundred RPM's. Don't allow the wheel to come up to full speed.

3. Ever so gently, just BARELY make contact with the pencil on the surface of the spinning wheel, just so the pencil lightly kisses the wheel for a few seconds. By doing this, the pencil will touch the spinning wheel on only the high spots. I do this in three different locations on the wheel: near the left and right edges (about 1/3 of the way in from the edge) and one in the center. (Photo 1)

4. Allow the wheel to stop spinning and examine the pencil marks. You will probably notice several short pencil marks at spots around the circumference of the wheel, indicating the high spots on the wheel's surface. These high spots are what cause a jumping sensation when sharpening tools, especially a gouge being held in a jig. (Photo 2)

5. Turn the grinder on and bring it up to full speed. Firmly holding the dressing tool against the tool rest, bring your dressing tool up to meet the wheel surface and make contact with very light pres-



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

sure, remembering to move the dresser left to right just a bit to avoid creating slight grooves in the surface of the wheel from the dresser abrasive. Dress the wheel this way for maybe 10-15 seconds or so, then turn the grinder off. (Photos 3 & 4)

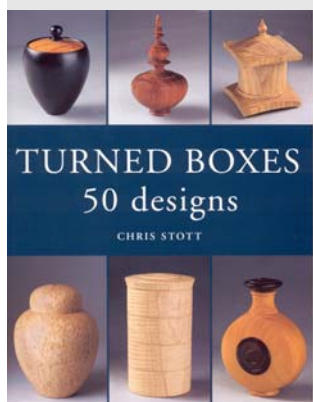
6. Examine your pencil marks again. The marks should be disappearing, essentially removing the high spots to match the low spots. I repeat the process of marking and dressing typically 3 or 4 times when I do this, and by the last cycle you should notice the new pencil marks getting longer and longer as the high spots are lowered to meet the low spots. (Forget about trying to get perfect pencil lines all the way around the wheel, it's about impossible by hand and is not the point of this procedure anyway.)

Again, this is not the way I dress my wheels each time I dress; I do this only periodically to assure my wheels are staying reasonably round. I quickly touch up the wheels with the dresser probably every 3rd time I sharpen a tool. I'll do this pencil procedure maybe once every handful of turning sessions.

A word of caution- grinding tools and dressing/truing grinding wheels makes a lot of mineral based grinding dust that is very unhealthy for your lungs. I would urge you to use proper breathing protection and even dust collection if possible when grinding tools or dressing wheels.



Off the Shelf . . .



I like turning small lidded boxes because they are quick projects that can be completed in one, short turning session. They also make great gifts that family and friends appreciate. I began to see, however, that most of my box projects had a similar problem: they all looked alike.

So it was with much interest that I ordered Chris

Stott's new book "Turned Boxes, 50 Designs" (Guild of Master Craftsman Publications, 2002, soft cover, \$19.95).

The book has three sections. Part 1 is called Technique and Inspiration and deals extensively with selection of wood, tools, and finishing, and also comes with an interesting dose of Stott's experiences selling turned boxes on the craft show circuit. What customers at craft shows tend to buy, Stott suggests, might

A book review by Chuck Bjorgen

influence whether you make tight or loose fitting lids, basic or more elaborate shapes, and how you choose to finish these items.

Part 2 consists of the 50 designs promised in the book's title. Starting with the simple box in which the lid is not hollowed but parted off, Stott provides highly detailed, measured line drawings that may easily be photo copied for display near the lathe. Several variations of the simple box are provided along with a two-page photo illustrated how-to description on techniques for turning these projects. As he proceeds to boxes with hollowed lids, a similar photo essay guide is provided. Each of the 50 designs includes text that describes techniques or special concerns to be addressed when turning those designs.

A gallery of turned boxes by five other renowned turners makes up Part 3 and is a wonderful plus for this book. Those turners are Allan Batty, Kip Christensen, Michael Hosaluk, Ray Key and Hans Joachim Weissflog. Their boxes are truly inspiring and will certainly expand the range of ideas pre-

(Continued on page 10)

Wood Turning Mini Session

Bowl Turning, A Perspective by Wayne Keifer



Wayne with session participants Linda Scott and Ken Tempero.

Photo by John Nicholson

Two separate wood turning mini sessions were offered by Wayne at his home in Shakopee, MN. The sessions were intended to offer wood turners the opportunity to see how Wayne turns bowls and/or platters. Wayne uses bowl gouges and roughing gouges exclusively, sometimes using the bowl gouge as a modified skew.

Wayne had several pieces of wood prepared for turning by 6:00 p.m. when the turners arrived at his home. A pilot hole was bored in the center of each wood piece to affix a screw chuck to the headstock. Wayne uses a screw chuck exclusively, rather than a

faceplate, in preparation for roughing off the back of the bowl and establishing an external tenon on the bottom of the bowl.

Linda Scott, a novice turner, and Ken Tempero, a more advanced turner, participated in the session on Thursday evening, July 11th. Wayne demonstrated his gouge method first, then let Ken and Scotty work on the wood. As the session progressed, Wayne spent time with each turner, giving constructive suggestions as to how he would shape the vessel; then he let the turners proceed on their own as they continued to shape their bowls.



Linda Scott making good progress on her bowl.

Photo by John Nicholson



Ken Tempero starts his bowl.

Photo by John Nicholson

A second mini session was held in Wayne's wood shop on Monday, July 15th. Wayne used a slightly different demonstrational approach with these two turners. Daryl Hanson and Bruce Thompson had turning experience and were interested in using the gouge, both roughing and bowl gouges, to shape bowls. Wayne had a prepared block of wood which he used to demonstrate the roughing technique he uses to begin turning a bowl. Then he took that block off the lathe and the two turners began to rough out prepared blocks of wood on their respective lathes.

After the roughing was completed, Wayne put his bowl back on the lathe and demonstrated the next step(s) of shaping a bowl. Again, the two turners made an effort to replicate his turning technique. That pattern continued until the bowls were fairly

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

well completed. Sanding, power sanding or hand sanding, was not used nor demonstrated.

Wayne's approach to bowl turning technique was quite satisfactory to Bruce and Daryl; at the end of the class, both expressed feeling that they had learned valuable methods and techniques. Wayne strongly emphasized that his methods are not in any way the best, most preferred, nor the only way to turn bowls. His methods are merely those he has used for many years, and they work for him. Turners are encouraged to experiment and use the techniques that suit them best. Techniques change over the years and should be reviewed frequently.



Wayne with session participants Daryl Hanson (left) and Bruce Thompson (right).

Photo taken by Darlyn Keifer



Bruce Thompson roughing out a prepared block of wood.

Photo by Darlyn Keifer



Examples of Wayne's work. Photo by John Nicholson



Examples of Wayne's work. Photo by John Nicholson



Daryl Hanson working on his bowl blank.

Photo by Darlyn Keifer

Mark these dates on your Calendar

*Activities you don't
want to miss!*

January 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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August 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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March 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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31						

September 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

April 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

May 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January

♦ **9th**—The board of Directors meeting was held at the AAW Office in Shoreview.

♦ **15th**—The January meeting consisted of “How to Photograph Your Work”, and a discussion on Finishing.

♦ **18th-20th**—The Woodworking Show was held at RiverCentre in St. Paul.

February

♦ **13th**—The February meeting was held at Woodcraft, and featured egg turning demonstrations.

March

♦ **6th**—Board of Directors meeting was held at the AAW office in Shoreview.

♦ **16th**—Bowl making demonstration(s) were featured at the March meeting.

April

♦ **9th**—A slide show and review of two recent exhibitions: Nature Takes A Turn and Wood Turning Since 1930 was featured at the April meeting.

May

♦ **11th**—Soren Berger, a New Zealand turner, demo'd at our May meeting.

June

♦ **23rd**—Club members demonstrated at Maplewood Rockler's 2nd Annual Woodworking Carnival. See pictures on the back page.

♦ **26th**—An exhibit of Fred Somers' oil & pastels opened at the Ripple River Gallery. Reception was held June 29th.

June (cont.)

- ♦ **29th - 30th**—Club members demonstrated at the MN Craft Council's Art Fair at St. Kate's. Pictures and article on page 11.

August

- ♦ **2nd - 4th**—Club members demonstrated at the Washington County Fair. Look for pictures in the next newsletter.
- ♦ **7th**—"Time and Place", featuring the work of Jo Wood, a bead artist, and Tina Fung-Holder, a fiber artist, opens at the Ripple River Gallery. Reception to be held August 10th.
- ♦ **17th**—Annual Club Picnic to be held at Brookdale Park. Directions and details are on page 3.

September

- ♦ **11th**—The board of Directors will meet Wednesday, at 6:30 (the meeting location has yet to be determined). Any member with something they would like brought before the BOD should contact any board member listed in the newsletter, and it will be put on the agenda.
- ♦ **14th**—Tool Swap 'n Shop at John Magnussen's. Start setting aside those tools you'd like to get rid of, and prepare to accumulate others! Details and directions are on page 10.

October

- ♦ **2nd**—"The Elements", an inaugural portfolio exhibit by the Northern Printmakers Alliance, will open at the Ripple River Gallery. Reception to be held October 5th.
- ♦ **5th - 6th**—Fall Colors & Apples Open House at the Ripple River Gallery.
- ♦ **11th**—Robert Rosand will be giving an evening Hands-on session for eight people. The cost and method of determining participants (maybe a drawing) will be announced soon. If you think you might be interested, mark this date on your calendar!
- ♦ **12th**—Our membership meeting will consist of an all-day demonstration by well known turner Robert Rosand. Details will be supplied in the next newsletter.

November

- ♦ The date and location of our membership meeting has yet to be determined, but we're planning on a Bowl Saver demonstration.

December

- ♦ **10th**—Our Annual Holiday Party will be held at the AAW office in Shoreview.
- ♦ Plan a trip to the Ripple River Gallery for their Holiday Open House.

Coming Soon—an electronic newsletter!!

Watch your e-mail! You'll receive notification several days before we send the newsletter. We'll provide instructions for opening and viewing the newsletter on your PC. Now you'll be able to see the pictures in color!

Directions to Ripple River Gallery:

from Deerwood: Five miles south on Hwy. 6, then 3 miles east of Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge on County Road 14 to Partridge Avenue (formerly County Line Road), then north 1/4 mile on Partridge Avenue.

from Aitkin: South on Hwy. 169 to Bennettville, then 3.2 miles west on County Road 11 to Partridge Ave.

Host a Hands-on Session!

The MWA is in need of volunteers to host hands-on mini-sessions as educational experiences for both new or experienced woodturners. Members hosting a session can set the agenda as their experience and shop space dictates. The session may be hands-on or strictly a demonstration of favorite techniques. You set the topic, number of guests, day, time and duration of any session you host.

Club members who are also members of AAW are automatically covered by the Association's liability insurance. The club must know in advance if you are planning such a session to qualify for this coverage.

Please send a note to Chuck Bjorgen at the following email address if you'd like to volunteer to host a mini-session:

cbjorgen@citilink.com

Tool Swap 'n Shop

September Meeting at John Magnussen's

You can never have too many tools, right? You're always on the lookout for good deals on tools and machinery, right? Do you have tools you don't use anymore, that you might want to swap for something else? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, or if you just enjoy looking at tools and machinery, we have an event you simply *must* attend!

What: Tool Swap 'n Shop

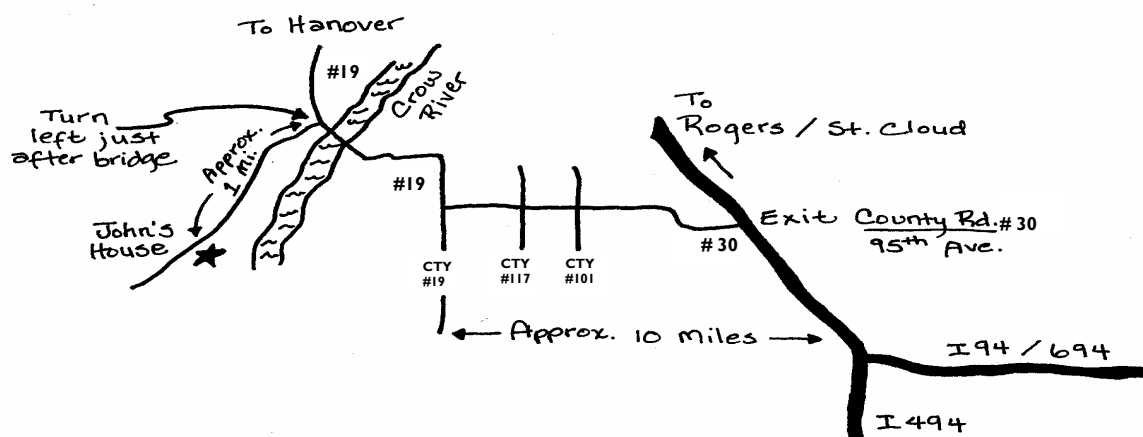
When: Saturday, September 14th, from 9:00AM until 4:00 PM

Where: John Magnussen's shop, 118 Jansen Ave. SE, Buffalo, MN (see map below)

Swap 'n Shop Details: John will have several tables available for setting out tools and small machinery. In addition to the Swap 'n Shop, we plan to have people demonstrating on lathes. Bring your turning tools if you'd like to demo a particular technique, or request a demo of something you've been having difficulty with. John can provide lots of green Box Elder for turning, but certainly bring some of your own if you have it. Let's not waste all the turning expertise that will be wandering around swapping and shopping! John will also have grinders available if you need to sharpen tools ... or demo, or get sharpening advice. **John may need extension cords so if you have one, please bring it.

Club Activities: Sealer sales, Library, Show 'n Tell, and a Wood Raffle

Lunch: Bring a bag lunch and eat at John's, or try one of the area restaurants. John will provide directions.



(Continued from page 5)
sented in Part 2.

Photographs of the 50 designs, as well as the gallery, are in color and are very well done.

As I tried to make use of this book in my own turning of boxes, I started with the simple designs and tried to work forward to more complex designs and shapes. I

found the instructions clear and ran into problems only when my own turning skills were out-matched by the design of the intended piece. I did not try to make any templates or try to duplicate contours of any of the designs I tried (not that there's anything wrong with that). My own goal was to use this book as inspiration but to still allow the wood and the tools in my hand to deter-

mine the final shape of the box.

If you've viewed Stott's box turning videos, you'll see some familiar techniques explained in Stott's 50 Designs. The book makes an excellent compliment to those videos. If you turn lots of boxes, you'll probably want to own this book rather than borrow it because you'll be referring to it frequently.

MWA Demos at the MN Craft Council's Art Fair



Linda Ferber attracts an interested audience.

Photo by John Nicholson



Left:
Joe Cornell holding the egg that MCBA instructor, Steve Pittelkow, marbled for him.

Below:
Close up of Joe's marbled egg. The picture doesn't do it justice!

Photos by
Cathy Nicholson



Just like last year ... hot and steamy weather during the MN Craft Council's Art Fair at St. Catherine's College! The heat didn't seem to slow the crowds any; there was a constant flow of traffic around the demonstration tent. We had two lathes running almost continuously both Saturday and Sunday, in fact, it got so hot Saturday we had to turn the lathes off for awhile so the motors could cool down.

Our neighbors in the demonstration tent were from the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. They demonstrated various book-making techniques on Saturday; then on Sunday, Steve Pittelkow demonstrated marbling paper. The process involves laying paints on top of a liquid bath, then "combing" the paints into intricate designs and lifting the designs off onto paper—really beautiful! We, along with the fair goers, were enthralled with Steve's demonstrations. Bruce wondered out loud if it would be possible to marble wood, which led Steve to attempt dipping some turnings. His most successful attempt was on an egg that Joe Cornell had turned; it was quite striking, and made it easy to envision marbled Christmas tree ornaments or decorated box tops!

Thanks to the following club members who demonstrated over the two days at St. Kate's: Linda Ferber, Bruce Arones, Wayne Keifer, Duane Gemelke, Joe Cornell, John Nicholson and Cathy Nicholson.



John Nicholson explains the turning process.

Photo by Cathy Nicholson



Duane Gemelke and Bruce Arones on the lathes.

Photo by John Nicholson



Reducing Timber Drying Defects by Boiling - Part 2

By: Steven D. Russell

Eurowood Werks Woodturning Studio

The Woodlands, Texas

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Many woodturners who read my initial report on *"Reducing Timber Drying Defects by Boiling"*, have requested more information on how long it took for the various timbers in the test to reach equilibrium moisture content (EMC). In addition, many have asked for guidelines on how long it will take for other boiled timbers to reach EMC, after they are bagged.

Nearly all of my rough outs are dried indoors, in a controlled environment that is heated and air-conditioned year round. When the blanks have reached EMC, they are moved outside and stored in a part of the studio that is not temperature controlled. The dried rough outs remain in the post-drying stag-

ing area of the studio, until they are selected for final turning.

Most of the four hundred and fifty pieces in the boiled vs. bagged test, reached EMC in approximately two to three months. Some took a bit longer, depending on the species. On average, boiled rough outs will reach EMC approximately 25% faster than traditionally air-dried and bagged pieces. Timbers included in the boiled vs. bagged test included: Maple, Walnut, Mulberry, Sycamore, Pecan, Winged Elm, White Ash, Flowering Plum, Bodark, Sweet Gum, Black Ash, Cottonwood and a few others.

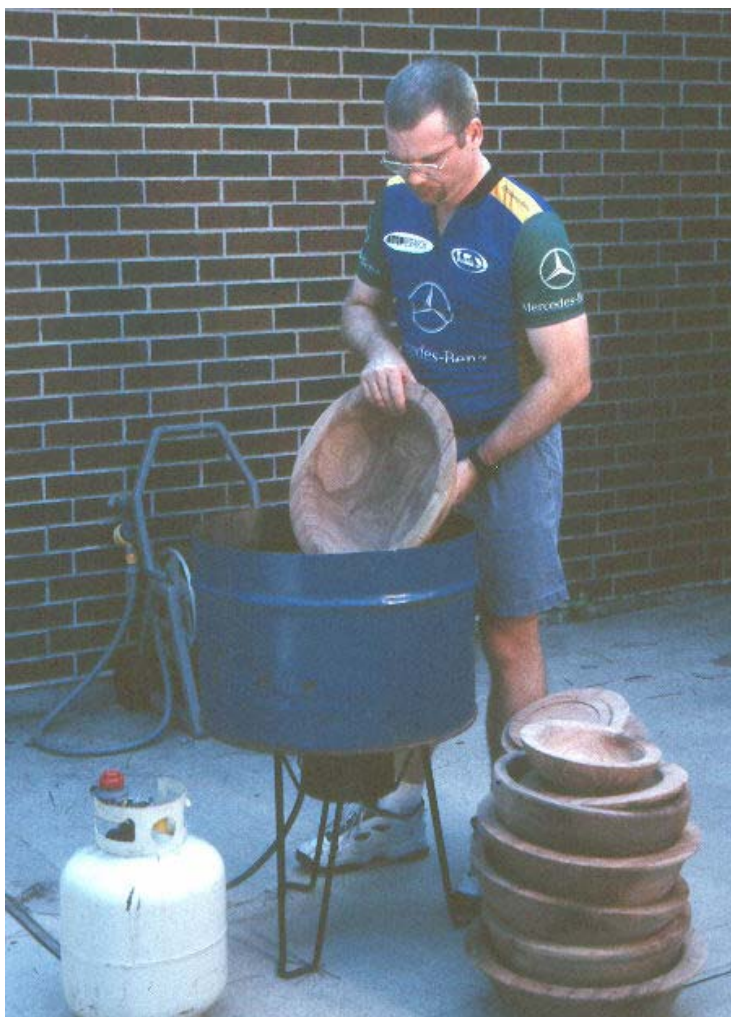
Unfortunately, there is no *"rule of thumb"* I can give you for determining when various boiled rough outs will be ready for finish turning. There are just too many variables to give a hard and fast rule. I can tell you, that your boiled rough outs WILL dry 20-25% faster, than non-boiled timber. I have heard from turners who indicate a reduction in drying time even greater than 25% on their boiled pieces. However, I can only personally attest to a reduction of up to 25%.

Many variables influence the length of time required for boiled timbers to reach (EMC). These include, but are not limited to the particular species, the wall thickness/uniformity of the piece and the percentage of post-boil free/bound water contained in the subject piece. In addition, the length of time the blank is allowed to air dry before it is placed in the paper bag, can impact the time required to reach EMC.

Other variables include the average EMC for the area where you live, the ambient humidity of the drying room, the amount and velocity of any cross-ventilation (either a/c or heat) in the drying room and the average ambient temperature of the drying room.

In my studio, I do not use a moisture meter to determine when the blanks are ready for final turning. I rely on close visual observation in the shape of the tennon boss. When the boss is sufficiently oval, it is ready to give it a go. In four years of turn-

(Continued on page 13)



Steven Russell in the midst of his boiling process.

Photo supplied by Steven Russell

(Continued from page 12)

ing, this system has never let me down. It does however, require a substantial knowledge of the particular timbers drying characteristics.

Currently, I have over 1,500 rough outs that have reached EMC and are ready for finish turning. Having a constant supply of dried bowls coming out of drying production is invaluable for a production turner. Obviously, not every turner can maintain such a large store of dried rough outs. We all want to have bowls dried on demand! Few of us care to wait the several months necessary, for nature to take its course.

Therefore, last summer I decided to embark on a comprehensive series of timber drying tests. My goals are: 1.) To find the fastest and most efficient way to dry timber for woodturning and 2.) To reduce drying degrade to an absolute minimum. A significant challenge, but one that will hopefully illuminate this subject and uncover new ways to dry timber efficiently and successfully.

In my next phase of timber drying tests, I will cover Pentacryl treated timbers and timbers that are dried from the green state in a microwave oven. Microwaving can significantly speed up the drying process and yield excellent results, if proper care is taken. Over the last three years, I have had excellent results with microwaving various timbers. Using my proven process as a starting point, I intend to *"push it to the limit"* to discover how fast I can dry a bowl, without any drying induced degrade.

Pentacryl is a liquid compound of siliconized polymers that can help to reduce drying degrade and speed up the drying process. I will test several methods of applying the Pentacryl including, soaking, brush on, spray on and vacuum assisted infusion. The results of Phase-2 timber drying testing (Pentacryl treated and microwave drying) will be published in a future issue of "More Woodturning". Phase-3 testing is scheduled to cover freeze drying and live flame curing. As always, I remain available for any questions you may have concerning this or any other turning related topic.



Steven Russell turning a 32" Ash bowl on the outbound side of his Oneway 2436.

Photo supplied by Steven Russell



Steven Russell's boiling set-up.

Photo supplied by Steven Russell

You may reach me via E-mail at benzer@flash.net or snail mail at Eurowood Werks Woodturning Studio, 22 Thornbush Place, The Woodlands, Texas 77381-6250.

(Continued from page 1)

A fair amount of time was devoted to the various sizes and types of grinders available and the many kinds of grinding wheels that are found in the trade. Steve recommends a slow-speed grinder with a rating of about 1800 rpm but admits that he has successfully used grinders rated for 3450 rpm. Selection of grinding wheels that are made from aluminum oxide, usually white, pink or blue, with a hardness rating of "J" or "K" are best for HSS turning tools. Grits ranging from 60 to 120 are generally preferred by turners.

A quick break for soft drinks and snacks--donuts provided by Bob Jensen--and the participants were anxious to start sharpening. Ken Tempero brought an old skew chisel. Steve explained that it helps to round off the sharp corners on skews so they will not dig into the tool rest. Ken did this job on Steve's belt sander and then used the Wolverine skew jig to complete the sharpening.

"Thanks especially for the help with the skew" said Ken "and letting me try your skew accessory. Now that I've seen the Oneway Wolverine system and Vari-Grind jig, and understand more about how to set them up and use them, I'm very impressed."

Carolyn Allard brought a spindle gouge that still had the original factory grind. Her goal was to achieve a gouge with the "swept back" profile.

"The sharpening session was informative.," said Carolyn. "I especially liked the help you gave me with my gouge. I have used it to make two small weed pots out of buckthorn. It's a beautiful wood with lots of color and figure. The gouge worked great and I was able to re-sharpen it just fine. Yesterday I went to Woodcraft and bought the \$95 slow speed grinder, the wheel dresser and an angle gauge--among other things. Can't wait to get it set up!"



Above: Carolyn Allard worked on a grinder to reshape her spindle gouge.

Below: Carolyn Allard's spindle gouge took on this shape after her session with the Wolverine Vari-Grind jig. She made a couple of weed pots with the newly sharpened tool after returning to her shop.

Photos by Chuck Bjorgen



Veteran club member John Magnussen, left, showed his home-made sharpening jig to Ken Tempero, Bob Jensen and Ken Kogler.

Photo by Chuck Bjorgen

Carolyn says she left the session "much more confident that I could get a good, smooth grind on my tools and that I would be capable of deciding exactly what kind of grind would work best for me. I guess confidence was the best outcome for me from the workshop."

Gregg Herreid thought, "the handout was great. It is always too easy to miss something or not be able to recall exactly; the session was really well organized with lots of stuff I didn't know or was fuzzy about. When I got home I sharpened the chisel with almost a roughing out shape and used it to make a cove in some cherry. I had honed the edge as Steve suggested and it really worked well."

According to Ken Kogler, "Steve is a great

(Continued on page 15)

Animal Challenge!

Animals are the turning challenge for this year's annual club picnic.

Use one, or many, turning techniques to create an animal.

Look at animals around the house, in the zoo, or in the wild, and start thinking ...beads and coves ... segmenting ... off-center ... or maybe turned, cut, then glued back together differently!

The possibilities are endless!

Hope you've spent the summer months practicing your turning skills while turning an animal . . . or lots of animals!

Let's see some really spectacular animals at the picnic! Only a couple weeks left!

- For Sale -

- **Jet** full size 1236 Lathe - like new , just 6 months old
- 11 inch **Craftsman** band saw

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* Would trade for a comparable Mini Lathe

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Lyle Jamieson will be traveling in our area around the second week of August, 2002. He is available to do a one-on-one, hands-on class for anyone wishing private instruction in your own shop.

Call Lyle to discuss your desires, availability, and costs.

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(Continued from page 14)

teacher. I found this session very entertaining and I learned that I was sharpening the wrong way. I also learned what a huge difference it makes in working with a properly sharpened tool."

Bob Jensen summed up the session by saying, "Today was fun and informative. Got to meet some very nice people and finally understand the full concept of sharpening with the Wolverine system. I was confused by the Vari-Grind jig until today and now with your help, I think I will be able to sharpen a little bit and maybe, just maybe, be able to turn the corner and actually create shavings and chips instead of sawdust."

Long time club member John Magnussen also contributed to the group by showing his shop made variation of the Wolverine jig system.

When the session was over and the participants had left, Steve said he was really inspired. "I was ready for another six club members to come in and do it all over again." Judging by the enthusiasm shown by the first group, he'll likely get another chance.



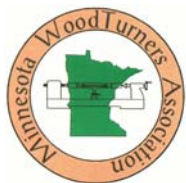
Ken Tempero used Steve's sander to take the sharp corners off his skew chisel before he sharpened the tool.
Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



Demonstrating at Rockler's
2nd Annual Woodworking
Carnival on June 23rd
were:

Dave Carley
Brad Hubert
Wally Jacobson
John Nicholson
Steve Tiedman

Photos, clockwise from the right:
Brad Hubert Photo by John Nicholson
John Nicholson . . Photo by Chuck Bjorgen
Steve Tiedman . . . Photo by John Nicholson
Dave Carley Photo by Chuck Bjorgen



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