

Meeting Notice:**When:** July 16, 5:00 p.m.**Location:** East Knoll Park**1555 E. Knoll Dr, Robins****Subject:** Picnics**Project:** Chairs/Stools & Games

Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

This month's subject:**Turner Classics**

Basic Tips for Learning the Craft of Wood Turning

By Chris Baylor

Learning the basics of woodturning isn't difficult. After you know how to use your lathe safely and the techniques for using each tool, it becomes a matter of practice. The following tips will give you some of the basics of woodturning.

While wood turning technically falls under the umbrella of woodworking, it is often considered a completely different craft. Woodturners tend to be devoted to their craft, and many have little (if any) interest in other traditional fine woodworking skills since there is almost no end the projects that can be created on a lathe alone with the proper tools and techniques.

The tips that follow summarize some of the most important elements of good wood turning practice, with links to articles containing more detail.

What Is Woodturning?

Wood turning is the process of carving a block of wood into a symmetrical object, such as a wood spindle or bowl, while using a motor-driven lathe to spin the wood at high speed while cutting tools, including a variety of chisels and knives, gradually carve the piece into the desired shape.

Practice Wood Turning Safety

Statistically, woodturning probably ranks among the safer tasks performed with power tools. Still, there are basic safety practices you should learn and follow to ensure woodworking safety.

Inspect your lathe regularly to make sure fitting are secure and tight.

Keep your work area clean.

Make sure lighting is sufficient. Being able to see what you're doing will help ensure safe work.

Make sure tools are kept clean and sharp. Dull tools can catch on the spinning workpiece, while razor sharp tools will cut smoothly and easily.

Use quality wood stock. Workpieces with cracks or thick knots can break apart or grab cutting tools.

In this photo, for example, the woodturner is breaking several of the first rules of woodturning:

Always wear eye protection when turning wood. Should a workpiece splinter or break apart, injury to your eyes is a distinct possibility.

Avoid loose fitting or baggy clothing. They can easily get ensnared in the spinning axle of the tool.

Reprisal of Kerfmaster Bandsaw Blades

by Wayne Hanson

Discussion of bandsaw blades

Last year, the club did a group purchase of Kerfmaster bandsaw blades that are manufactured a bit thinner than many of the competitors. I finally got around to using one and observed a few things that may make yours work if you are having issues now or in the future.

My saw is a 14 inch Delta with a riser block and a 1 hp motor. I had quite a bunch of 7 inch wide, 2 inch thick white oak to resaw so was looking forward to zipping through it all.

I replaced an old 1/2 inch wide, 3 tooth blade with a Kerfmaster 5/8 inch wide, 0.016 thick, 3/4 tooth blade. My first cut was pretty discouraging. The cut had quite a bit of lead and wanted to "barrel" badly. By "barrel", I mean that the blade wanted to cut wider in the center of the board. So I went back to bandsaw basics and started over. I thought the blade was centered on the wheels but after closer examination, it was not. I spent a little time resetting the tracking and it eventually took a half turn of the tracking screw to correct the tracking.

The cut was better but still not as good as I'd had with other blades. The next step was to file the guide blocks smooth as past sawing had created various grooves that didn't really support the blade as well as they should. My saw uses "cool blocks" so were easily flattened with a file. I installed all 4 back in guides and spaced using the recommended 0.004 inch (thickness of a dollar bit).

I also set the thrust bearings (top and bottom). I found that the bottom was spaced a bit farther away than optimum and suspect that affected the cutting as it allowed the blade to buckle slightly as it cut through the wood. Keeping the thrust bearing close to the blade keeps the blade vertical as it slices through the wood.

The final change I made was to slow down the feed rate. The saw was capable of fairly fast cutting but the blade did not track/cut true when I pushed the feed rate. For those that like numbers, I did a quick measurement of 4 inches per minute. I'd say the saw was capable of as much as twice that rate but the cut suffered badly at that rate.

I ended up cutting more than 33 linear feet of the white oak plus miscellaneous test cuts and was pleased with the performance, other than the feed rate.

The blades did a good job after some setup work. I found these thinner blades were more sensitive to setup but the effort was worth it.

This month (July) project:**Chairs/Stools**

Come to the picnic with your favorite lawn chair you made, or maybe a stool or two, how about a game??

Please bring a side dish to share, and a drink, along with your tableware. The CWG will provide the Q-Dogs BBQ meat. We will need to discuss our Fee Structure, can we reasonably raise it, how much, will \$20/yr be ok?

**Upcoming projects:**

August: Climbing Apparatus

September: Fun stuff

October: Fav WW Show

November: Dowels

December: Closet stuff

We would really LOVE to come see your shop. Would you be willing to open your [garage] door some time?

Empty Space—cont.

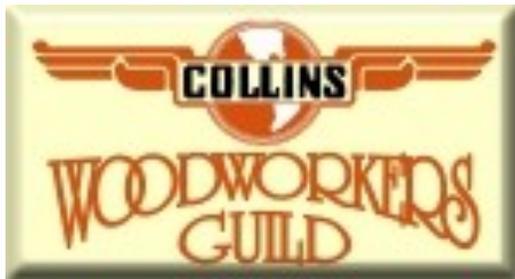


May's tour, and more....

We met at Bryan Wesner's shop for May to discuss sleds. Paul Heyd and Perry Coffman brought nick-knack boxes, and there were many sleds.

Max Link
Phome: 319-260-7044
1430 Wiley Blvd SE, Cedar Rapids
Has a Woodmizer—does custom sawing
Has some lumber for sale—seasonal
Has a small kiln





The Collins Woodworkers Guild [CWG] is a club dedicated to preserving the age old practice of creation using the medium of wood. CWG members gather monthly to share tips, ideas and experience to further the knowledge of all members. From creating heirlooms for their families to the Guild Toy Build, members help each other get the most out of their woodworking experience.

Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to ALL Rockwell Collins, Inc. Employees, Spouses, Retirees, and Contract Employees, AT ALL ROCKWELL COLLINS LOCATIONS!! Everyone is welcome at our meetings and yearly dues, renewed each September, are \$15.00

GUILD BENEFITS

- Access to our EXTENSIVE library of books, magazines and Tool Collection
- Open exchange of ideas, from project help to house building; and a hand when needed
- Social Activities
- Workshops
- Toy Build and other Programs to help our Community
- Educational and Informative Presentations
- Open Houses
- Tours

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