



Note cut for later use with clutch.



### Forthcoming Attractions

December 1<sup>st</sup> - Hands on Evening

14th Jan- Post Christmas Social 6pm - 11pm

February 2<sup>nd</sup>. - Graham Bell Segmental turning

March 1<sup>st</sup> - AGM

Apr 5<sup>th</sup> - Jerry Marlow

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. - Hands On

June 7<sup>th</sup>. - Richard Findlay

July 5<sup>th</sup> - ? Pole turners ?

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"Back to basics" with Mick Smets was our November meeting. As Mick pointed out it is occasionally worthwhile just reflecting on why and how we use certain tools. Have we fallen into bad habits? Could we all do our turning with more finesse? What chisel do you really need?



*The five chisels you need*



*Mick with roughing gouge*

Starting with the **roughing gouge** he pointed out it should be sharpened at 45 degrees and square ended. The tang of this chisel is weak and you should use it unaggressively ( editors shorthand). A snapped chisel could be rather nasty. The **spindle gouge** is NOT difficult to sharpen according to Mick. Aim for a fingernail shape. So grind the sides first then take off the top of the front. Now it is just a matter of putting an edge.



Next up was the **parting tool**. This comes in several thicknesses. For Mick the narrower is the easiest to use, but, of course, this

means not so much force can be applied. As Ken Croft pointed out you can easily make a thin one using an old table knife.

The **Skew chisel** is "hated" by nearly everyone. Largely because it is difficult to use without ending up with catches and grooves in the work piece. Persist and you may, just may, master this tool. Once mastered it has many uses and gives a really great finish. Make sure the face of the chisel floats across the wood. Work right to left and cut with around the third point down on the blade. A **bowl gouge** is for hollowing out bowls. There are more sophisticated chisels which cost huge amounts but a simple bowl gouge will do it just as well.

Making an entry on the edge with this chisel can be fraught with possible problems as the centrifugal force will throw the cutting edge outwards and ruin the cut. Why not put a stop on the



support, home made using a metal pin dropped into the support. This will stop your chisel being thrown outwards so ruining the edge of the wooden bowl.

Mick talked about the need to keep tools very sharp and never delay **sharpening**. You are just putting an edge on so you will not remove masses of metal. In fact you will probably have the same tool for many years to come. You do not need a special rest a simple support with which you can vary the angle will suffice. See earlier photo of sharpening the spindle gouge.

**Using your chisel.** Mick's advice was to master simple spindles rather than bowls. "Let's face it bowls are usually better made in ceramics anyway." So starting with the roughing gouge Mick produced a spindle that could be a chair leg. The roughing gouge is

drawn slowly across the wood with the chisel held against the support. The slowness assures that there will be no ripples on the face of the wood. Once you have a fairly smooth round block then you can shape it up.



Note Mick is cutting with the support almost level with the centre of the turning piece. Once you start cutting look at the horizon of your work not the cutting edge.

If you are making several pieces, say for a chair or stool, mark up all from a master. Do not rely on matching one leg to another. The master can be a simple piece of card with a few pencil lines to indicate where each groove is to go.

The simple curve as you go from square section on a chair leg to round, as shown in photo above, occurs naturally as you cut with the parting tool.

### **Bowls - basic procedure**

Turn the block to a round.

Cut a dovetail at one end for later use with clutch.

Cut outside shape. A concave curve is more interesting.

Finish outside and turn over so clutch now holds bowl.

Work on hollowing out. Start at centre cutting with the bowl gouge, taking care at the edge. Finish the inside.