



Our June meeting saw a return visit from Steve Heely. He always tailors his demo to fit the time slot he is given. This time he offered alternative demos, one a texture hollow form the other a spiral hollow. Members chose the textured 'vase'.

It is worth noting that Steve regularly uses green wood in his demos. Mainly this is because he can get it finished in the time due to the green wood being easier to turn, especially hollowing out. He was at pains to point out that provided the 'wet' wood is the same thickness throughout the finished item it rarely if ever cracks. Distorts yes, but splits no.



Starting at about 700 rpm he roughs out the log then cuts a chuck end. This will have to take some force in the hollowing out so it is important you size so it fits the chuck tightly all round, not just a four points. So he measured the chuck end carefully. Also he put a slight dovetail on it, again to ensure good grip.

Now after roughing out you use a bowl gouge to shape up the outside of the vase. Steve gets a bit pedantic here about shape and form. With tonight's demo log there was a troublesome knot which according to Steve meant the whole sample had to be reduced to two thirds in size.



Having got the outside to an acceptable curve you then start on hollowing out the inside. First though you can save a bit of time by drilling out the central core using as big a drill bit as you have got. Steve produced a 25mm dia., a size which I suspect no one in the club has.

This has to go to the bottom of the vase stopping short so the bottom thickness will ultimately match the finished wall thickness.



The actual hollowing out was done in steps of about 5cm and taking the wood out to almost the desired finished wall thickness. Steve used a hollowing tool.

Here my notes become rather unreadable due to a spillage of coffee but I think he uses a "Woodcut pro-form hollowing system".



It comes with long extendable handles so you can get good control over what you are cutting/carving away. According to Steve all you need is a diamond sheet to keep a good edge and this tool will last a life time. Someone asked why not use a scraper, and was told in no uncertain terms use a proper cutter first then scrape. "If you haven't got a proper cutter then get one!"



Take the hollowing almost to the final cut using callipers or finger and thumb to check thickness.

Now move onto texturing the outer surface which is done by drawing a motorised cutter along the piece in a straight line using the rest as a guide. The cut of course sort of spirals.

(Note at this point Steve set fire to the surface with meths to get a dry surface!!) The wood being green will tend to fluff up with the cutter rather than form 'spiral' groves.

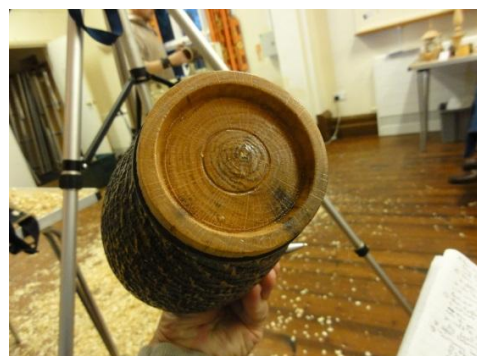


Finish off the cutting and grooving stages with sanding etc to get an even surface.



Apply roughly a light Acrylic colour to outer surface and allow to dry. Use Acrylic so as it does not soak into the wood. Follow this with a matt black and allow to dry. You can blast with a hot air gun.

Carry out a final sanding etc of the inside and then a final rough sanding of the ridges on the surface. This will heighten the contrast of the grooves.



The centre of the block at the base is of course the core of the wood which might be weak. Steve applies super glue to the underside and this usually fixes any problems that might arise.

Extra photos...



Better photo of cutter



Steve taped the end so that black spray paint did not cover it



Steve's display of things he does

Forthcoming Attractions

July 2 nd	@ 7:30 pm	Rob from Axminster plus Hands on
Aug 6 th	@ 7:00 pm	Mick Hanbury
Sep 3 rd	@ 7:30 pm	David Tilley – Christmas Trees
Oct 8 th	@ 7:30 pm	Hands On
Nov 5 th	@ 7:30 pm	David Simms Christmas Decorations
Dec 3 rd	@ 7:30 pm	Hands On

Remember members who do demos will receive payment.

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