

July



Woody's World

The Newsletter of



2016

Robert Till

This month the few of us who turned up were rewarded with an excellent demonstration by a very able turner. Robert laid out his wares at the beginning of the evening so we could see the sort of thing he could do, and we were given the choice of a bird feeder or a winged bowl. We chose the bowl.



He started with a square blank of Iroco.

The centre must be accurately marked so that the edges are all equal on the final bowl (though the edges could be sanded down later if necessary). After mounting the blank in the lathe he adjusted the speed to 1500 – but said that the faster you could tolerate the better the finish would be, though you have to be careful of the sharp corners on the wings. He also put the tailstock up to give the work a bit more security.

He started off with a long ground bowl gouge (in fact he used this tool for most of the cutting) and started cutting the outside of the wings first. He used the outside wing of the gouge to do this. You need to keep moving the tool rest in close





to the work to give the gouge plenty of support, but always stop the lathe first – in fact you need to keep stopping to check the shape anyway.

Once the right diameter is achieved (see left), start shaping the outside of the bowl.

Before going too far with the bowl, he measured for the tenon. He then finished shaping the bowl, and used a ½ " spindle to cut the tenon.

As an aside at this point he said that he used the Axminster 'C'



jaws, which required a flat sided tenon, and not a dovetail. It also requires a slight shoulder at the base, for which he made a special tool, ground down from a parting tool.



Once the tenon was finished, he finalised the bowl shape, using the wing of the bowl gouge to make a scraping cut, then used the spindle gouge to finish the corner where the bowl meets the wings.

Now he sanded the outside, starting with 180 grit (he normally goes down to 400 grit, but didn't on this occasion to



save time). Slow the lathe down to 700 otherwise you might overheat the work. He used a sanding pad for the wings, and finished them off (sanding with the grain) by hand. If the end grain is a bit rough you can lightly spray with water to lift the grain and sand again after letting it dry out.

The last job before turning the work round is to flatten the foot.

Once the work was turned around, he roughly marked the thickness of the wings with a pencil, and set the speed back to 1500.

He started first to shape the wings, again emphasising the need to keep the tool rest close in to the work to provide support for the gouge, and stopping



frequently to adjust the rest and also to check on the thickness of the wings (and to make sure the thickness is consistent from middle to edge). Another aside here where he mentioned that he prefers Ashley Isles chisels as they seem to keep their edge longer.

When the wings were the right thickness he started on the bowl, dropping the speed back to 1,000.



As the bowl got deeper, he left an 'island' in the centre to give it stability, and cut the top first. He kept stopping to check the thickness with callipers (the bowl thickness should be the same as the wings).





He reduced the 'island' once more and continued to cut the bowl, checking the thickness as he went, and finally removing the 'island' and finishing the bottom.

leave a nice clean line. Again, he

finished the wings off by hand, with the grain.



Next he needed to turn the work around again to finish the foot. For this he used a specially turned piece of wood with a felt pad glued to it. This was mounted in the chuck, and then the bowl placed over it and the tailstock secured it in place.

He then cleaned up the foot, by giving it a small dovetail shape using a 3/8" spindle gouge. He also reduced the thickness and



then sanded it.. The final job was to remove the 'spigot' which he did using a skew chisel, carefully finishing it by hand.

He normally finishes with Luberon finishing oil.



Forthcoming Attractions - 2016

Meetings normally are on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections

July 7 th	Hands on	7pm
Aug 4 th	Richard Findley	7pm
Sep 1 st	Hands on	7pm

Remember: members who demonstrate will receive payment.

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