



Woody's World

The Newsletter of



June 2009

The **June Meeting** brings Bob Fox to Offchurch for a pen making demonstration, combined with a hands-on session. Should be another interesting evening.

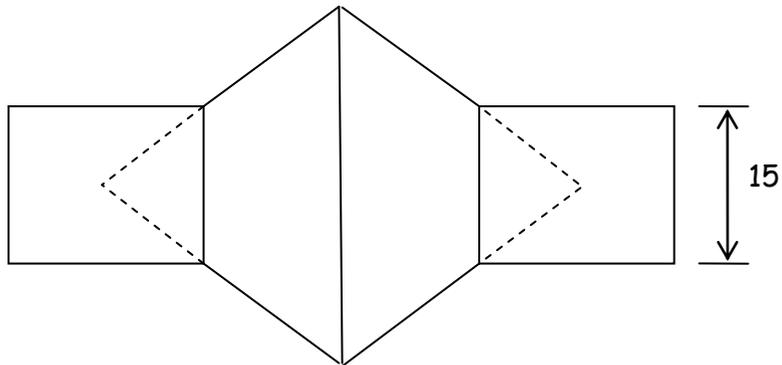
In the **May Meeting** David Springett returned and gave a demonstration of how to make some out-of-the-ordinary intricate pieces. He showed that broken down into small stages, some of the projects are not as complicated as you might think.

The first demonstration was making a **Double Ended Cone**. This showed the techniques which would be put to use later on when preventing a mouse from escaping from a piece of cheese, as well as in the next demonstration.

To make the double ended cone, mount the wood between chuck and rolling centre and turn the piece down to 22mm diameter. If using vernier callipers round off the tips to prevent them digging in. Mark off the centre point and the places where the diameter of the wood will be 15mm. The reason for doing this is that when you've turned down the ends to 15mm, and you have the 22mm diameter in the centre, you can draw an imaginary straight line between the two points and "join the dots".



If you turn down the end diameters accurately in the zone which will be the waste wood, then you can more reliably and quickly get the non-waste section to size. Once the 15 mm diameter has been produced, and the centre section of the cone produced, (the solid lines below) it's just a matter of continuing along the (dotted) line at the same angle to produce the cone.



Next turn down the cone point at the rolling centre end with a skew chisel, removing the far end to get access to the point as you go.

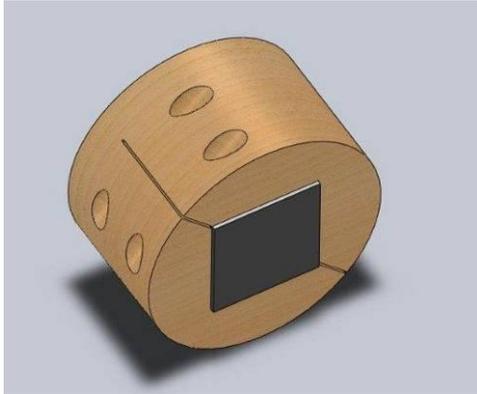


Once the first point is done, again follow the line of the other slope, to part it off with the skew chisel, working back toward the chuck, and taking out the waste wood as you go, to allow access to the skew.



Next, David demonstrated how the **6 pointed Spike Star in a Cube** is made.

First you need a means of holding the cube. David has made a clamping arrangement which allows the cube to be held presenting each facet in turn to the centre line of the lathe.

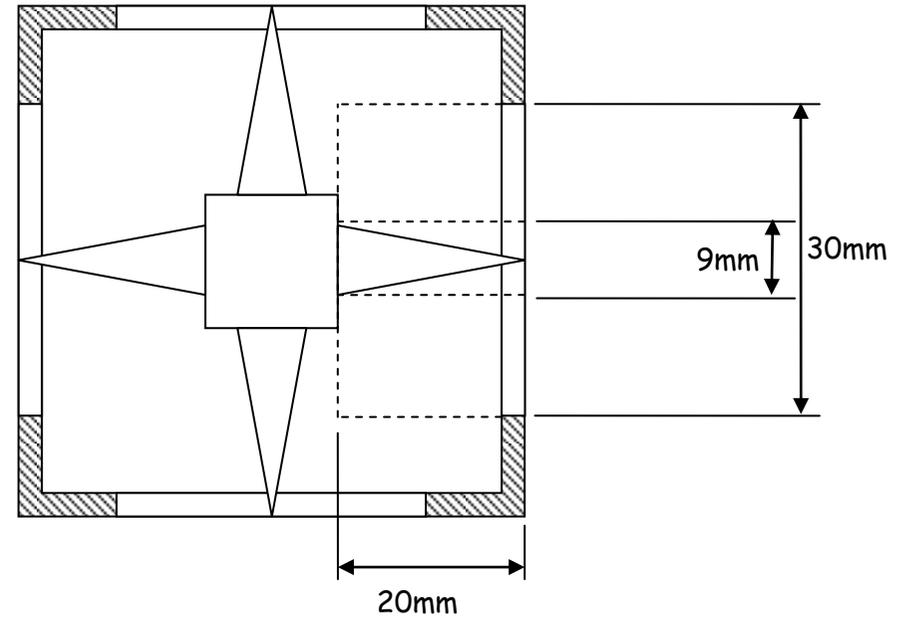


The cube is clamped in by means of a pair of nuts and bolts which are well recessed into the block, to avoid them biting chunks out of your hands.

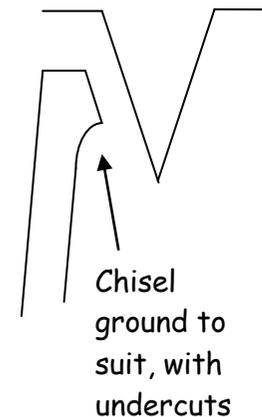
The cube has to be planed and thickened by a kind soul with such equipment, so that it can be held securely in place.

Each facet is completed in the same way, so David demonstrated just one facet, which was actually the last of the six, so we saw the finished result.

On each facet draw a 30mm circle and turn out within that circle a 9mm dowel in the centre, 20mm deep. Marking the chisel with Tippex at 20mm in is a good way to speed this up. The volume to be removed is shown by the dotted line below. I've shown the star in the middle to make it more obvious what's going on. Use a flat shelf tool rest.



Next, turn down the point of the exposed bit of the star. This is where David uses a specially shaped chisel, imported at negligible expense from China and ground down to suit the job.



David uses this idea a lot, to make exactly the shape you want, just buy a cheap chisel and grind it to the right shape.

When turning down the spike, keep the length of it such that its point is flush with the outside of the

cube and make the base of it 9mm diameter. This is where the "joining the dots" technique in the double ended cone comes in handy.

Next remove the waste material towards the outer edge of the cube. Cut outwards from the base of the cone, leaving the flat of the inner cube. Then work further outwards, again using a specially shaped chisel.

While you're doing this, you will break into the corresponding areas of the adjacent facets, once you have completed more than one facet.

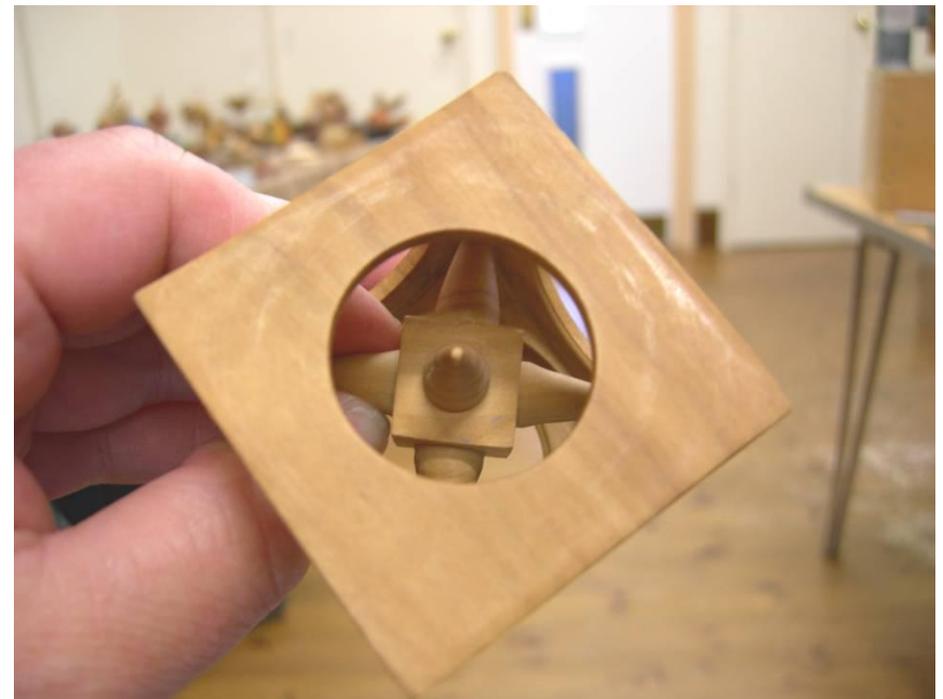


Once the hollowing out of the surrounding area is complete, a plug is fitted into the 30mm bore surface, which will serve to locate and secure the tip of the star into centre of that face of the workpiece. The plugs have a 2.5mm hole in the centre to locate on

the star point. Make sure that the plugs don't end up proud of the surface, or it won't then fit into the clamp when you turn it around.

The cube can then be removed from the clamp and replaced to present the next face to the front and the whole process repeated. The plugs will hold the whole star into position.

When the last facet is completed, the piece can be removed from the clamp, the plugs removed and the internals sanded and finished with Danish Oil or similar.



The next demonstration was a quick look at making lace bobbins. The bobbins are held between chuck and rolling centre. *I have to confess that I didn't get any decent pictures of the bobbins, and robbed this one from the internet, and it probably isn't one of David's.* However, the left hand section is turned first, marking out the recessed section and removing it with a square ended tool.



Next the end section is completed with some very deft skew chisel work, which David made look very easy. He refers to it as "bayonet practise" with an "In and Twist" movement. Sounds easy when you put it like that...

The bobbin is then reversed in the chuck and held in place on the narrow section, by using brass collets, which David makes on the lathe, since brass is soft enough to turn that way.

The other end of the bobbin is made to a gazillion different designs; in this case a junior hacksaw was used to cut a course spiral in it, for the subsequent addition of a wire to fit in the spiral. Bobbins tend to sell for anything between 15p for the most basic to £100 for the diamond encrusted ones.

David has written several books and produced a DVD on the subject of woodturning and lace bobbins and these are available

from David and Christine's website

<http://www.cdspringett.co.uk/acatalog/Woodturning.html>

I also found some excerpt segments of his at www.youtube.com. It seems that there are quite a few other woodturning video clips on Youtube, so it's worth a look.

Now, about this **Mouse**...



The mouse is a teardrop shape and is a push-fit into the hole in the cheese. The hole is hollowed out a bit on the inside so that the mouse's backside drops into the hollowed section, which then makes it poke out of the hole at an angle, so it's not going to fall out.

The mouse is turned in much the same way as the double ended cone, its nose being at the chuck end. The hole size in the cheese

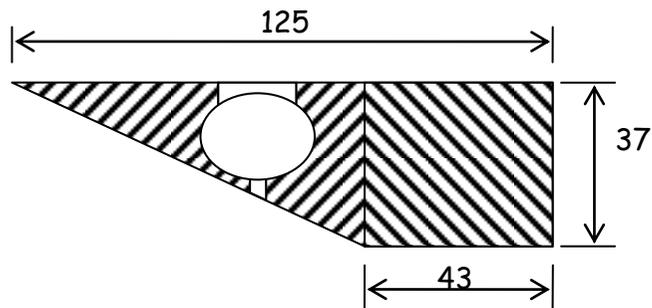
is dictated by the use of a Forstner bit. Turn the mouse to 1 - 1.5mm larger than the Forstner bit size.

If you find out that the mouse is too large after you've parted it off, you can remount it by cutting a divot in the waste wood bit in the chuck and push the mouse's nose into it with the rolling centre and a pad to shave it off.

The ears and tail, made of leather are glued into small holes drilled using a Dremel with a flat end. Use a flat ended tool as it doesn't tend to wander around on the finished mouse.

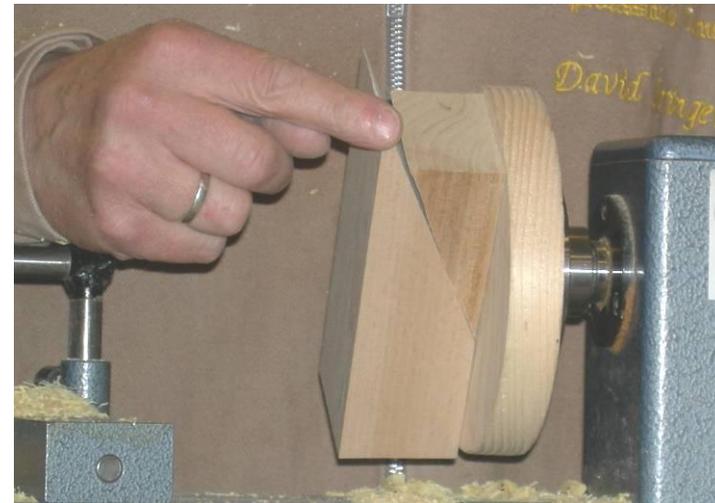
Next, the **Cheese**.

Assuming you have the basic wedge shape made, you're ready to mount the wedge and drill the hole.



The 37mm wide area on the right will be removed later, so this is the section that is used to secure the wedge to a wooden faceplate.

The faceplate also has a wedge glued and screwed to it in such a location that when the workpiece is screwed to it, it is supported adequately. The screws used should be as big as possible.



Once in position, the mouse hole is drilled. When withdrawing the Forstner bit, the lathe should be switched off, to make sure that the hole

doesn't get distorted if the bit comes out of the tailstock.

Also drill a small hole through the workpiece, concentric with the large hole, for the mouse's tail to come through.

Now turn out the inside of the hole, to give the mouse some room around it. Sand and treat the cheese as required. You also make more through holes with the Forstner bit at this stage if you're making Emmenthal cheese.

Offer up the mouse to make sure it'll just fit in, then finally fit the mouse. If the mouse hasn't been fed between times, all should be well.

David then went on to demonstrate how you use the same techniques to produce a Singapore ball with sticking out spines. I'll detail this in a future newsletter.

August meeting. Since I won't be attending the August meeting, please can I have a volunteer to put a few notes together about it, so I can produce *Woody's World*? A few photos would be great too!

Forthcoming Attractions

July 2nd - Hands on evening

August 6th - Pole Turning at Wellsbourne (hopefully)

September 3rd - Chris Eagles demonstrates

Photos

If you'd like the photos from this issue emailed to you please let me know. Contact details below.

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