

Those who have used this device all stated how well it sharpened but also pointed out the jigs were complex and you need to read the manuals slowly otherwise frustration ensued.

One point, not mentioned yet, is the actual type of wheel used. On the last machine it is a white one. Going back to the first demo it is best if the coarse grinding wheel is replaced with a white one to ensure a fine sharp edge to your chisels. As many put it remember to balance the wheels if you do change.



Sharpening

Now *sharpening* is a word some turners dread. Perhaps that is putting it too strong but, in our club, as in many others, there are those who struggle to get a really sharp edge on their chisels. A pal of mine (not from our club) invariably lets someone else do this task for him. He lacks confidence in front of a grinding wheel.

NOTICES:-

Forthcoming Attraction

- June 5th @ 7:00 pm Peter Fagg Another look a internet images
 - July 3rd @ 7:30 pm Colin Purdy working green holly
 - Aug 7th @ 7:00 pm John Berkeley Miniature turnings with alternative materials
 - Sept 4th @ 7:00 pm Hands on /members demo
 - Oct 2nd @ 7:30 pm Richard Findley
- Remember members who do demos will receive payment.*

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So our May meeting was mainly about the main systems on the market to help get that vital keen edge on your chisels. We started with the basic method the twin wheel grindstones, in the middle picture above. Mick, our ex professional turner, uses this very basic system. It requires a good eye and confidence but is really fast and good for putting the edge back on.



Using a spindle gouge to demonstrate Mick first grinds the end to the correct angle (left picture above) then rolls the end gently over to give it an edge(right hand photo). With practice Mick says confidence builds and it certainly is a very quick method. Various firms make jigs to help get the angle correct. The jigs allow you to swing the gouge across the

wheel and do what Mick does by eye. Some points Mick was keen to stress came out of conversations. A bowl gouge is presented at 45 degrees and simply rolled round. Remember that the centre is in contact twice with the wheel so you need to roll faster here. A roughing out gouge should never be used for anything other than roughing. Just look at the neck of your chisel it will be very thin. Should you 'catch.' this chisel trying to do some carving you could well end up with a chunk of metal flying around.

So onto the belt sharpener . This is built to sharpen anything and comes with a whole set of bits and pieces to ensure you simply lock the chisel in the jig.



In the left picture we have a skew chisel and on the right a spindle gouge being sharpened. Note in the right picture how the chisel is held in the jig and rotates over the grinding belt.



An important point made at this stage was that metal heated cooled then reheated; as occurs when sharpening on a belt or grinding wheel

actually changes the molecular structure. In layman's terms it can lose its ability to hold an edge. If you spent good money on an up market steel you can lose that advantage. So any system which reduces the time your chisel is in contact with the abrasive is good.

The cost of this system is around £300.

If this system does not fit your taste then you could use the twin wheel water cooled setup. This is made by Tormak and you can get them from Axminster. You have a wheel running in a 'bed' of water and running away from you. The cost to you will be around £350 depending on how many bits and pieces you require.



The system comes with a variety of jigs to hold whatever tool you wish to sharpen. Again this system is very workable but you do need to read the manuals so you get the jigs set up correctly.

