Forthcoming Attractions

November 5th – Demo Viv Harvey
December 3rd – Hands on
January 9th – Social Evening (see above)
February 4th – Demo – to be defined

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Woody's World

The Newsletter of Offchurch Woodturners

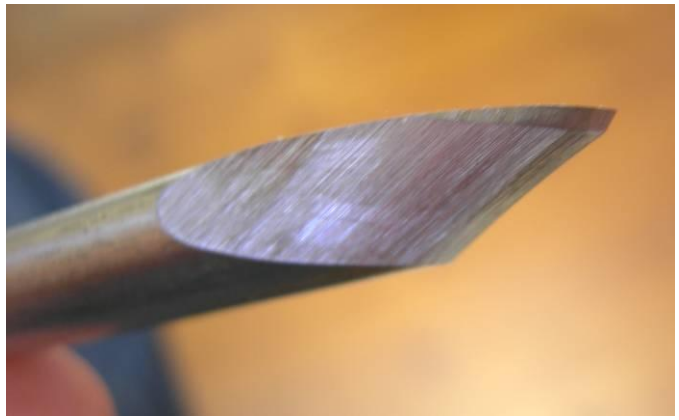
October 2009

The **October meeting** is a hand-on evening, in which John will be coming up with something to challenge us.

The September Meeting bought the welcome return of Chris Eagles. You may remember that Chris gave us a demonstration of green woodturning back in May 2006. At the end of that session the "bowl-to-be" was left at about an inch thick. Earlier in the day of the September meeting, Chris completed the project, to produce a lovely delicate bowl.

Something different this time, a necklace stand in 4 parts.

Before Chris started, he described his preference for using double bevelled chisels.



Here you can see that the top bevel is only about 1mm from the tip.

Chris also tends to use Steb centres wherever possible, as they grip very well and can be removed and replaced reliably and without having to stop the lathe.

Turning the centre spindle first, Chris started by doing the 30mm tapers at the ends. By making a thin disk with a 30mm ID and floating it at the end being turned, it makes for a simple diameter gauge, avoiding the necessity of using a vernier or calliper.

Having turned the taper put a small bead between the taper and the rest of the workpiece. This ensures that surplus glue that runs out of the joint will be hidden from view.

Now turn the remaining profile of the spindle. Chris used a roughing gouge for this and finished off with a curved skew chisel for this, again with a double bevel. Using the curved chisel allows cutting forwards and backwards across the surface and reduces the tearing of the grain.

The second bevel can give you more clearance when turning the fiddly bits out.

Make sure that your chisels are always sharp. This makes a huge difference to the surface finish. Giving the edge a quick sharpen before the finishing cut will reduce the amount of sanding required.

Notice that by using a piece of laminated paper as a background, you can see subtleties of the turned profile more easily. It's useful to have some Rare earth magnets around for sticking things like this into place too. Axminster.co.uk sell the magnets in packs of 10 for about £5.50.

Now we turn to the base. No pun intended. Oh alright then it was intended. I can write whatever I like, you know…

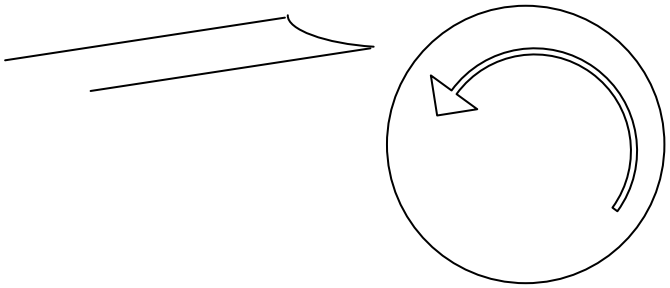
This is done on a faceplate. Chris recommends turning a parallel hole in the wood for when you reverse it onto the chuck and use a chuck with parallel jaws, as it makes the subsequent remounting of the workpiece more reliable.

Chris demonstrated that using a rounded, double bevelled skew chisel with a negative rake is very good for the removal of torn grain, thus reducing the amount of sanding required. Note too that the use of a negative rake is a lot less unwieldy than using a garden rake.

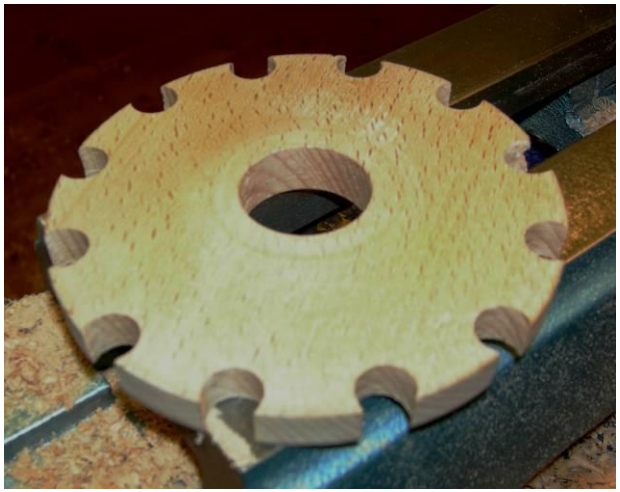
Again, a quick sharpening of the chisel will help with the final cut.

Chris uses a Bedan tool for cutting the recess and subsequent profiling. Bedan tools are often shown in catalogues being used upside down, the correct way to use them is as shown below. I also found a good clip at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3Fvo4smGZk, which is a French

chap demonstrating the Bedan tool to a group of Japanese through an interpreter. Now what could possibly go wrong?



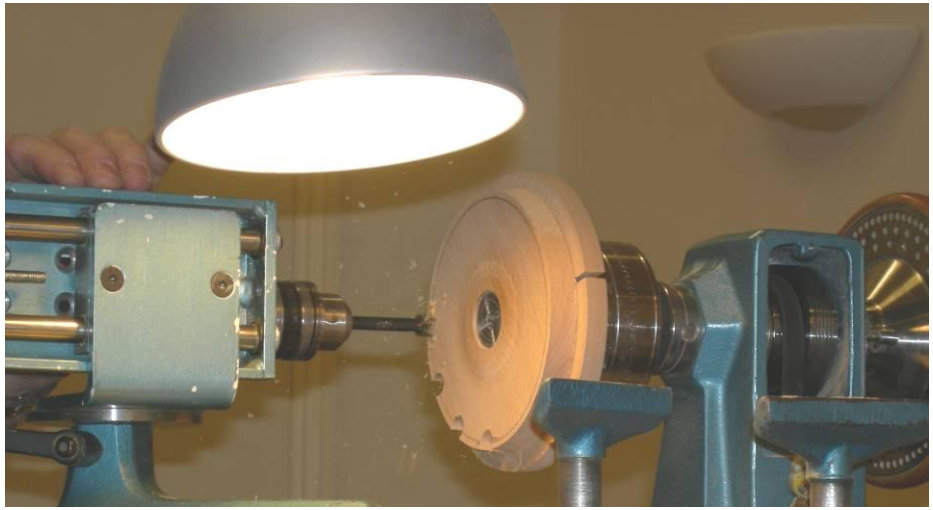
Chris uses a Vicmark self propelled sanding wheel with 80 – 120 grit. This is a neat gadget, which you can attach your household hoover to, with the permission of a grown-up, for dust collection. Then finish as normal. The Vicmark tool can be bought from Phil Irons (http://www.philirons.co.uk/) and 01789 204052. I couldn't see the item on Phil's website so it's worth ringing him up if you want one.



Now for the actual necklace holding bit. This is basically a disk with a series of holes on the outer edge, which break into the outer edge.

First, the disk is turned to close-to the finished shape and mounted on a chuck using an MDF backing disk. The backing disk has a hole in the centre through which the chuck jaws grip the workpiece. Also, the backing disk has a radial slot in it, such that when the jaws open up onto it, it opens up slightly to allow the jaws to grip the workpiece. When making anything out of MDF wear a mask if its' dust is floating around.

The drilling of the outer holes is done using a drill wizard, made by Oneway. This is a device which accurately positions an electric drill on the lathe allowing it to be moved in and out of the workpiece in an adjustable defined way. In conjunction with this a disk mounted on the far end of the tail stop with indexing holes and a locking device allows the workpiece to be rotated by a precise amount and locked into that position so that the drill wizard can drill holes at the desired angle and position reliably.

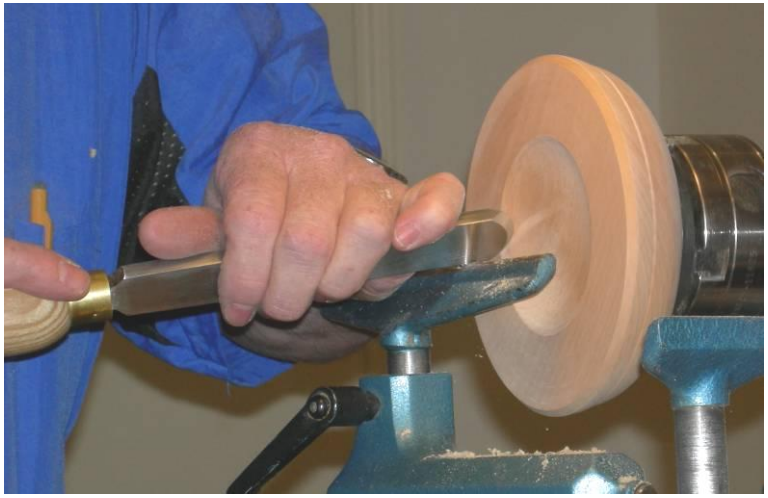


A few tips for drilling the holes

- Remove the power from the lathe while drilling.
- Withdraw the drill bit quickly once the hole is drilled to prevent burning.
- Wear a mask in case bits break off the workpiece while drilling.
- Drill very gently.

Once all the holes have been drilled, the shape can be finally finished. This is an excellent time to break for a cup of tea. I recommend Yorkshire tea. I say this because the next bit requires a delicate touch. I always tend to bash on at times like this, which gives the log burner something to do in the Winter, but does tend to make me swear a bit.

The bits between the recently drilled holes are delicate, especially the ones going across the grain, so be very gentle when finishing off the shape and putting the required profile at the outer edge. For this Chris used a 3/8" gouge, again with a double bevel. Once one side was done, and sanded with the Vicmark sanding jobby, the workpiece is reversed in the chuck, using a shim and finished on the other side.



The base was then put back on again, clamping on the inside of where the spindle will fit. Remove the area previously used ot hold the workpiece, so that it's not obvious how it was held.

The final bit is the top finial. Again use a 30mm ID disk to make measuring the stub at the end easier. Chris used the Bedan tool again. When cutting a bead roll the Bedan chisel over into the smaller diameter and also push forwards and upwards at the same time, which apparently can reduce the chance of a catch.

Et voila! The finished project.

From Clare Stringer, our Boddington correspondent:

There is a new timber and woodturning supplier opened about 2½ miles south of Stratford-upon-Avon off the A3400.

They sell a wide range of Festool tools and other items suitable for woodturners. There is a showroom.
For further details contact: Ray Lawrence at:
Alscot Timber
The Stalls
Preston Lane
Preston-on-Stour
Warwickshire
CV37 8DZ
Tel: Direct Line to Showroom 01789 450353
Open: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm

The January Social Evening

The January 9th meeting brings, as usual, the Social Event of the year. Tickets for this event will be available from the November meeting. There will be a woodturning competition, please only enter those items not previously entered. There will also be a craft competition, for those who are non-woodturners. The winners of both these competitions will receive fabulous and very valuable prizes.

Please can we have some volunteers for preparing food for the evening and for serving the food on the evening. For more information, see Sue Smets. Please bear in mind that these evenings don't run themselves. Volunteer effort helps us all have a good and relaxing time.